

Public Hearing Meeting - Summary of Public Comments and Responses
Fraleley Boulevard Widening
Town of Dumfries, Prince William County
From: Possum Point Road To: Route 234 (Dumfries Road)
State Project 0001-212-249, P101; UPC 90339
Federal Project STP-5A01 (228)

On October 18, 2018, VDOT conducted a Design Public Hearing at Dumfries Elementary School, 3990 Cameron Street, Dumfries, VA 22026. All project exhibits on display and the PowerPoint presentation given at the meeting, as well as this document, are available on the project website:

http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/fraley_bldv_widening.asp

Approximately 135 members of the public attended the hearing. Between the October 17 Public Hearing and the comment period end date (extended to November 2, 2018) a total of 17 comments were received: seven during the meeting (4 written, 3 oral), ten additional comments were emailed following the meeting

Following is a summary of comments received and associated responses.

Concern with lack of notification about Public Hearing (1 comment).

Response: The public hearing was announced to the public in several ways.

Notice of the Public Hearing:

- advertised in 3 newspapers of local distribution: 1 month and 2 weeks prior to meeting
- posted in the project webpage
- posted in the Town of Dumfries Town Hall and Prince William County public building
- forwarded to a wide distribution list (elected officials, agency staff, FHWA)
- letters sent to affected property owners / tenants
- VDOT Project Signs, with contact number, were posted on approaches to the project (approximately for a 2-month period, spanning early September to early late October/ November 2018).

Supports Project (1 Comment) (Note PH Comment Sheet did not ask question for Y/N on Project Support)

Response: The project team appreciates the support.

Do Not Support Project (1 Comment: project is waste of money) (PH Comment Sheet did not ask question for Y/N on Project Support)

Response: The project to widen Fraley Boulevard to 6 lanes has been under development since 1994, when the General Assembly directed VDOT to perform a comprehensive study of the 27-mile Route 1

Corridor in Northern Virginia in response to concerns about growing travel demand and to help coordinate revitalization efforts in the jurisdictions along the Corridor.

The Route 1 Corridor Study was completed in 1997. Its purpose was to identify transportation needs through 2020 and develop solution that also considered economic development. After evaluating several concepts and with public input, recommendations included: Relocate SB Route 1 to Fraley Boulevard; Widen Fraley Blvd. to 6 lanes with a median (3 lanes in each direction, a median that would accommodate left turns, continuous sidewalks and trails along Route 1).

The Route 1 Location Study followed, with study of centerline location and the associated environmental assessment. For Project "A" (encompasses the Town of Dumfries segment), the centerline location was endorsed by the Town of Dumfries and Prince William County, approved by the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in 2004.

The Route 1 Fraley Boulevard widening project has been identified as the Town of Dumfries number 1 priority project, as indicated in the Town's Comprehensive Plan and Capital Improvement Plan. The recent Route 1 widening that have been completed north and south of the Town has created a choke point within the Town and segment to the north. When I-95 experiences capacity issues due to crashes or incidents, Route 1 within Town of Dumfries experiences very high congestion and capacity problems as many leave the interstate looking for alternative parallel routes.

The Fraley Boulevard project is consistent with the above efforts, recommendations and plans, and is intended to reduce congestion, improve overall operations and safety, and encourage economic development.

Concern with conflict between Fraley Blvd widening project and private proposal for Quadrant Intersection and left turns from NB Route 1 to Route 234 (1 comment)

The schedule for each project is uncertain at this time. Funding for construction of Fraley Blvd. Widening project has not yet been identified. If this project is constructed first, northbound Route 1 left turns will be provided at Route 234. If the private proposed project (Potomac Shores Development) is constructed first, the northern end of the Fraley Boulevard widening project will be designed and constructed to meet and be consistent with that project.

Concern with Stormwater Management Ponds/ BMP (3 comments) [*Comments: safety and view; consider moving proposed BMP; Pahlavani switch form parcel 69 to 70*]

Location, size and number of ponds are being reviewed, consistent with technical requirements (related to water quantity and quality), considering topography, a variety of public comments, and making efforts to minimize impacts. Requests for shifting location of basins will be accommodated where possible.

Concerns with Access (3 comments): *Dumfries Shopping Center requested 2 new SB Rt 1 entrances with median breaks + concerns with access during construction; Thrift Store access from Main St and Canal Rd; Equestres Inc.at Duke St /Fraley Blvd lost access]*

Response:

As design progresses and is refined, the project team continues to make efforts to minimize overall access impacts to properties and accommodate requests where possible, consistent with the project's purpose and need, design standards, access management and other requirements.

VDOT will continue addressing specific access and property impact issues with individual property owners or their representatives through the Final Design and Right of Way Acquisition phases. The VDOT "Guide for Property Owners and Tenants" (link below) contains information on Property Appraisals, Partial Acquisitions (including damages or benefits to remaining properties), Just Compensation, Relocation Assistance and other related topics.

http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/Right_of_way/A_Guide_for_Property_Owners_and_Tenants.pdf

Redesign of the Main Street alignment between Canal Road and Possum Point intersections will reduce access and other impacts to several properties. Canal Road will likely remain, with 1-way traffic from Main Street to Southbound Route 1.

Concerns with Right of Way / Parking Impacts (6 comments) [*request purchase of entire tract due to concerns with future development and number of parking spaces impacted; Brenda Davis total take and retirement impact; Triangle Self Storage: demo 2 buildings including office + 2 storage buildings, sewer pump station; Triangle Shopping Plaza –grading & retaining wall*]

Response:

As design progresses and is refined, the project team continues to make efforts to minimize overall impacts to properties and accommodate requests where possible, consistent with the project's purpose and need, design standards, access management and other requirements.

Each property impact is unique. VDOT will continue addressing specific access and property impact issues with individual property owners or their representatives through the Final Design and Right of Way Acquisition phases. The VDOT "Guide for Property Owners and Tenants" contains information on Property Appraisals, Partial Acquisitions (including damages or benefits to remaining properties), Just Compensation, Written Offer and Negotiations, Relocation Assistance and other related topics.

http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/Right_of_way/A_Guide_for_Property_Owners_and_Tenants.pdf

Prefer 1-way on Northbound Route 1 (1 comments) [*Dunkin Donuts business thrives with 1-way on NB Route 1*]

Response: The proposed revised design, including shifting Southbound Route 1 to Fraley Boulevard, has been a concept pursued since the Route 1 Corridor Study was completed by VDOT in 1997, with endorsement from the Town of Dumfries.