

Get Involved

On October 31, 2013, ten days after this public hearing, the public comment period will close. Project information shared here is available for review after the hearing at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153 and Christiansburg Residency Office located at 105 Cambria Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today's hearing in order to be included in the public record. Comments can also be submitted in writing to phillip.hammack@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference "US 460 Bypass Interchange and Southgate Drive Relocation Public Comment" in the subject heading.

VDOT will review and evaluate information received as a result of this design hearing and after addressing comments, will present recommendations to VDOT's Chief Engineer for consideration and decision on design approval.

If approval of the major design features is received for this project, the project will move forward to the final design phase.

This information, including the hearing summary, will be publicly available for review at the VDOT offices previously listed.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Phillip Hammack, P.E. Project Manager	Location & Design	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5353 1-800-367-7623
Lori Snider Regional Right of Way Manager	Right of Way	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5366 1-800-367-7623
Jason Bond Salem District Communications Manager	Communications Office	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5493 1-800-367-7623



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Design Public Hearing

US Route 460 Bypass Interchange and Southgate Drive Relocation Town of Blacksburg

Monday, October 21, 2013, 5-7 p.m.
Blacksburg Community Center, Multipurpose Room
725 Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg, VA 24060

Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing for the proposed US Route 460 Bypass Interchange and Southgate Drive Relocation project in the Town of Blacksburg at Virginia Tech.

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

Project Overview



US Route 460 Bypass/Southgate Drive Intersection

Anticipated Cost – Approximately \$46.7 million

Purpose – Replace at-grade intersection with interchange

From – 0.164 mile west of intersection of Southgate Drive

To – 0.761 mile east of intersection of Southgate Drive

Total length – 0.925 miles

Improvements – Replace at-grade intersection with a grade separated interchange; relocate sections of Southgate Drive and Huckleberry Trail; accommodate the relocation of Research Center Drive

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The primary purpose of this project is to improve safety and reduce congestion at the existing at-grade intersection of US Route 460 Bypass and Southgate Drive by replacing it with a grade separated interchange. This interchange will include the relocation of portions of Southgate Drive and the Huckleberry Trail. In coordination with the planned concurrent Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport expansion, accommodations for the relocation of Research Center Drive and other affected segments of the Huckleberry Trail have been made as part of this project.

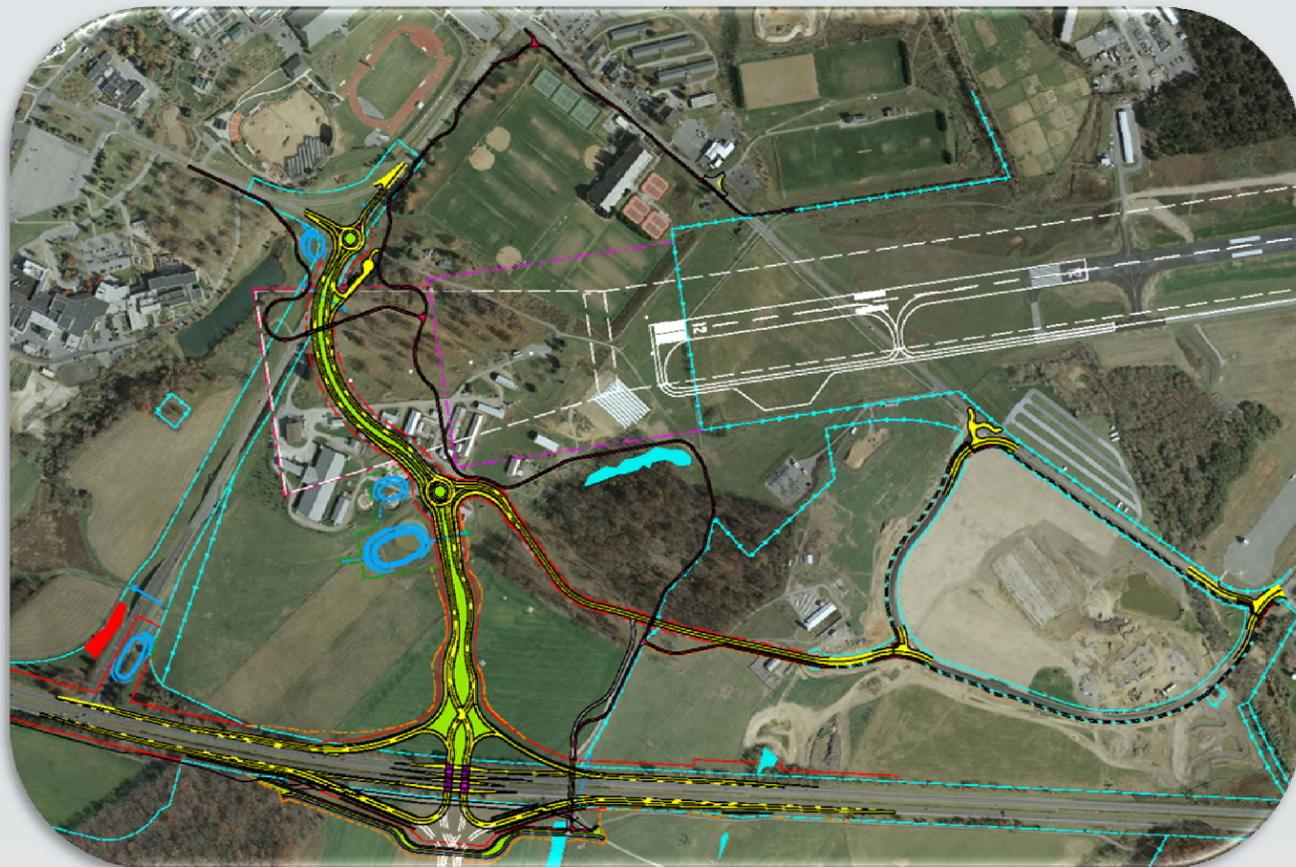
The interchange configuration will be a diverging diamond with two parallel bridges over US Route 460 Bypass. The proposed Southgate Drive will be a four-lane section with twelve foot lanes, raised median and curbing. Roundabouts are proposed for the Southgate Drive intersections at Research Center Drive and Duck Pond Drive.

The Huckleberry Trail will be a ten-foot paved shared-use path with graded separated crossings at US Route 460 Bypass and relocated Research Center Drive.

The design of this project is in compliance with the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP). The construction of this project will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation regulations. During construction, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust and erosion control. No impacts to flood plains are anticipated on this project.

While temporary road and trail detours may be necessary for short durations, impacts to users of these facilities should be minimal. The anticipated construction duration is 24-30 months. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction.

Project Graphic



Estimated Project Cost

Total Cost:
\$46.7 million (approximately)

Engineering of Roadway Plans:
\$6.8 million

Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance
and Utility Relocation:
\$1.2 million

Construction:
\$38.7 million

These costs are subject to change as project development continues. The project will be financed using state and federal funds.

Environmental Review

VDOT's Environmental Section 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 an Environmental Assessment has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The Environmental Assessment document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, air quality, noise, etc.

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 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.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:

Design approval – January 2014

Right of way acquisition – February 2014

Advertise for construction – December 2014

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.