

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Some resources/issues to be studied in the Environmental Assessment include:

- Land Use and Development
- Impacts to Communities
- Historic and Archaeological Resources
- Parklands and Recreation Areas
- Traffic and Safety
- Wetlands
- Topography/Landscape
- Noise
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Hazardous Materials
- Cumulative Impacts
- Indirect Impacts

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

Project Scoping	Ongoing
Data Collection	Ongoing
Alternatives Development / Citizen Information Meeting	Spring 2016
Draft Environmental Assessment / Citizen Information Meeting	Summer 2016
Final Decision on the Environmental Assessment by FHWA	Fall 2016

## NEXT STEPS

- Study team review of public comments.
- Evaluation of suggestions and concerns and formulation of project purpose and need.
- Development of alternatives and assessment of environmental impacts.
- Preparation of Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Revision of EA, as appropriate, to reflect changes or new information resulting from comments received on the EA.

## FOR PROJECT UPDATES

Please visit Fairfax County's website, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/soapstoneconnector.htm>

# SOAPSTONE CONNECTOR

October 26, 2015

## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

# WELCOME!

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Fairfax County, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration, has initiated the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Soapstone Connector to improve traffic operations on Wiehle Avenue and enhance multimodal access in the vicinity of the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station. The following tasks will be conducted as part of the study:

- Characterize existing conditions in the study area and identify transportation problems and needs. An extensive traffic count program has been conducted to evaluate existing operations and traffic forecasts will be prepared for the design year of 2040 to assess future conditions.
- Identify and evaluate the effectiveness of alternatives to improve mobility, capacity, safety, and other travel conditions on Wiehle Avenue and in the vicinity of the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station.
- Study the impacts of alternatives on human, cultural, and natural resources.
- Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other regulatory programs, such as the National Historic Preservation Act.





## PURPOSE AND NEED

### Purpose:

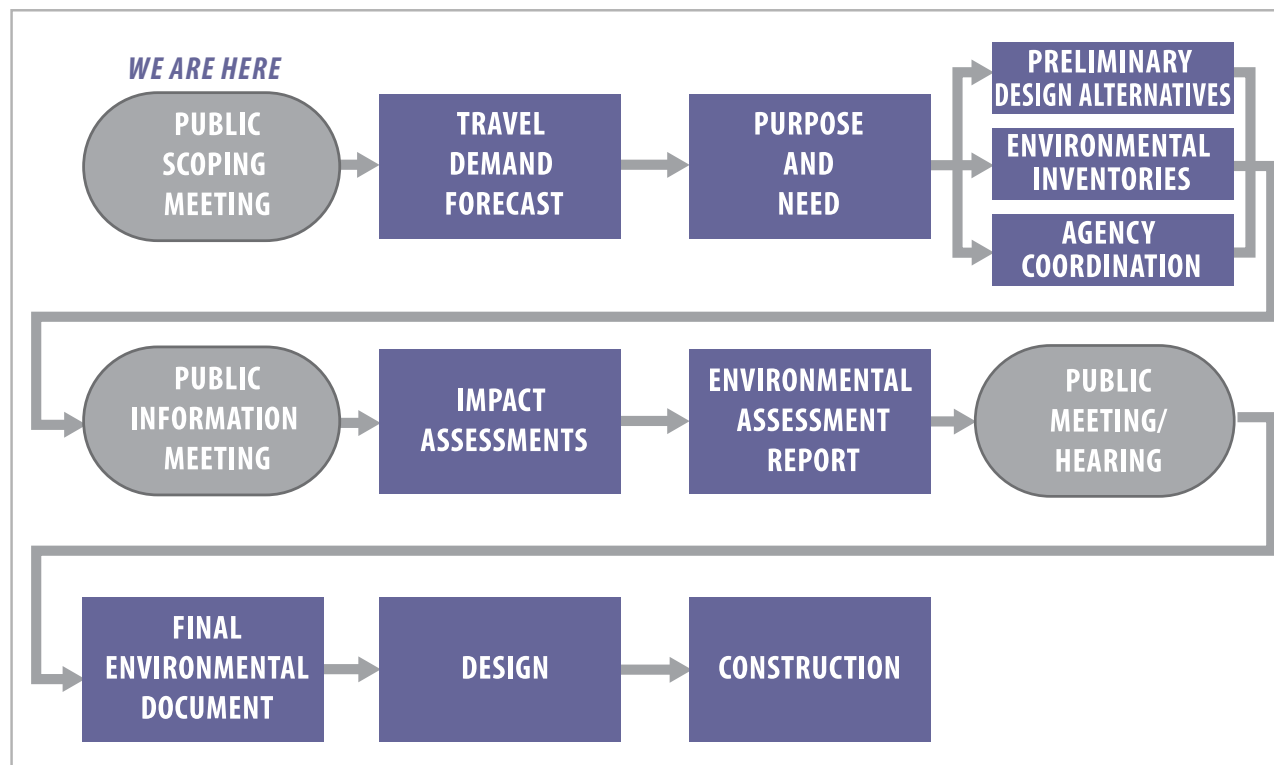
- The anticipated purpose of the project would be to provide additional multimodal capacity on a new north-south alternative in order to mitigate congestion on Wiehle Avenue.

### Factors to be Considered in Defining and Documenting Transportation Need:

- Projected traffic demand for the Wiehle Avenue corridor.
- Bottlenecks along Wiehle Avenue at the intersections with Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley Drive.
- Provision of direct access for buses across the Dulles Corridor and to the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station without requiring travel on Wiehle Avenue.
- Improved connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists to the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station, from Soapstone Drive and Sunrise Valley Drive on the south and Sunset Hills Road and the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail on the north.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

Tonight's meeting is a critical element in the project's initial scoping process whereby public input is gathered to help identify viable courses of action for meeting the identified travel needs and recognize the area's environmental context.



## ALTERNATIVES

