



September 19, 2018

ROUTE 15

Route 15 Congestion Improvements Coming to the Board Tomorrow

Dear Residents,

I am pleased to inform you that tomorrow night an item will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at our Business Meeting tomorrow, September 20, 2018 to give direction on which improvement options for Route 15 north of the Town of Leesburg to the White's Ferry intersection area. You can read the item [here](#).

This is a major milestone for the project. The vision for the corridor that we outlined from the start with the Stakeholder Group stated that:

- The Route 15 corridor improvements from Leesburg to Maryland will emphasize safety and congestion relief.
- The Route 15 corridor improvements will provide local access and mobility for community and through traffic; and

- The Route 15 corridor improvement's design will highlight Loudoun's natural beauty and maintain the historic rural character.

We have had an enormous amount of public input on the entire corridor that has included:

- Five public input meetings
- Over **3,000 people** who attended public meetings and participated in the online surveys
- 950 residents contacted by mail through my office
- residents contacted through Stakeholder Committee Members

Staff is offering a five-part recommendation:

1. That the Board direct staff to design and construct the widening of Route 15 to a four-lane median divided roadway between Battlefield Parkway NE and Montresor Road (Route 661).
2. That the Board direct staff to design and construct a realignment of the Route 15/North King Street intersection to become a continuous green T-intersection that is controlled by a traffic signal.
3. That the Board direct staff to replace the existing traffic signal at Route15/Whites Ferry Road/Raspberry Drive to accommodate four lanes of through traffic plus turn lanes.
4. That the Board direct staff to design and construct a realignment of Limestone School Road (Route 661) to be aligned across from Montresor Road (Route661) and design and construct a hybrid two-lane roundabout at the intersection.
5. That the Route 15 improvements be designed to incorporate context sensitive design methodology and follow the Journey Through Hallowed Ground's design guidelines where feasible.

The meeting starts at 5:00 pm; the first round of public input is scheduled to begin at 5:00 and is limited to 8 people (advanced sign up required). A second round of public input is scheduled to start as early as 6:30. Anyone who wishes to be placed on the advanced sign up list needs to call the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors at 703-777-0200. Advanced sign-ups for the meeting will be taken until 12:00 noon on September 20th.

You can review the staff presentation [here](#).

Public Open House September 26

An open house about the Route 15 Safety and Operational Study is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2018, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lucketts Community Center, 42361 Lucketts Road in Leesburg.

Members of the public are invited to view material and maps associated with the study and provide comments on the concepts that have been prepared for the Route 15 corridor between Whites Ferry Road and the Maryland State line.

Project Background

The Route 15 improvement project encompasses the entire corridor of Route 15 from Leesburg north to the Point of Rocks Bridge for the purpose of providing congestion relief and safety improvements to the corridor. The project is divided into two distinct sections. The southern section includes Route 15 from north of Leesburg to north of the White's Ferry intersection. Traffic analysis, data and concepts for this section are included in the "[Congestion Report](#)." The northern section of the project runs from north of the White's Ferry intersection up to the Virginia side of the Point of Rocks Bridge. Traffic analysis,

data and concepts for this section are included in the "[Safety and Operational Study](#)."

A more immediate "Phase 1 Interim Improvement" is also in process as the larger phases of the project are considered. This interim improvement is designed to reduce congestion on Route 15 North at King Street through to the Tutt Lane intersection. It would add a northbound auxiliary lane beginning at its current location using existing pavement and continue to the Tutt Lane intersection, where it would transition into a left-turn only lane. Most of the existing infrastructure would be retained with some additional new pavement and pavement marking modifications. By extending the northbound merge lane, the major congestion bottleneck is improved, alleviating some congestion south of the lane drop near Battlefield Parkway. My office and staff are working with the Little Spring community to make further improvements to the design in order to provide safe access into the Little Spring community. We anticipate further meetings with the community now that the design is released.

A [Stakeholder Committee](#) was formed at the start of the project to serve as an advisory group to professional project staff and partner agencies.

The group and meetings operate as a clearing house for information, feedback and resources related to the project. A number of important topics and information have been discussed and shared at these meetings including, traffic analysis, right-of-way (ROW) maps for the corridor, resource maps indicating locations with access, congestion, safety, preservation, beautification and bike and pedestrian issues, Route 15 historic resource presentation, Maryland State Highway and Frederick County information meeting, Partner Agency (10 Agencies) meeting notes, public input summaries and more.

The Committee includes 12 representatives from homeowner associations located along the Route 15 corridor, and 8 representatives from local business, community and preservation organizations. The Stakeholders are charged with providing recommendations on Route 15

improvements based on technical analysis, to seek feedback from the organization they are representing and to advocate for project success. The views of individuals not living within an HOA and business entities have also been included in the process either through direct meetings with my office and DTCI staff and the consultants or through the five public input sessions and online surveys.

My office also sent 950 individual letters to each resident living along the corridor not included in an HOA informing them of the project, upcoming open houses and providing contact information and a link to the website. Approximately 843 of these letters were mailed to residents in the Lucketts community.

Funding

I was extremely pleased that we were successful in receiving full-funding (\$54 million) from NVTa for the Route 15 Bypass Widening: Battlefield Parkway to Montesor Road project in the span of a six month period. The Route 15 project ranked extremely high and was 7th of all 60 projects considered for funding. These funds will provide the majority of revenue for improvements through the southern section of the Route 15 corridor including the White's Ferry intersection.

The Route 15 project is located in Loudoun County's adopted Capital Improvement Program for FY2019 found in the link below. Design and construction funding was accelerated in this year's budget (Accelerated Requests, p. 7-15) Design funding was accelerated from FY2023 to FY2019 and construction accelerated from FY2027 to FY2023. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support in moving the project up in the CIP. [Loudoun County FY2019 Adopted Budget Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\)](#)

Resources

Please check the following websites for information and resources relating to the Route 15 Project. I encourage you to take a few minutes to browse the Route 15 North of Leesburg website to take a look at the

vast resources that have been pulled together for the project including maps, presentations, data and information.

[Route 15 North of Leesburg](#)

[Catocin District Website](#)

Best Regards,

***Supervisor Geary Higgins
Catocin District***

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Thank You!

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