

Categorical Exclusion (CE)

Project Information			
Project Name:	Braddock Rd @ Pleasant Valley Rd Intersection Improvement	Federal Project#:	STP-5A01(382)
Project Number:	0620-029-017, C501, P101, R201	Project Type:	Construction
UPC:	103318	Charge Number:	UPC 103318
Route Number:	620	Route Type:	Secondary
Project Limit--From:	Rte 609 Pleasant Valley Road	To:	Rte 609 Pleasant Valley Road
Additional Project Description:	Construct a 100' inscribed circular diameter (ICD) roundabout with the center shifted to the southwest and a raised central island with landscaping to increase conspicuity and improve deflection and speed control. Additionally, a northbound right-turn bypass lane would be added to maximize the functional life of the roundabout.		
District:	City/County:	Residency:	
Northern Virginia	Fairfax	Fairfax	

Date CE level document approved by VA Division FHWA: 04/19/2013

FHWA Contact: Simkins, John A.

Project in STIP: Yes **In Long Range Plan?** Yes

CE Category 23 CFR 771.117: d02

Description of Category: Highway safety or traffic operations improvement projects including the installation of ramp metering control devices and lighting.

Logical Termini and Independent Utility: Yes

Next Phase of Funding Available? Yes

Comments: The Braddock Road/Pleasant Valley Road intersection currently operates as an all-way stop control intersection with single-lane approaches and experiences substantial congestion during peak periods of the day. During both the weekday a.m. and p.m. peak hours; the intersection operates at capacity with extensive queuing on critical approaches (eastbound Braddock Road during the a.m. peak hour; westbound Braddock Road during the p.m. peak hour). The roundabout would provide acceptable operational performance during peak time periods through design year 2020. It would also improve safety; during the three period between 2008 and 2010 there were 12 intersection related crashes at the intersection, resulting in a combined average of four reported crashes per year. Logical termini and independent utility have been established.

Typical Section: A one lane 100' ICD roundabout with the center shifted to the southwest and a northbound right-turn bypass lane.

Structures: The proposed project includes a 38" X 24" culvert and storm sewer pipes.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Minority/Low Income Populations: Present with no impact **Disproportionate Impacts to Minority/Low Income Populations:** No

Source: U.S Census American Fact Finder 2005-2009

Existing or Planned Public Recreational Facilities: Present with impacts

Community Services: Not Present

Consistent with Local Land Use: Yes

Source: Fairfax County and Loudoun County Scoping Letter Response

Existing or Planned Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities: Present with impacts

Source: Fairfax County and Loudoun County Scoping Letter Response

Socio-Economic Comments: Low income/minority populations are present within the project area and will not be impacted by the proposed project. The impacts from the project are not predominantly borne by this population and the effect is not greater in magnitude for this population than for non-minority/non low-income populations. The proposed project is consistent with local land use and the goals of the community. There are three Fairfax County Park Authority sites located in the project area. The Rock Hill District Park is a Resource Management Zone, the Ellicklick Preserve is a natural resource based park, and the Mountain Road District Park is a large site that is currently undeveloped, but has plans for future development of active recreation. There is a paved trail along Braddock and Pleasant Valley Roads.

SECTION 4(f) and SECTION 6(f)

Use of 4(f) Property: Yes 4(f) Evaluation is attached.

4(f) Evaluations:

Selected Evaluation(1):

Acres of Use: 1.49

Type of Use: Permanent

Type of Resource: Public Park

Name of Resource: Mountain Road District

Comments:

De Minimis:

Selected Evaluation(2):

Acres of Use: 0.24

Type of Use: Permanent

Type of Resource: Public Park

Name of Resource: Rock Hill District Park

Comments:

De Minimis:

Selected Evaluation(3):

Acres of Use: 0.54

Type of Use: Permanent

Type of Resource: Public Park

Name of Resource: Elklick Preserve

Comments:

De Minimis:

Source: Fairfax County Scoping Response

6(f) Conversion: No **Acres of Conversion:**

4(f) and 6(f) Comments: No 6(f) resources are present within project limits. The proposed project would also include the following temporary uses: Rock Hill District Park (0.14 acres), and Elklick Preserve (0.13 acres). Section 4(f) coordination is underway between the Virginia Department of Transportation and Fairfax County Park Authority. Prior to the completion of the Section 4(f) process, there will be an additional opportunity for public involvement.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Section 106 Effect Determination: NO EFFECT

Name of Historic Property:

DHR Concurrence date: None

A Section 106 effect determination of No Effect has been concluded pursuant to Stip. 2 of the 1999 Programmatic Agreement between VDOT and DHR:

Stip. 2 Determination Date: 05/30/2013

MOA/PA Execution Date: None

Cultural Resource Comments: The project direct area of potential effect consists of previously disturbed right-of-way, and areas of new ROW are characterized by low/wet or disturbed conditions and contain little to no potential for historic resources. No standing structures over the age of 50yrs are present within the viewshed of the project.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Are Waters of the U.S. present? Yes

Linear Feet of Impact: 0

Federal Threatened or Endangered Species:
None

100 Year Floodplain: Not Present

Regulatory Floodway Zone: Not Present

Public Water Supplies: Present with no impact

Are any tidal waters/wetlands present? No

Wetlands: Present with impacts

Wetlands: Acres of Impact: 2.5

Wetland Type: Forested

Are any non-tidal wetlands present? Yes

If yes, type of non-tidal wetland impacts: Emergent

Are water quality permits required? Yes

Natural Resource Comments: Permit types and any required mitigation impacts will be determined during the water quality permit acquisition process. The southeast corner is part of the Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve. Department of Conservation Resource does not anticipate impacts to the natural area preserve and associated natural heritage resources. According to DCR the current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects. The Rock Hill Conservation Site is within the project area and has a biodiversity significance ranking of B2, which represents a site of very high significance. The state listed resources of concern are the Purple milkweed, Flat-stemmed spikerush, and the Piedmont Upland Depression Swamp.

AGRICULTURAL/OPEN SPACE

Open Space Easements: Present with impacts

Agricultural/Forestal Districts: Present with no impact

Source: Project Definition Form

Agricultural/Open Space Comments: The southeast corner of the project area is part of the Elklick Woodlands Natural Area Preserve, a new title developed by the Fairfax County Park Authority. In addition to being dedicated as a state natural area preserve, the property is also protected with a conservation easement held by Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. Impacts to this easement would be minimal since any disturbance in these areas would only require modifying the terms and conditions of the easement to allow for the proposed road improvements. Located in the southwest quadrant of the proposed project is a known agricultural/forestal district (Cox Farm), based on preliminary right-of-way needed for the proposed project would be less than an acre. Source Fairfax County Planning and Zoning GIS database.

FARMLAND

NRCS Form CPA-106 Attached? Yes

Rating: 7

Alternatives Analysis Required? No

Source: NRCS CPA-106 Form

Farmland Comments: Based on the Natural Resource Conservation Service form, project does not meet farmland criteria.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive Species in the project area? Unknown

VDCR indicated that the potential exists for some VDOT projects to further the establishment of invasive species. All seeds used will be tested in accordance with the Virginia Seed Law to ensure there are not prohibited Noxious Weed-Seeds in the seed mixes.

Invasive Species Comments: Based on site visits by VDOT, invasive species are likely to be present in the project area. DCR has only general information about the distribution of invasive species. Many invasive species are adapted to take advantage of soil disturbances and poor soil conditions. Non-native invasive plants are found throughout Virginia. Therefore the potential exists for some VDOT projects to further the establishment of invasive species. Minimizing soil disturbance will help to inhibit the establishment of invasive species. Noxious weeds common to Virginia are the Purple Loosestrife and the European Wand Loosestrife.

AIR QUALITY

Carbon Monoxide

This project is located in: A Carbon Monoxide Attainment Area

CO Microscale Analysis Required for NEPA? No

- ✓ This project qualifies for a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion or has been identified as being exempt from a CO air quality analysis per the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93), and therefore does not require a project-level CO air quality analysis per VDOT's Project-Level Carbon Monoxide Air Quality Studies Agreement with FHWA dated February 27, 2009.

40 CFR 93.126 Exempt- HSIP Safety project

Ozone

This project is located in: An 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area

- ✓ This project is one of a class of projects that is exempt from regional emission requirements under conformity. This exempt category includes certain safety and neutral 'de minimis' projects whose air quality effects would not be detected by the regional emissions analysis for the transportation plans and programs (40CFR 93.126 & 127).
- ✓ The project is not considered regionally significant and/or is not of a type that would normally be included in the regional transportation model.

40 CFR 93.126 Exempt- HSIP safety project

Particulate Matter

This project is located in: A PM2.5 Nonattainment Area

- ✓ This project is one of a class of projects that is exempt from regional emission requirements under conformity. This exempt category includes certain safety and neutral 'de minimis' projects whose air quality effects would not be detected by the regional emissions analysis for the transportation plans and programs (40CFR 93.126 & 127).
- ✓ The project is not considered regionally significant and/or is not of a type that would normally be included in the regional transportation model.

PM Hotspot Analysis Required for NEPA? No

A PM2.5 hot-spot analysis is not required for this project since it is not an air quality concern. The Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements were met without a hot-spot analysis, since this project has been found not to be of air quality concern under 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1).

This project is a safety project and is expected to improve the level of service, increase safety and improve vehicle delays.

Mobile Source Air Toxics

This project requires: No further discussion of MSAT

- ✓ The project qualifies for a categorical exclusion under 23 CFR 771.117 (c) or is exempt under the Clean Air Act conformity rule under 40 CFR 93.126.

See attached qualitative analysis.

This project is located within a Moderate Ozone Nonattainment area, a Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Nonattainment area, and a volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) Emissions Control Area. As such, all reasonable precautions should be taken to limit the emissions of VOC, NOx, and particulate matter. In addition, the following DEQ air pollution regulations must be adhered to during the construction of this project: 9 VAC 5-40-5600 et seq., Open Burning restrictions; 9 VAC 5-40-5490 et seq., Cutback Asphalt restrictions; and 9 VAC 5-50-60 et seq., Fugitive Dust precautions.

NOISE

Noise Scoping Decision: Type III- Noise study not required

Barriers Under Consideration? No

Noise Comments: Type III - Noise study not required.

RIGHT OF WAY AND RELOCATIONS

Residential Relocations: No

Commercial Relocations: No

Non-Profit Relocations: No

Right of Way required? Yes **Amount of Right of Way Acreage:** 1.99

Septic Systems or Wells: Not Present

Hazardous Materials: Not Present

Source: Hazardous Materials Summar Report

ROW and Relocations Comments: Regional Hazardous Materials Manager determined that no hazardous materials investigation is warranted at this time.

CUMULATIVE AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

Present or reasonably foreseeable future projects (highway and non-highway) in the area: Yes

Impact same resources as the proposed highway project (i.e. cumulative impacts): Yes

Indirect (Secondary) impacts: Yes

Source: Fairfax County Scoping Letter Response and VDOT GIS Integrator

Cumulative and Indirect Impacts Comments: The Park Authority is currently preparing a Conceptual Development Plan for the Mountain Road District Park that will further define facilities, uses and activities for the site. When combined with the proposed development this project would not significantly contribute to cumulative impacts on parkland and wetlands. Route 50 is currently being Widen from 4 to 6 lanes from VA Rte 742 (Poland Road) to VA Rte 28 (Sully Road). When combined with the proposed action this project would not have significant cumulative impact on traffic flow and an increase in vehicular emissions. The intensity of the incremental impacts of the project are not considered significant, when viewed in the context of impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and would not rise to a level that would cause significant cumulative or indirect impacts. It would improve safety, traffic flow, vehicular emissions and would not induce population growth.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Substantial Controversy on Environmental Grounds: No

Source: Fairfax County and Loudoun County Scoping Letter Response

Public Hearing: Yes **Type of Hearing:** Design Public Hearing

Other Public Involvement Activities: No

Public Involvement Comments: A design public hearing was held at Ormond Stone Middle School in Fairfax County on October 9, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

This CE documentation has been approved for public availability by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA's final approval of the project meeting the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion is subject to the completion of the Section 4(f) process and the consideration of public comments.

COORDINATION

State Agencies:

DEQ - Air Division
DEQ - Waste Division
DEQ - Water Division
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Department of Forestry
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Department of Health
Department of Historic Resources
Dept. of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Federal Agencies:

NRCS
National Park Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Local Entity:

Fairfax Parks and Recreation
Fairfax Office of Transportation
Loudoun County/City Planner

Other Coordination Entities:

This project meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.4 and 23 CFR 771.117 and will not result in significant impacts to the human or natural environment.