

Get Involved

Ten days after this citizens information meeting, the public comment period will close on **October 1, 2023**.

A comment sheet is enclosed and can be submitted at tonight's hearing or by mail to Amanda Cox, DBIA, Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4219 Campbell Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501-4801. You may also email your comments to Amanda.Cox@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "Route 29 and Route 703 Alternative" in the subject line.

Information should be postmarked, e-mailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of tonight's meeting in order to be included in the record.

VDOT representatives will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the meeting.

Information pertaining to the meeting, including the summary, will be available for review at VDOT's Lynchburg District Office located at 4219 Campbell Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24501-4801.

The comments received as a result of this hearing will be presented to the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors for consideration.

If the proposed alternative is well received by the citizens, as a result of the citizens information meeting, and VDOT receives a resolution from the Board of Supervisors requesting VDOT to move forward, it will move forward to begin the final design phase. A Design Public Hearing will be held at such time the design is advanced to that stage, giving the public another opportunity to provide comments and/or suggestions on the project.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Amanda Cox	Project Manager	4219 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	434-856-8366
Brian Casto	Engineering Manager	4219 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	434-856-8276
Len Stevens	Communications Manager	4219 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	434-856-8176
Mike Sprouse	Regional Right of Way Manager	811 Commerce Road Staunton, VA 24401	540-280-3851



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Citizens Information Meeting

Route 29 & Route 703 Intersection Improvement Project Pittsylvania County

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, 4 – 6 p.m.

Chatham High School
100 Chatham Cavalier Circle, Chatham, VA 24531

<https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/lynchburg/route-29--route-703-tightsqueeze.asp>



Citizens Information Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) citizens information meeting on a proposed alternative in lieu of the RCUT project to improve safety and operations at the intersection of Route 29 and Route 703.

This citizens information meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed alternative project. VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have an opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them.

VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this meeting and your input is encouraged. All oral and written comments received on this project will be reviewed by VDOT personnel and will be available for review by citizens and other interested parties.

Project Overview



Route 29 and Route 703, Chatham, VA

Available Allocations - \$11.4 Million

Purpose - Improve safety and operations

From - 0.048 mile east of Route 29

To - 0.066 mile west of Route 29

Project Length - 0.114 mile

Improvements -

- Construct a left turn lane on Tightsqueeze Rd.
- Construct a right turn lane on Fairveiw Rd.
- Install lighting and rumble strips at the intersection
- Relocate the signal poles out of the median and adjacent to Route 29
- Install a raised median on a portion of Tightsqueeze Road to reduce conflicts too close to the intersection.

State Project: 6029-071-836
Federal Project: NHPP-071-3(045) UPC: 119165

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing and adjacent intersections along Route 29 are prone to operational issues and congestion during peak demand periods. The purpose is to reduce conflict points by eliminating median crossovers to address safety and congestion on a Virginia Corridor of Significance. An RCUT was approved through Smart Scale.

After the public hearing notices were published in the local newspapers and the notifications per the Public Involvement Manual were mailed, citizens began responding via email to the project manager, the residency, and their local Board of Supervisors (BOS) in opposition of the proposed RCUT.

In fact, the BOS received so many complaints regarding the proposed RCUT that the County Administrator wrote a letter dated May 16, 2023, to the Assistant Resident Engineer of the Halifax Residency requesting that VDOT abandon the planned improvements for the project.

A proposed alternative to the RCUT that will address the safety and operations needs of the intersection was devised and shared with the BOS on July 18, 2023.

The BOS requested a Citizens Information Meeting (CIM) for the proposed alternative to gauge the public's response prior to requesting the proposed alternative be advanced. The proposed alternative consists of adding a left turn lane on Tighsqueeze Rd. and a right turn lane on Fairview Rd.

The design of this project will be in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, stormwater regulations and the annual stormwater management standards and specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Potential impacts to the flood plains will be evaluated and addressed on this project.

The construction of this project will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and the Virginia Department of Soil and Water conservation regulations. Also, during construction, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust and erosion control.

Project Graphic



Estimated Project Cost

Total Cost:

The total cost of the proposed alternative is expected to be within the available project allocations. If the project moves forward, a detailed cost estimate will be developed.

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed on the back of this brochure.

Right of Way

If the project advances, VDOT will develop and finalize this project. Additional right of way and easements for utility relocation may be required beyond the proposed right of way shown on the display boards at this CIM.

Construction will not require the displacement of any families, businesses or non-profit organizations.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure entitled "Right of Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants. Copies of this brochure are available here.

After this meeting, information regarding right of way process may be obtained from the right of way contact listed on the back of this brochure.

Anticipated Schedule

The schedule is dependent on the Board of Supervisors' request to advance the proposed alternative. If the project advances, a schedule will be developed based on the revised start date.

Environmental Review

If the project advances, VDOT's Lynchburg District Environmental Office will perform environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity; to provide natural and historic 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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a NEPA document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion will be developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document will include information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc.

If the project advances, the project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as part of environmental review and approval processes required throughout project development and construction. All required environmental clearances will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT's specifications and standard best management practices will protect the environment during construction.