

NEWS JULY 2018

The Martinsville Southern Connector study is a first step toward identifying future improvements to the Route 220 corridor within its study limits. This is a separate study from the Environmental Impact Statement that was prepared for the overall Interstate 73 (I-73) corridor that included portions of Henry County. The Martinsville Southern Connector Study will focus specifically on identifying and addressing transportation needs along U.S. Route 220, between the North Carolina state line and the U.S. Route 58/U.S. Route 220 Bypass.

Should any future transportation improvements from the Martinsville Southern Connector Study be implemented along the U.S. Route 220 corridor, they could be considered for incorporation into the overall I-73 corridor. However, this would require a separate evaluation and analysis of I-73.

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The first Citizen Information Meeting to discuss the Martinsville Southern Connector Study was held on May 8, 2018 at Magna Vista High School in Ridgeway, VA. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the study and gather public comments on transportation issues within and surrounding the U.S. Route 220 corridor to inform the study's development.

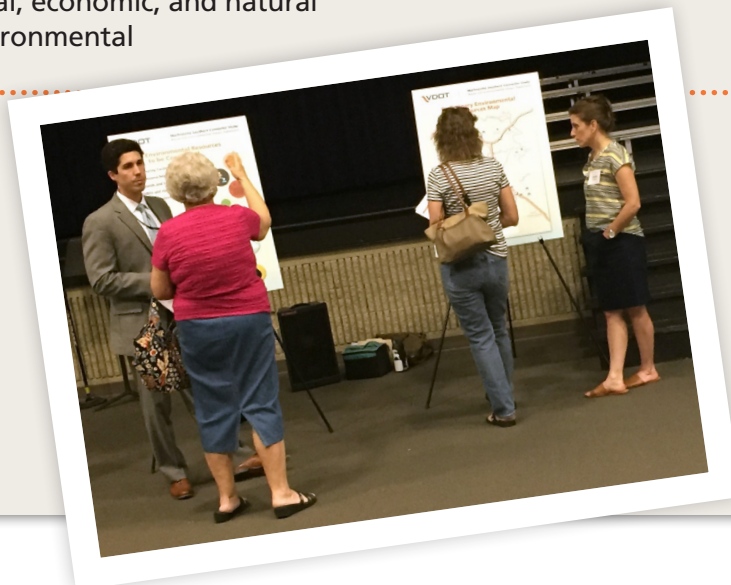
The May meeting included display boards, a presentation, and study handouts. The public was asked to provide input on any social, economic, and natural environmental

resources they believe should be considered as part of the study. Data for traffic and crashes, growth projections, projected traffic volumes and plans for future land use will be collected and reviewed. This data, along with the public input received, will be used to determine the scope of issues to be considered.

Some of the comments that were received included concerns on straightening out the curves of the road and a more open and improved flow of traffic to access the border of North Carolina. Other concerns

included having better accessibility to homes and businesses along the corridor and improving traffic during racing events. VDOT will review and evaluate the information received as part of the comment period. VDOT will continue to solicit public comments throughout the study process through informational meetings and other outreach. The meeting times and locations for any outreach will be advertised.

In addition to numerous public involvement opportunities, VDOT will be coordinating with federal, state, and local agencies throughout the development of the study.



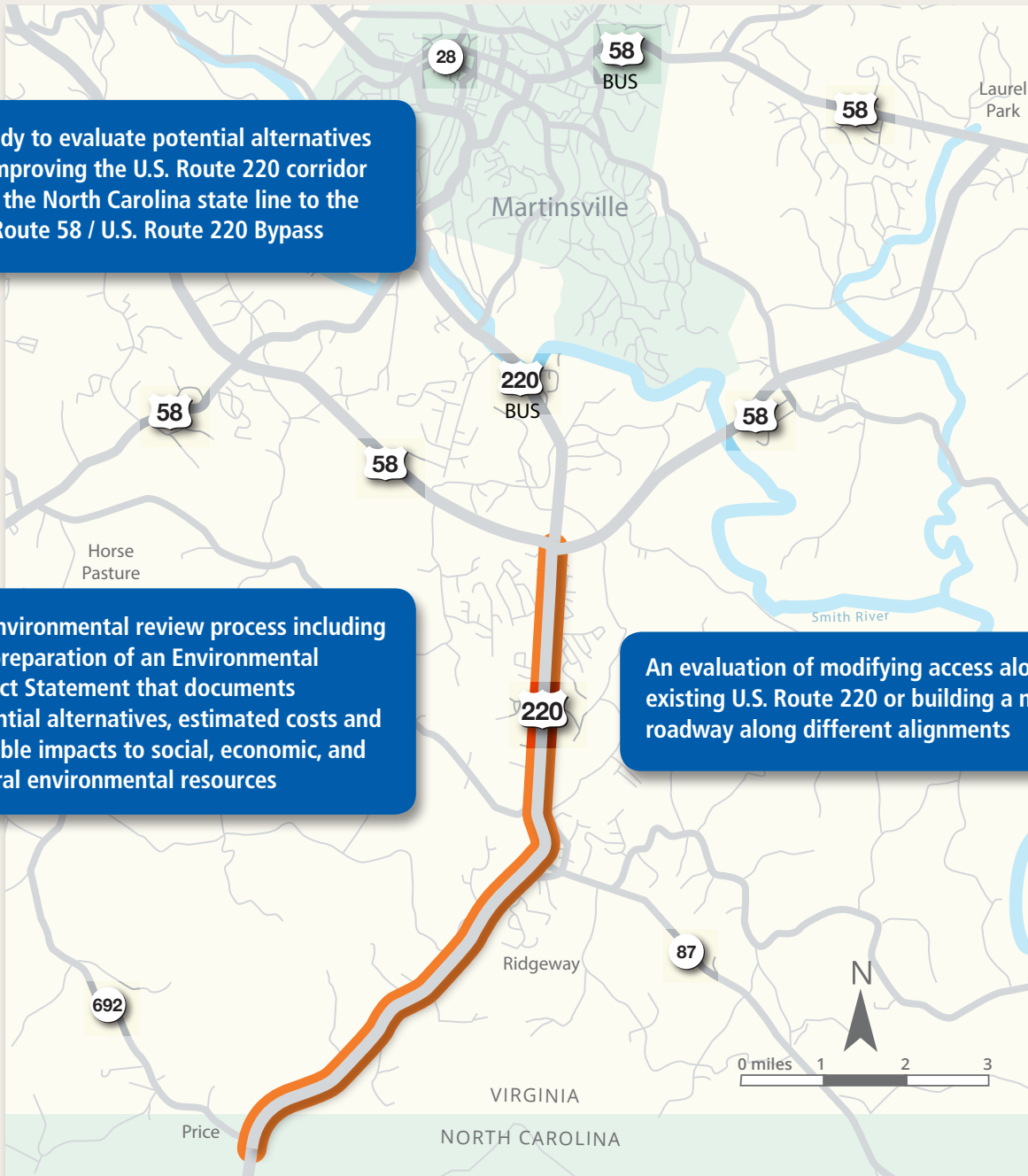
Public attendees at a Citizen Information Meeting at Magna Vista High School in Ridgeway, VA on May 8th.

What is the Martinsville Southern Connector Study?

A study to evaluate potential alternatives for improving the U.S. Route 220 corridor from the North Carolina state line to the U.S. Route 58 / U.S. Route 220 Bypass

An environmental review process including the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement that documents potential alternatives, estimated costs and possible impacts to social, economic, and natural environmental resources

An evaluation of modifying access along existing U.S. Route 220 or building a new roadway along different alignments



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Next Steps

As the study moves forward, there will be additional opportunities for public involvement which will be incorporated as part of

the overall study process. It's anticipated that the study will enter the Purpose and Need phase in late 2018, which will include a public survey.

Stay Involved

Look for future newsletters and announcements, and sign up for the project mailing list. Visit the project website at http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/salem/martinsville_southern_connector_study.asp.