

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The primary purpose of this project is to improve safety by upgrading a section of Route 688 in Roanoke County to meet current design standards.

The average annual traffic count on this section of Route 688 is 3,110 vehicles per day.

The new roadway will have 14-foot lanes to accommodate bicycle traffic with curb and gutter from 0.076 mile south of the intersection of Route 221 to the intersection with Route 1255 (Monet Drive).

Through the intersection with Route 1255, the widening will transition down to two 11-foot with curb and gutter north of the Blue Ridge Parkway crossing. On Route 688, both a left turn lane and right turn lane southbound will be constructed at Route 1255.

Improvements on Route 688 to the south of the Blue Ridge Parkway will meet a Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (RRR) criteria. These improvements will include a widening of the road to two 9-foot lanes with 2-foot shoulders.

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 Conservation and Recreation. The construction of this project will conform to the 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.

## Project Graphic



## Estimated Project Cost

Total Cost:

**\$5,520,000 (approximately)**

Engineering of Roadway Plans:

**\$460,000**

Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance and Utility Relocation:

**\$2,005,000**

Construction:

**\$3,055,000**

*This cost is subject to change because development of the project is in early design stages.*

## Environmental Review

VDOT's Salem 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 Categorical Exclusion 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 for review.

## Anticipated Schedule

**The following schedule has been proposed:**

**Design approval** – April 2012

**Right of way acquisition** – September 2012

**Advertise for construction** – February 2014

## 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 and 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 in this brochure.

## Right of Way

The widening of Cotton Hill Road 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 purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure, "Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available here 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.

## Get Involved

Ten days after this public hearing, on March 25, the public comment period will close. VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of this public 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 major design features will then be presented to VDOT's Chief Engineer or designee for approval.

Project information shared here is available for review after the design meeting at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153.

Comments can also be submitted in writing to saleminfo@vdot.virginia.gov. Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today's meeting in order to be included in the design public hearing record.

## Contact Information

<b>Primary Contact:</b> <b>Jason Oldham, P.E.</b>	Project Manager	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5353 1-800-367-7623
Lori Snider	Right of Way	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5366 1-800-367-7623
Jason Bond	Public Affairs	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5493 1-800-367-7623



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Design Public Hearing

## Route 688 (Cotton Hill Road) Roanoke County

Thursday, March 15, 2012, 4-6 p.m.  
South County Library  
6303 Merriman Road  
Roanoke, VA 24018

## Public Meeting

**Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing on proposed improvements to Route 688 (Cotton Hill Road) in Roanoke County. These improvements will begin 0.076 mile south of the intersection with Route 221 and end 0.107 mile south of the intersection with Route 934 (Shingle Ridge Road).**

This 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.

VDOT staff will address questions and concerns raised as a result of this meeting before the project is presented to VDOT's chief engineer for consideration.

## Project Overview



Route 688 (Cotton Hill Road)

- Anticipated Cost** – Approximately \$5.5 million
- Purpose** – To improve safety
- From** – 0.076 mile south of Route 221
- To** – 0.107 mile south of Route 934 (Shingle Ridge Road)
- Total length** – 0.64 miles
- Improvements** – Widen and improve safety of existing roadway