



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

Gregory A. Whirley
Commissioner

November 7, 2013

MEMORANDUM

REQUEST FOR DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING APPROVAL

From: Barton Thrasher, P.E.
State Location and Design Engineer

To: Mohammad Mirshahi, P.E.
Deputy Chief Engineer

Project #: 0009-053-111, P101
Federal Project #: STP-5401 (608)
UPC: 70587
County: Loudoun

In accordance with the statutes of the Commonwealth of Virginia and policies of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, a **Design Public Hearing** was held for the above mentioned project on September 18, 2012, between the hours of 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM at the Hillsboro Old Stone School located in the Town of Hillsboro, Loudon County, Virginia.

The purpose of this project is to provide traffic calming measures, pedestrian safety and access improvements in the Town of Hillsboro.

Route 9 (Charles Town Pike) is a rural two-lane highway running between the West Virginia State Line (Keys Gap) and Route 7 at Clark's Gap. This route serves as a vital link between Northern Virginia and the West Virginia Panhandle. In 2004, the Town of Hillsboro adopted a Comprehensive Plan by resolution to improve the quality of life in the Town and adopt a Hillsboro Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Plan. In 2006, the Town Council published the results of a study named "A Master Plan to Take Back Hillsboro's Main Street".

The project involves the construction of two roundabouts at either end of the Town, constructing sidewalks through the Town with curb and gutter, full depth pavement reconstruction, raised cross walks and on-street parking.

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Citizens in attendance at the Public Hearing were provided the following information in the form of a project brochure and various display boards:

- The draft Categorical Exclusion (CE) document;
- The proposed typical section will provide two (2) twelve (12) foot lanes with curb and gutter and parking on one side of the roadway;
- The design year average daily traffic volume is 21,400 vpd by 2036;
- The construction of the project will not displace any families or businesses;
- The project cost is estimated at \$1.8 million for preliminary engineering, \$3.5 million for right-of-way and utilities and \$15.5 million for construction. The total estimated cost is \$20.8 million utilizing 100% federal funds;
- The tentative schedule for advertisement for construction is late 2016.

Approximately sixty (60) citizens attended the hearing. There were sixteen (16) written and three (3) oral comments received for the record. Sixteen (16) supported the project as proposed and presented with modifications and three (3) were opposed to the project. (See attached Public Hearing Transcript)

The comments received from the Public Hearing and the District's responses to those comments are provided in the Public Hearing package. (See attached)

The NOVA District Preliminary Engineering Manager, Mr. Nicholas J. Roper, P.E., by letter dated November 4, 2013, has recommended approval of the major design features as proposed and presented at the Public Hearing held September 18, 2012, with the following modifications:

- Sidewalks and parking configurations will be further evaluated before final design plans are developed;
- Traffic speeds through the Town and outside the Town limits will be monitored after the completion of the project;
- Alternative locations for the transformers will be considered upon further consultation and agreement with the power company;
- Storm water retention pond proposed near Stony Brook Market will be evaluated to determine a suitable alternative location within the project limits.

In support of this project, the Town of Hillsboro passed Resolution 2012-12-01 on November 27, 2012, and the Loudon County Board of Supervisors passed a letter of endorsement on February 20, 2013. (See Attached)

The Assistant State Location and Design Engineer, Theron Knouse, P.E. has reviewed the submitted documents and recommends approval of the major design features as proposed and presented at the Public Hearing held September 18, 2012, with the modifications noted.

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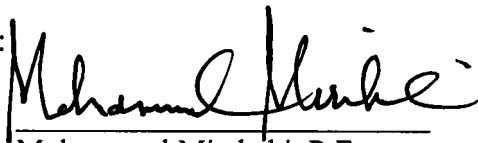
I concur with staff's recommendation that the major design features for the Town of Hillsboro Traffic Calming project be approved as proposed and presented at the Public Hearing held September 18, 2012 with the modifications noted.



Barton Thrasher, P.E.
State Location and Design Engineer

Date: 11/12/13

Approved By:



Mohammad Mirshahi, P.E.
Deputy Chief Engineer

Date: 11/13/13

Attachments