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Virtual Pardon Our Dust Public Meeting

Skiffes Creek Connector James City County

Thursday, April 29, 2021 5:30pm

Participate in virtual meeting with login instructions at
www.virginiadot.org/SkiffesCreek

Virtual Pardon Our Dust Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) "Pardon Our Dust" meeting on the Skiffes Creek Connector roadway in James City County.

This virtual meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to gain information on the project as construction begins, and ask questions that they may have. VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in transportation projects and programs affecting them.

During this virtual meeting, VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

Project Overview



Future location for new roadway at Greenmount Parkway intersection

Cost – \$50.5 million

Purpose – Provide connectivity between Route 60 and Route 143 in James City County

From – Route 60 at Green Mount Parkway

To – Route 143, near the VDOT Skiffes Creek maintenance facility

Total length – 0.86 miles

Improvements – Construction of a new two-lane roadway, a bridge over the CSX railway and Route 143, and a bridge over Skiffes Creek. Also widening portions of Route 60 and Route 143 at the Skiffes Creek intersections.

State Project – 0060-047-627, P101, R201, C501; UPC: 100200

Project Description

The primary purpose of this project is to provide connectivity between Route 60 and Route 143 in James City County. Proposed improvements include the addition of new 12-foot-wide travel lanes with curb and gutters in each direction. Work includes two new bridges, one over Route 143 and the CSX railway and one over Skiffes Creek to preserve the natural wetland in accordance with the Environmental Assessment report.

VDOT has determined that the use of Design-Build contracting will expedite delivery. The design-builder will be able to perform final design, right of way acquisition, and utility relocation and some construction activities concurrently.

The project also includes:

- Drainage improvements
- Storm water management facilities
- Retaining walls
- Final landscaping and vegetation replacement

Project Cost

Total Cost: **\$50.5 million**

Preliminary Engineering of Roadway (PE): \$5 million
Right of Way Acquisition (RW): \$4.7 million
Construction (CN): \$40.8 million

The project will be financed using state and federal funds and was selected for funding using the Commonwealth's SMART SCALE project selection process.

Project Schedule

FHWA Record of Decision – August 10, 2017

Design Public Hearing – May 15, 2019

Design-Build RFQ – February 2019

Design-Build RFP – August 2019

Award Design-Build Contract – January 2020

Start Final Design & Construction – Fall 2020

Project Complete - Fall 2022



Construction Stages

Project construction will take place in multiple stages. The intersection improvements for Route 143 and Route 60 will be among the early work, with construction on the two bridges along the connector following. The new roadway between the bridges will be constructed beginning near Route 60 and continuing to Route 143. Complete paving, permanent pavement markings and road signage will be installed in Spring 2022, with all elements of the project completed in Fall 2022. The Skiffes Creek Connector road is expected to open to traffic in the Summer of 2022. A more detailed construction schedule can be found on the project website. All work is subject to weather and may be adjusted during construction.

Potential Traffic Impact

The bulk of the new roadway construction will occur in areas not currently open to traffic, so impact to traveling motorists will be limited. During all phases of construction, traffic flow will be maintained on both Route 60 and Route 143 in both directions.

Traffic flow may be reduced during the day in the vicinity of both intersections, with traffic facilitated by a flagger and temporary traffic barriers in place to delineate active lanes. When the construction of the bridge crossing above Route 143 and the railroad occurs, crews expect there will be some night-time full stoppages or multi-lane closures on Route 143 while fabricated bridge components and structural elements are placed in final position.

Stay Informed Moving Forward

Members of the public are encouraged to visit the project web page at www.virginiadot.org/skiffescreek regularly for project updates. Additionally, those who wish to receive direct e-mail communications about the project's progress can subscribe to our e-mail distribution list using the signup on the project page or by e-mailing contact information to hamptonroadspublicinfo@vdot.virginia.gov.

Environmental Compliance

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Environmental Impact and Related Procedures (23 CFR 771), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been written for the project. The EA document includes information from various environmental reviews including those related to wetlands and water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality and noise. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued on March 29, 2019 by the FHWA.

Following the issuance of the FONSI, VDOT's Hampton Roads District Environmental Office has worked with the Design-Builder on the project to perform specific environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity; to provide natural and cultural 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 project will continue to coordinate with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as part of various environmental review processes to include monitoring for compliance with environmental commitments and permit conditions per VDOT's specifications and standard best management practices during construction.

Right of Way

The construction of the Skiffes Creek Connector required acquisition of right of way for roadway, bridge, drainage and storm water management facilities. Right of Way acquisition and utility relocation has been performed by the design-builder in accordance with VDOT standards, and is nearly complete at this time.

Information about right of way is discussed in VDOT's brochure, "Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants," available online at https://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/Right_of_way/A_Guide_for_Property_Owners_and_Tenants.pdf

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