

November 14, 2017

Progress on Route 15 Improvements



I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made on the Route 15 project this past month. I hope you find this update helpful.

Route 15 Congestion Report Update

My colleagues on the Board of Supervisors unanimously supported my motion at the October 19 board meeting to:

1. Proceed with Phase 1 improvements (page 63 of the Congestion Report) to add a northbound auxiliary lane between North King Street and Tutt Lane. This work is scheduled for completion Spring 2018.
2. Direct VDOT to procure an engineering consultant to prepare the design and construction plans for the remaining phased improvements (2-4) in the Congestion Report.
3. Direct staff to further refine the specific improvement alternatives and to report back to the Board with recommendations.
4. Direct staff to request funding participation from the Town of Leesburg.

This item also included a summary of public input and supplemental traffic analysis for two alternatives including Alternative 4: King Street Flyover and a Two-Lane Roundabout at

Whites Ferry and Alternative 5: King Street Flyover and Bowtie Roundabouts at Whites Ferry.

NVTA FUNDING

I was able to lay the groundwork for Route 15 funding last year when we submitted Route 15 hot spot improvements to the NVTA (Northern Virginia Transportation Association) at our Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting in April and to the Board at our June 7, 2016 meeting.

I am pleased to report that last week the Board unanimously directed staff to apply to the NVTA for regional funding for nine County projects including U.S. Route 15 widening. In even better news, staff was also directed to notify the NVTA that Route 15 is one of Loudoun's top three projects.

NVTA plans to release the draft FY 2018-23 Six Year Program for public comment in April 2018 with an open house and public hearing in May 2018. Please mark your calendars for May as we will need as many residents as possible to attend the NVTA meeting to advocate for funding.

Countywide Transportation Plan - Route 15 CPAM

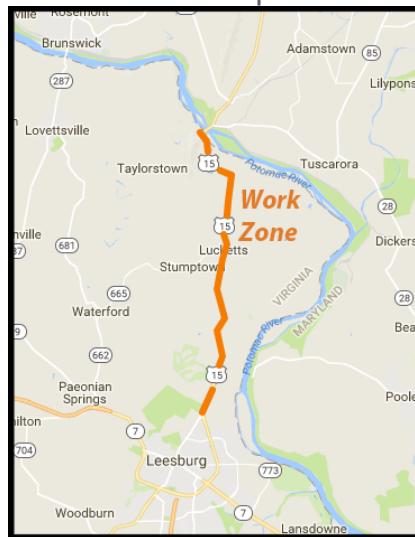
At our May meeting, I directed staff to initiate an amendment process to the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) to reflect necessary revisions to Route 15 separate from the Envision Loudoun process. My goal is to expedite changes to the CTP and prevent the process from getting caught up in the more complicated Envision Loudoun process. I am pleased to report that this item is progressing and is well ahead of the Envision Loudoun process.

On October 25th, the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure hosted a community input session on the Route 15 CPAM (Comprehensive Plan Amendment). The CTP currently shows Route 15 as a 4-lane roadway from Battlefield Parkway north to near Tutt Lane. This CPAM proposes to extend the planned 4-lane section north to Montresor Road. The advertisement and vicinity

map can be accessed in the link above. The CPAM is expected to go to the Planning Commission in December and to the Board's February 2018 public hearing.

Interim VDOT Safety Measures

Rumble Strip Work



Our office has been working with residents and VDOT to implement immediate safety procedures on Route 15 that include addressing the lack of uniformity of center-line and edge-line rumble strips along the corridor, passing zones and improvements in lane and sign markings at the Lucketts Elementary School and Lucketts Road. VDOT has already changed the road markings in Lucketts and is beginning work on the center-line rumble strips this week. More work is expected next year. I would like to personally thank VDOT for their attention and quick work in implementing these measures.

Upcoming Stakeholder Meeting

The third Route 15 Stakeholder Committee meeting will be held this Thursday, November 16, 2017, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, in the Dulles Room at the Government Center. The Stakeholder group will review the supplemental analysis mentioned above for Alternative 4 and Alternative 5. This analysis was not included in the original Route 15 Congestion Report.

The meeting will also include extensive discussion on the Safety and Operational Study which is focused on the corridor between Whites Ferry Road and the Maryland state line. This discussion will focus on development of concepts, design features along the corridor and prioritization of features and will ultimately lead to alternatives that will be presented at the January 8, 2018 Stakeholder Meeting.

Resource Information:

[Route 15 Congestion Report](#)
[Route 15 Congestion Report Presentation](#)
[Route 15 Congestion Report - Higgins Amendment](#)

[Route 15 Website](#)

I hope this information has been helpful to you. I would like to thank Loudoun County's Transportation staff, VDOT, Kimley-Horn and the Route 15 Stakeholders for all the hard work on Route 15 thusfar. We still have a significant amount of work ahead of us but I am pleased at the progress so far. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at geary.higgins@loudoun.gov.

Best Regards,

***Supervisor Geary Higgins
Catoclin District***



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