

Village of Lucketts – Safety Improvements Virtual Public Information Meeting

Response to Public Comments

UPC: 68760

State ID: 0015-053-128, C501, P101, R201

Federal ID: STP-5401 (573)

On July 29, 2021, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) held a public information meeting to present the conceptual design plan for the Village of Lucketts - Safety Improvements project and to encourage comments and discussion from the public. The meeting was held virtually with a presentation by VDOT followed by questions, both typed and verbal, from the attendees. The meeting was announced in advance via media and letter mailings.

Approximately 50 people attended the meeting. There were 39 questions or comments submitted through the WebEx meeting platform, and two verbal questions received during the meeting. Five comments were submitted through the comments form on the project website, and 12 emails were received from the time the meeting was announced through the comment period ending August 9, 2021.

Through various platforms (email, comment sheet, public information meeting comments), VDOT has received feedback on several aspects of the presented project. Positive support for the project was expressed at both the virtual public meeting and via email. The questions or concerns are summarized below.

We appreciate your feedback and input on the proposed design plans. Safety for all travelers and modes continues to be a top priority for VDOT and the project team. For more information visit www.virginiadot.org/Lucketts.

Summary of Questions and Concerns

Pedestrian Safety

Comment(s): Residents expressed concern that the design does not adequately address safety for pedestrians, and specifically elementary school children crossing Route 15.

Response: A new sidewalk, separated from the roadway by a curb and a grass buffer will be provided along the west side of Route 15 between the Hiway Mobile Home Community and the Shell gas station. This provides a pedestrian route where one does not exist. A crosswalk with push-button and countdown pedestrian signal heads will provide controlled access across Stumptown Road at the signalized intersection.

The existing crosswalk on the south side of the Lucketts Elementary School entrance will be relocated to the north side of the entrance, and a curbed bump-out will be constructed on the east side of Route 15. This will provide a pedestrian refuge and reduce the crossing distance across Route 15 from 48 feet to 33 feet. Existing pavement markings on the north side of the school entrance were previously

implemented to discourage motorists from weaving back into through lanes from the right turn lane. This was done at the request of the community based on previous feedback. The addition of the proposed curbed bump-out will enhance this improvement by providing a physical barrier to prevent motorists from driving over the painted markings.

Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) provides bus service for the students in the community to cross Route 15 to avoid students crossing on foot at this location.

Traffic Operations

Comment(s): Several comments expressed concern regarding the speed and volume of traffic through Lucketts and congestion and delays at the Stumptown Road/Lucketts Road and Route 15 intersection.

This project does not alter the roadway capacity, traffic volumes, or the intersection configuration. No posted speed limit changes are proposed under this project.

This project does not preclude incorporating additional features from the 2006 Concept Plan endorsed by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors or other future projects in the vicinity. While the current project elements are not focused on traffic operations, other projects may focus on improving operations in the future.

Environmental and Historical Resources

Comment(s): Comments were received expressing concern with environmental compliance. Specifically, concern was raised with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Guidelines for Conducting Cultural Resource Survey in Virginia, and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. Additionally there were comments about environmental impacts to streams and wetlands, Army Corps of Engineer permits, and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance.

Response: A detailed archaeological analysis was conducted for the entire scope of the approved 2006 Concept Plan, and coordinated with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. This analysis will be updated with the current project plans, and because the proposed project is a subset of the larger project no additional impacts are anticipated. No impacts to wetlands or historic structures are expected. A project specific environmental review is currently underway in compliance with NEPA. The results will be shared with the public when available.

Alternative Plans

Comment(s): Comments were received regarding the need to coordinate planned improvements with other nearby projects in and around Lucketts.

Response: The current plan has evolved from the 2006 Concept Plan endorsed by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. The project elements in the Concept Plan were reviewed to determine which could be implemented independently, had public support and were within available funding. Other components of the 2006 Concept Plan may be implemented at a later time as funding is available.

Other projects in and around Lucketts have been studied by both VDOT and Loudoun County. The proposed improvements do not conflict with the implementation of other projects.

Background: On October 3, 2006, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors endorsed design concepts shown on the attached Recommended Concept Plan for the Village of Lucketts, which was developed through extensive public involvement. The plan includes providing splitter islands, left turn lanes, landscaped medians, street trees, sidewalks, and pedestrian lighting. The project was not advanced to design and construction project because it received only partial funding. The current project funds are sufficient to implement a subset of the improvements that were previously identified.

Trees and Landscaping

Comment(s): Concern was expressed that the project would remove mature trees and impact private properties.

Response: The proposed concept plan does not impact existing mature trees on private property. Accommodation of additional landscaping and tree planting may be added to the project in the future, if it can be incorporated without significant property impacts.