Get Involved

Project information shared here is available for review after the public hearing at the location listed below:

VDOT Staunton District Office
811 Commerce Road
Staunton, VA 24401-9029

Comments can be submitted in writing to:

Mr. Lester Kodger
Project Manager
Virginia Department of Transportation
811 Commerce Road
Staunton, VA 24401-9029

Comments may also be sent to:
StauntonVDOT@VDOT.Virginia.Gov

Please include "PH Durant Road (Route 154) Comment" in the subject line.

Ten days after this public hearing, on October 31, 2015, the public comment period will close. VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of this hearing. This information, including the hearing summary, will be available for review at the VDOT office address listed below.

After all comments have been addressed the information received as a result of the hearing will be presented to VDOT's Chief Engineer or designee for consideration.

If approval of the major design features is received for this project, it will move forward to the final design phase. Public hearing participants will be notified of this decision by letter.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: **Lester Kodger**	Project Manager	811 Commerce Road Staunton, VA 24401-9029	540-332-9290 800-367-7623 (TDD/TTY 711)
Jim Pullin	Western Region Right of Way Manager	811 Commerce Road Staunton, VA 24401-9029	540-387-5366 800-367-7623 (TDD/TTY711)
Sandy Myers	Staunton District Office of Communications	811 Commerce Road Staunton, VA 24401-9029	540-332-9201 800-367-7623 (TDD/TTY 711)

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Design Public Hearing

Durant Road (Route 154) Safety Improvements City of Covington

Wednesday, October 21, 2015, 4-6 p.m.
Covington City Hall
Council Room
Covington, VA 24426

Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing on proposed improvements to Durant Road (Route 154) located in the City of Covington in Alleghany County. This project is 0.382-mile long from 0.367 mile south of the intersection with Thacker Avenue to 0.015 mile north of the intersection with Thacker Avenue.

This design public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing agency, to give the department comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project.

VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them.

VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this meeting, and your input is encouraged.

All oral and written comments received on this project will be included in a transcript for review by VDOT personnel, citizens and other interested parties.

Project Overview

Durant Road (Route 154) City of Covington

Cost - $2,505,623

Purpose - This project improves safety in the area of Byrd Avenue to Thacker Avenue.

From - 0.367 mile south of intersetion with Thacker Avenue
To - 0.015 mile north of intersection with Thacker Avenue
Total length - 0.382-mile long

Improvements - This project will add sidewalk, curb and gutter along the west side of Durant Road and improve pedestrian access to the shopping center at Thacker Avenue.

State Project - U000-107-108,P101, R201, M501
Federal Project - STP-5107(110), STP-5107(117) UPC - 68089

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to make safety improvements on Durant Road in the area from Byrd Avenue to Thacker Avenue in the city of Covington.

The existing Durant Road has a roadway width of 22 feet with 2-foot shoulders. The proposed project will add sidewalk, curb and gutter along the west side of Durant Road. This will provide pedestrian access from Byrd Avenue within the community of Rayon Terrace north to the shopping center at Thacker Avenue.

The project will also cut back the rock slope along Durant Road, replace existing guardrail, install a closed stormwater drainage system and add a pedestrian crossing at the intersection with Thacker Avenue.

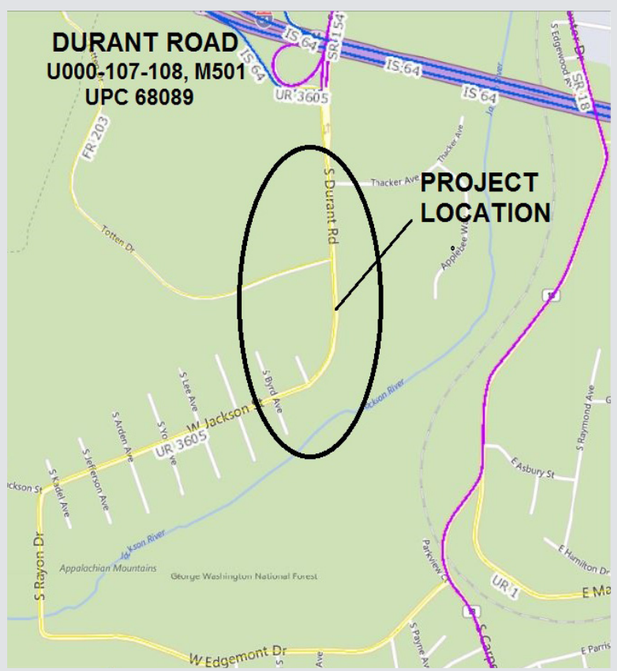
The addition of curb and gutter with sidewalk and a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Thacker Avenue will provide safer pedestrian access between the community of Rayon Terrace to the shopping center along Thacker Avenue. The rock bluff along Durant Road will also be cut back to help eliminate future rock fall hazards. These improvements will help improve safety for pedestrians and for vehicular traffic.

Currently Durant Road has an average daily traffic count of 4,822 vehicles per day. By the design year of 2029 the estimated average daily traffic volume is 5,075 vehicles per day.

The design of this project is in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, stormwater regulations and the annual stormwater management standards and specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The construction of this project will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and the Virginia Department of Soil and Water conservation regulations. Also, during construction, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust and erosion control. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction.

Potential impacts to the flood plains will be evaluated and addressed on this project.

Location Map and Photos



Estimated Project Cost

Total Cost:
$2,505,623

Engineering of the Roadway Plans:
$569,822

Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance and Utility Relocation:
$328,250

Construction:
$1,607,551

This cost is subject to change.

Environmental Review

VDOT's Staunton District Environmental Office has performed environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity; to provide natural and historic resource agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development; and to identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) NEPA document has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation.

The project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as part of environmental review and approval processes required throughout project development and construction. All required environmental clearances and permits will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT's specifications and standard best management practices will protect the environment during construction.

The NEPA document and the results of other environmental studies are available at today's meeting. Representatives from VDOT's Environmental Section are available to discuss this information and to answer questions.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:

Consideration for Design Approval – Late 2015

Begin Acquisition of Right of Way – Summer 2016

Construction – Fall 2017

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed on the back of this brochure.

Right of Way

The construction of the project will not require the displacement of any families, businesses or non-profit organizations.

As we further develop and finalize the development of this project, additional easements for utility relocation may be required beyond the proposed right of way shown on the public hearing plans.

The property owners will be informed of the exact location of the easements during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way acquisition is discussed in VDOT's brochure entitled, *Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants*.

Copies of this booklet are available from a VDOT right of way agent.

After this meeting, information regarding right of way may be obtained from the right of way contact listed on the back of this brochure.