

Get Involved

Comments can also be submitted in writing to Brian Arnold, Project Manager, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701; or by email to Brian.Arnold@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 12 calendar days of today's meeting (August 6, 2012) in order to be included in the public hearing record.

VDOT representatives will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the public hearing.

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.

Project information shared here is available for review after the public hearing at VDOT's Culpeper District Office located at 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Brian Arnold Project Manager	Culpeper District Location and Design	1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	540-829-7557 800-367-7623	Brian.Arnold@VDOT.Virginia.gov
Brian Costello Regional Right of Way & Utilities Manager	Northeast Region Right of Way and Utilities	4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030	703-259-2986 800-367-7623	Brian.Costello@VDOT.Virginia.gov
Valerie Wilson Regional Civil Rights Manager	Culpeper District Office of Civil Rights	1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	540-899-4562 800-367-7623	Valerie.Wilson@VDOT.Virginia.gov
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DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Route 616 (Black Cat Road) Albemarle County Buckingham Branch RR Bridge

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 5-7 p.m.
VDOT Charlottesville Residency Office
701 VDOT Way
Charlottesville, VA 22911

Public Meeting

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) welcomes you to the design public hearing on the proposed replacement of the Route 616 (Black Cat Road) bridge over Buckingham Branch Railroad tracks in the Keswick area of Albemarle County.

This public hearing is 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 concerning the proposed project.

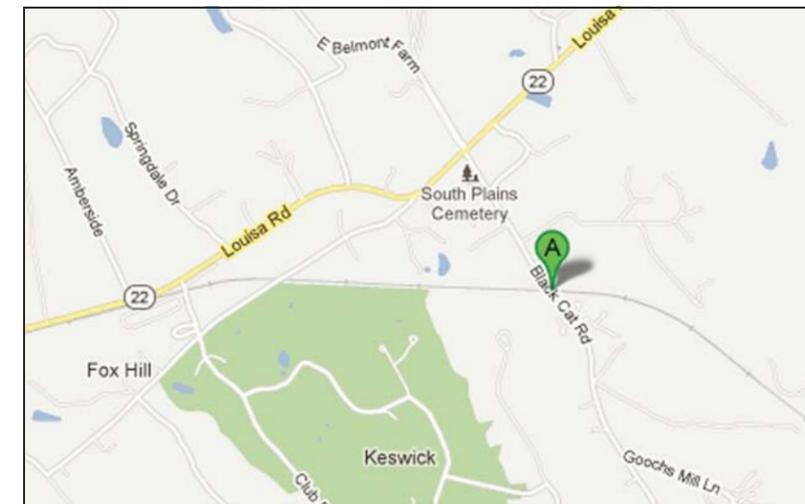
VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the

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.

Overview



A map of the project location in Keswick.

Anticipated Cost – \$3.76 million

Purpose – To replace the existing substandard bridge over the Buckingham Branch Railroad tracks

From – 0.3 mile south of Route 685 (Bunker Hill Road)

To – 0.15 mile south of Route 685 (Bunker Hill Road)

Total Length – 0.15 mile

Improvements – Widened roadway with two 11-foot travel lanes and five-foot shoulders, plus additional vertical and horizontal clearance for trains

State Project – 0616-002-822,P101,R201,C501,B674
Federal Project – BROS-002-7(033)
UPC – 95113

DESCRIPTION

This project will replace the aging Route 616 (Black Cat Road) bridge over the Buckingham Branch Railroad in Keswick.

The current timber-deck bridge, constructed in 1947 by the railroad, is posted with a three-ton weight limit. It has a sufficiency rating of 41.6 on a scale of 0 (poor) to 100 (very good). The rating considers adequacy, whether the bridge is functionally obsolete and the level of service provided to the public.

Due to the bridge's substandard design, VDOT proposes to accept the bridge into the state maintenance system and replace it. The new, wider bridge will include two 11-foot travel lanes and five-foot shoulders. The bridge will be raised to provide at least the minimum vertical clearance for trains using the tracks below, and the added length will allow room for another track.

Approximately 800 vehicles use the Black Cat Road bridge daily, according to a 2010 traffic count.

Existing Conditions



Estimated Cost

Total Cost:

\$3,755,171

Engineering of Roadway Plans:

\$701,000

Right of Way Acquisition and Utility Relocation:

\$347,206

Construction:

\$2,706,965

Cost is subject to change as the designs are finalized.

Environmental Review

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) was developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed projects on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation.

The NEPA document and the results of other environmental studies will be available at the public hearing on July 25.

All required environmental clearances and permits will be obtained prior to beginning 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.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:

Public hearing: **July 25, 2012**

Public comment period ends: **August 6, 2012**

Right of way acquisition and utility relocation:

May 2013

Construction advertisement: **March 2014**

Construction completion: **June 2015**

The projects' schedules are subject to change.

Civil Rights

Representatives from VDOT are present to discuss the project and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of VDOT to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For additional information or assistance contact VDOT's Culpeper District Office of Equal Opportunity, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701; telephone 1-800-FOR-ROAD (376-7623), TDD/TTY 800-307-4630 or 711.

Right of Way

It is not anticipated at this time that the replacement of the Route 616 bridge will require the displacement of any families, businesses or non-profit organizations.

As the design is developed, VDOT will determine what right of way and easements will be needed to accommodate the construction. The right of way and easement information will be available at the public hearing on July 25. The property owners will be notified of the exact location of the right of way and easements needed during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's Right of Way and Utilities brochure, "A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available at the public hearing and from any VDOT right of way agent.

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