

Pardon Our Dust: Route 17 Widening, Stafford County

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will begin construction on **Wednesday, June 12** to widen Route 17 from 4 to 6 lanes between McLane Drive and Stafford Lakes Parkway, a distance of approximately 2 miles.

This segment of Route 17 currently carries an average of 55,000 vehicles a day, and is projected to carry 96,000 vehicles a day in 2035. Approximately 17 percent of vehicle traffic on this segment of Route 17 are trucks.

VDOT understands Route 17 is a busy commercial corridor that carries motorists traveling between states as well as local traffic. When complete in 2016, we believe the upcoming improvements will increase the mobility of area residents, interstate travelers, and businesses by the construction of new through lanes, a continuous right turn lane in each direction, a double left turn lane in each direction, and double left turn lanes at several intersections.

Project Fast Facts

Construction Start: June 12, 2013

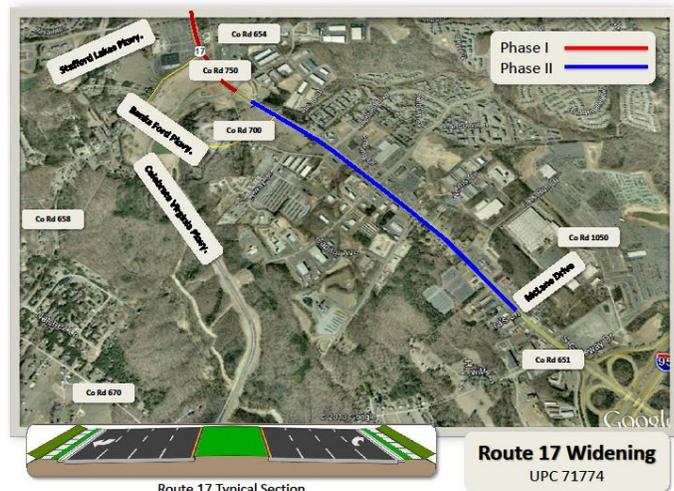
Project Completion: December 1, 2016

Total Cost of the Project: \$48.9 million

Contractor: A contract for \$23.5 million was awarded to Henderson Construction Company Inc., of Stafford, Virginia, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

This project will:

- Add a third travel lane on Route 17 in each direction, establishing six continuous travel lanes from Interstate 95 to Stafford Lakes Parkway.
- Build a continuous right turn lane in each direction, making it easier for local traffic to enter and exit businesses outside of general lanes.
- Add a double left turn lane at key intersections, boosting capacity for vehicles to turn.
- Build a 5-foot sidewalk.
- Upgrade traffic signal equipment at every intersection with a traffic signal.
- Permanently close the existing crossover at Powell Lane.
- Permanently close Fleet Road between Route 17 and Berea Church Road, and realign the entrance of Berea Church Road at Route 17.





Pardon Our Dust Meeting
Route 17 Widening
Stafford County

Thursday, May 23, 2013
University of Mary Washington – Stafford Campus
125 University Boulevard
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

Lane Closures and Construction Schedule

This project will maintain the existing number of travel lanes and turn lanes during construction.

Currently, two travel lanes exist in each direction on Route 17. During construction, two travel lanes, plus turn lanes, will remain open.

First, traffic will be shifted into temporary travel lanes that will be built by the project contractor. Once traffic is shifted into the temporary lanes, the contractor can construct new lanes on the outer edge of Route 17.

As new lanes are finished, traffic will be shifted back into the new lanes.

The final steps involve building the median in the center of Route 17, and adding a final, smooth layer of new asphalt.

Summer-Fall 2013

Widening work will begin north of Celebrate Virginia Parkway and International Parkway.

2014-2016

Widening work will continue north of Celebrate Virginia Parkway/International Parkway, and will steadily progress south toward McLane Drive in both directions as segments are finished.

2016

As segments are finished, traffic will be shifted into the new travel lanes, still on a temporary pavement surface.

Toward the project end, construction work will shift to the inside lanes of the corridor, to complete the median.

Finally, paving will be done across the entire widened section of Route 17, and fresh lane markings will be painted.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will travel lanes be closed for this project?

This project will keep the same number of travel lanes open during construction that exist today – two lanes in each direction. Brief, periodic closures will be needed to set up a work zone, shift traffic, paint lane markings, or pave during the project.

These closures can only occur during evening, off-peak hours. For southbound Route 17, lane closures cannot start until after 8 p.m. On northbound Route 17, lane closures cannot start until after 9 p.m. All lane closures must be removed by 5:30 a.m.



Pardon Our Dust Meeting

Route 17 Widening

Stafford County

Thursday, May 23, 2013

University of Mary Washington – Stafford Campus

125 University Boulevard

Fredericksburg, VA 22406

Will the speed limit be reduced?

The speed limit will be reduced to 35 mph in the project work zone from approximately 500 ft. south of McLane Drive to 500 ft. north of Stafford Lakes Parkway. Signs will be posted, alerting motorists to work zone speed limit.

Why does the project take so long to build?

Construction work is sequenced so all travel lanes remain open on Route 17 while the improvements are made. This limits the locations and hours the contractor can work.

This schedule balances the need to keep traffic moving, while building the new lanes on Route 17.

I operate a business. How can I find out if my sign or entrance will be affected? Will my suppliers be able to make deliveries?

Businesses have already been contacted if a sign or entrance will be changed as part of this project. This communication was part of the Right-of-Way phase, which has concluded.

Access to all businesses and private properties will be maintained during construction.

Lane widths of 11 feet will be maintained during construction, and project plans were designed to accommodate the turning radius of trucks.

VDOT will keep the public informed of any upcoming lane closures through email alerts, our project website, and area media outlets.

How can I stay informed on project milestones and lane closures during construction?

First, sign up to receive email alerts. VDOT will send periodic emails on upcoming lane closures, traffic shifts, and other important project news.

To sign up, send an email to fredericksburginfo@VDOT.Virginia.Gov. Please put "Route 17 Alerts" in the subject line.

Updates will also be posted to the project website on VirginiaDOT.org. From the VDOT homepage, click on "Projects & Studies," "Fredericksburg" and "Route 17 Widening."



Pardon Our Dust Meeting

Route 17 Widening

Stafford County

Thursday, May 23, 2013

University of Mary Washington – Stafford Campus

125 University Boulevard

Fredericksburg, VA 22406

Are you a member of a group or organization that would like to receive a project briefing?

Contact VDOT Communications Manager Kelly Hannon at 540-374-3344 or
Kelly.Hannon@VDOT.Virginia.Gov.

For 24-hour customer service, to ask a question, report a road hazard, or report a problem with traffic signal timing, call VDOT's Customer Service Center at **1-800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623)**