



County of Fairfax, Virginia

Soapstone Connector Public Information Meeting For Environmental Assessment

October 26, 2015

Presented by:
Audra K. Bandy, P.E.
Fairfax County Department of Transportation



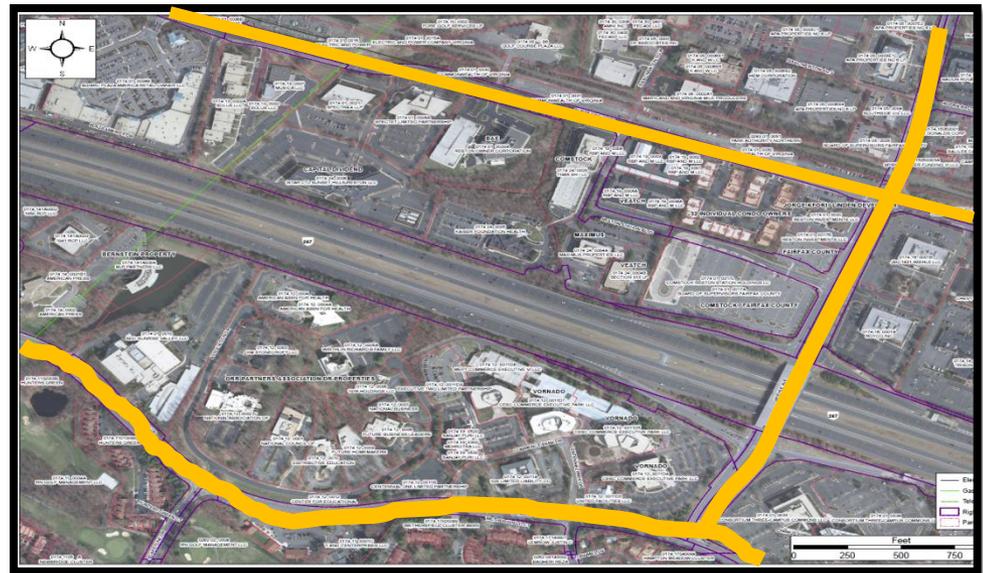
Overview

- Purpose and Need
- Project History
- Study Areas
- Environmental Reviews
- Environmental Considerations
- Schedule and Next Steps
- Public Comments



Current Conditions

- Major Roadways in area include Wiehle Avenue, Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley Drive
- Two crossing of Dulles Corridor on either side of Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station
- Vehicles traveling to and from Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station and entering and leaving the Dulles Corridor compete for same road space on Wiehle Avenue





Purpose and Need

- Provide additional multimodal capacity on new north-south alternative to mitigate congestion on Wiehle Avenue
- Factors Considered in Defining and Documenting Transportation Need:
 - Projected traffic demand along Wiehle Avenue
 - Congestion at Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley Drive
 - Direct access for buses along Dulles Corridor and to Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station
 - Improved connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists within the transportation network around Wiehle-Reston East Metorail Station and surrounding area

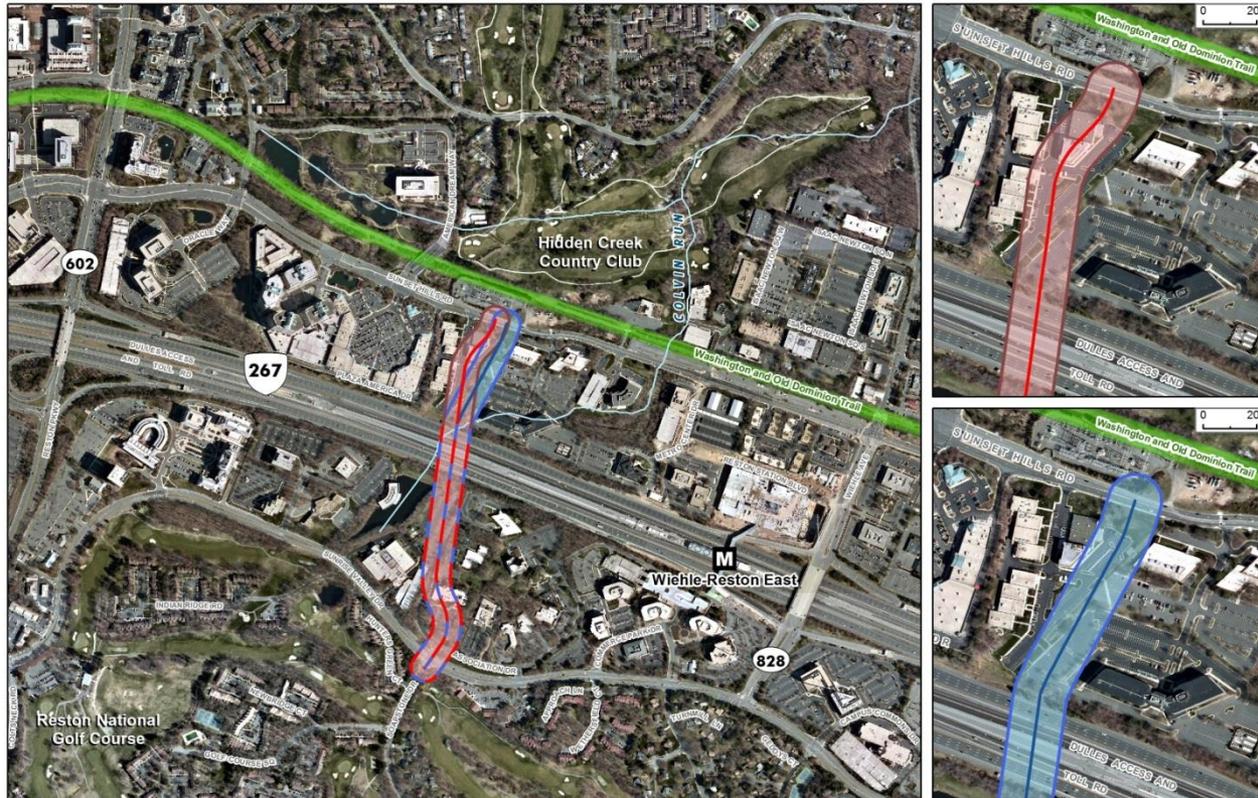


Project History

- 2008 Wiehle Avenue/Reston Parkway Station Access Management Plans Final Report, April 2008
 - Soapstone Connector was included in list of recommended roadway projects
 - Initiated to consider current status and future needs in vicinity of the two proposed Metrorail stations in the area
- Soapstone Connector Feasibility Study, November 2013
 - Assessed engineering feasibility of a multimodal roadway that would provide connection between Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley Drive
 - Identified and screened multiple alternative alignments
 - Identified most promising alignment for Soapstone Connector

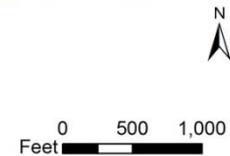


Improvement Options



Legend

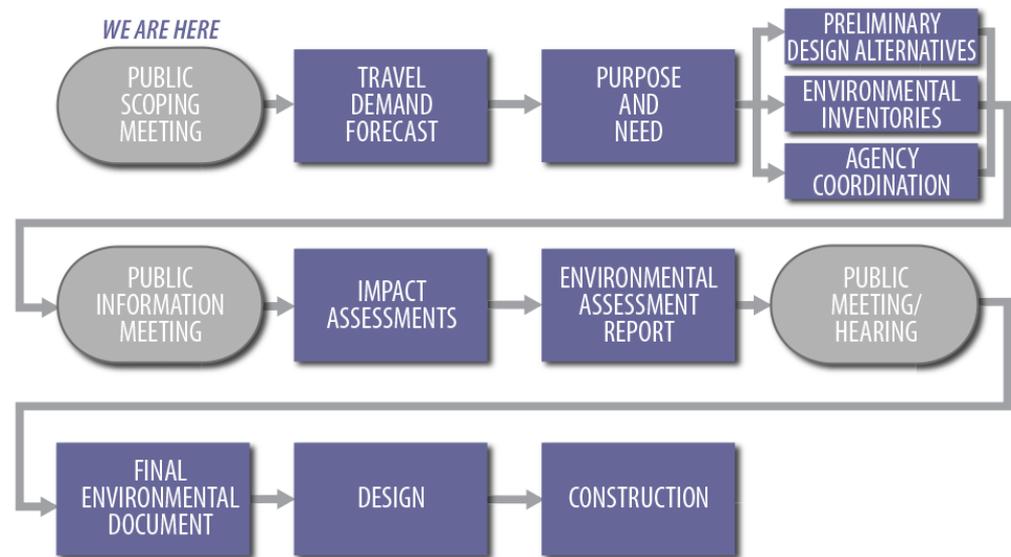
- | | |
|--|--|
| Alternative 1 | Alternative 2 |
|  Centerline |  Centerline |
|  200-foot-wide Corridor |  200-foot-wide Corridor |





Environmental Reviews

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires:
 - Consideration of potential environmental consequences of transportation improvements
 - Documentation of analyses
 - Provide information to public for comment before final decision making and implementation





Environmental Considerations

- Some resources/issues to be studied 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
 - 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)
- Public Meeting/Hearing on Draft EA
- Revision of EA, as appropriate, to reflect changes or new information resulting from comments received on the EA



County of Fairfax, Virginia

Thank you!

Q&A Session