



## City of Lexington, Virginia

### NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Lexington Public Works  
(540) 463-3154

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### **E. Nelson Street Bridge Replacement to Commence Soon – City Public Works Begins Changes to Washington St. Parking**

Construction to replace the East Nelson Street Bridge is expected to begin on or about 5 February. The contractor, Fairfield-Echols of Fishersville, will likely begin preliminary work such as project boundary layout and temporary fence installation within the next week to 10 days. The contractor plans to complete the project by mid-December 2013, good news for the City as the original construction duration was expected to be 18 months. East Nelson St. will be closed on or very soon after 5 February so dismantling and demolition work may begin. Varner Lane will also be closed from north side of the bridge to Short Street. The northern end of the Roy Smith Parking Lot will also be closed during construction to serve as a work and storage area for the contractor. The Virginia Department of Transportation will manage construction of the new bridge for the city.

Temporary Message Boards will be set-up during the week of 14 January at or near city limit locations on Route 60, Nelson Street and Route 11, Main Street alerting motorist to the upcoming construction. The boards will remain in place for about three weeks.

In preparation for this major project, City Public Works Crews are already making changes to Washington St., which will serve as the primary detour route through the city during construction. These temporary changes, approved by City Council, at their 20 December 2012 meeting consist of removing 58 parking spaces primarily located on the north side of Washington St.; removing the bulb-out at the Stonewall Jackson House; repainting center lines and eradicating other pavement markings; installing traffic calming measures in the vicinity of Washington Lee University to create a safe Pedestrian Zone; and changes to the traffic signals at Main St. and Jefferson St. to provide protected left turns. The new Pedestrian Zone signage through the Washington & Lee campus will likely remain in place after construction owing to the large number of pedestrians who traverse this area daily. Additional detour signage will be installed by both Fairfield-Echols in the surrounding area of the project. As bridge work progresses, other changes may be made if needed.

The city will provide updates on our website and through other available media outlets throughout construction. The Virginia Department of Transportation will also be setting up a website from their Staunton District Office containing project photos and progress updates. Once this VDOT site is up and operating, the city will provide a link from the city website.

Motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists are advised to exercise caution within or near the construction area and along Washington St. Your patience and cooperation is requested. Upon construction completion, the City will have a structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing bridge along this major gateway to the Central Business District.