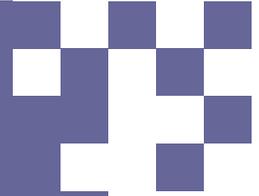




SOAPSTONE CONNECTOR



Welcome to the

PUBLIC HEARING

Welcome! Thank you for attending tonight's Public Hearing for the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Soapstone Connector. The EA is being prepared by Fairfax County for a project to improve traffic operations on Wiehle Avenue and enhance multimodal access in the vicinity of the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station. This undertaking is a collaborative effort among Fairfax County, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration. The purpose of tonight's meeting is:

- To receive citizen comments on the alternatives and the Environmental Assessment.
- To share information on the study process and its current status.

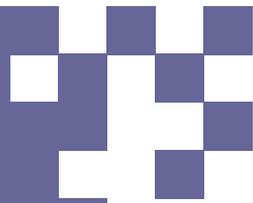
Please take the time to examine the information provided, ask as many questions as you wish, and give us your comments and suggestions. Your input is needed as part of the environmental review process and it is important.

Comment sheets are available for written comments and may be submitted tonight or by postal or electronic mail after the meeting until November 18, 2017. Comment forms can also be completed on the project website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/soapstoneconnector.htm>. Finally, a verbatim reporter is also available to record your comments orally. All comments received will be reviewed and considered by the project study team.

Thank you for attending!



SOAPSTONE CONNECTOR



PURPOSE AND NEED

Current Conditions:

- The transportation network around the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station is comprised primarily of major roadways (i.e., Wiehle Avenue, Sunset Hills Road, and Sunrise Valley Drive) and much smaller streets and driveways that provide access to individual buildings and developments.
- The current roadway network provides for two crossings of the Dulles Corridor on either side of the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station.
- Vehicles traveling within the area, traveling to and from the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail station, and entering and leaving the Dulles Corridor all compete for the same road space on Wiehle Avenue.

Purpose:

- The purpose of the project is to provide additional multi-modal capacity on a new north-south alternative in order to mitigate congestion on Wiehle Avenue.

Need:

- The project will address:
 - Inability of Wiehle Avenue to accommodate current and forecasted traffic demand.
 - Delays on Wiehle Avenue at the intersections with Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley Drive.
 - Lack of direct access for buses to the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station without requiring travel on Wiehle Avenue.
 - Lack of 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 on the north.

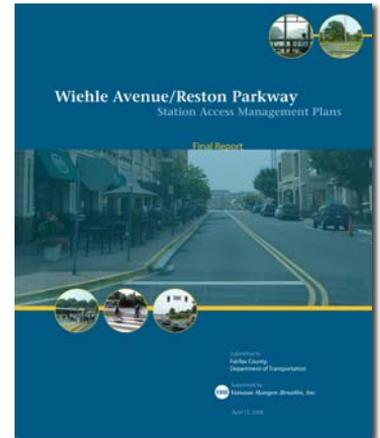


SOAPSTONE CONNECTOR

PROJECT HISTORY

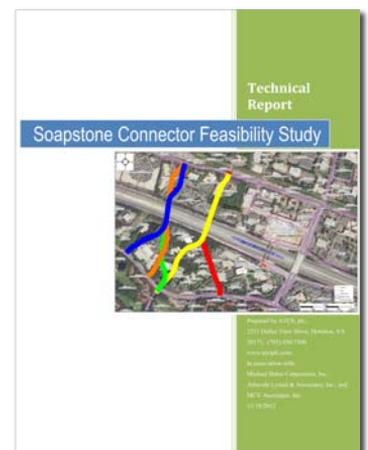
2008 Wiehle Avenue/Reston Parkway Station Access Management Plans Final Report, April 2008

- Initiated to consider the current status and future needs in the vicinity of the two Metrorail stations proposed for the Reston area at Reston Parkway and Wiehle Avenue.
- Study recommendations included increased roadway capacity, travel demand management (TDM) strategies, additions to the network of pedestrian paths, and spot safety improvements.
- Soapstone Connector was included in the list of recommended roadway projects.
- Recommendations were divided into three groups based on date of implementation; Soapstone Connector included in the first group that would be required at the opening of the Wiehle Avenue station.



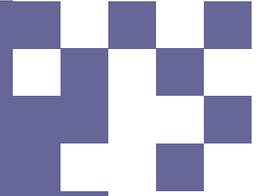
Soapstone Connector Feasibility Study, November 2013

- Assessed the engineering feasibility of a multimodal roadway that would provide a connection for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists, and transit vehicles between Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley Drive.
- Identified and screened multiple alternative alignments to narrow down the list to a limited number of feasible candidate alternatives.
- Conducted a more detailed evaluation of the short list of alternatives and assessed the alternatives in terms of traffic, environmental, land use, and engineering criteria.
- Conducted a type, size and location (TS&L) analysis of a new bridge over the Dulles Corridor and identified the most promising alignment for the Soapstone Connector.





SOAPSTONE CONNECTOR

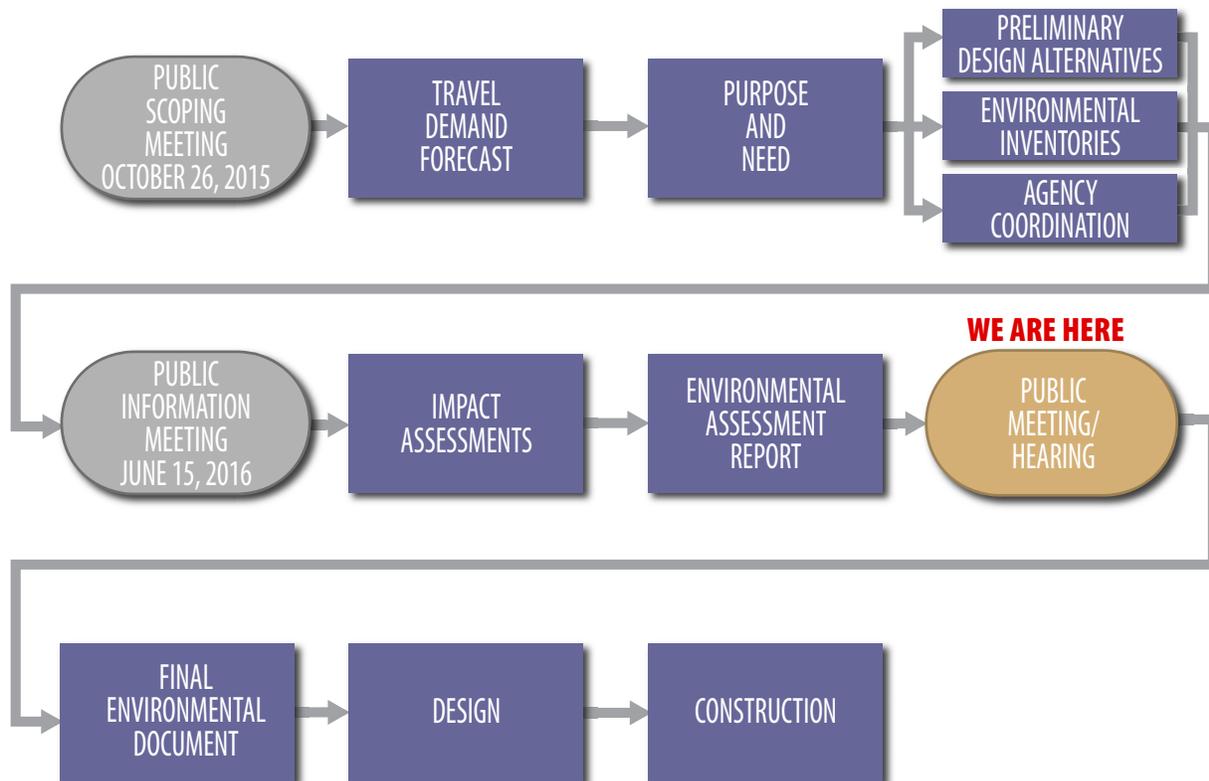


ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires consideration of potential environmental consequences of transportation improvements, documentation of the analyses, and making the information available to the public for comment before implementation.

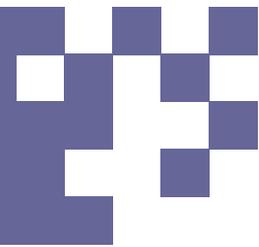
Tonight's meeting is an opportunity to share the findings that are documented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and gather input and comments, which will be used to make a final decision on the Soapstone Connector.

Environmental consequences are reported in the EA for the No Build Alternative and Build Alternatives 1 and 2 within the study area, which includes the lands that would be directly impacted by the proposed Soapstone Connector as well as adjacent lands that would be indirectly impacted by the construction and operation of the new roadway.

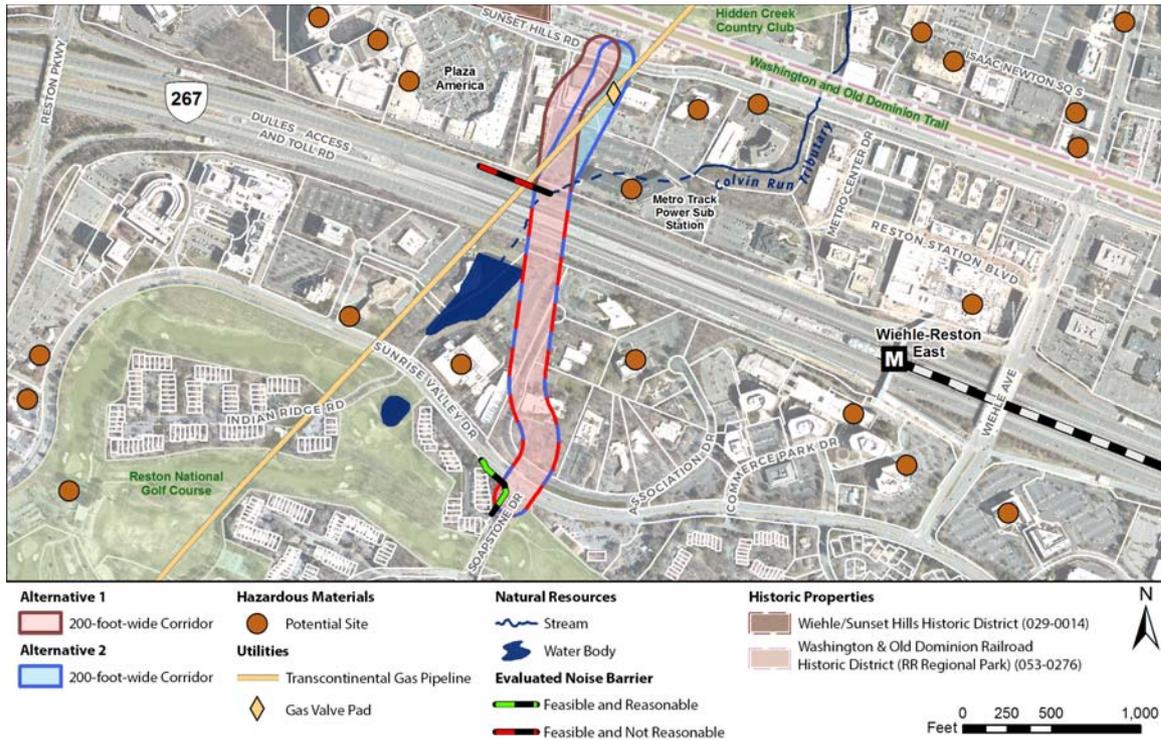




SOAPSTONE CONNECTOR



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



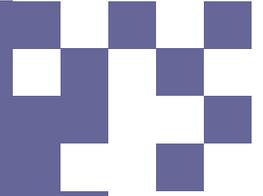
CATEGORY	IMPACTS WITHIN 200-FOOT-WIDE CORRIDOR		
	NO BUILD ¹	ALTERNATIVE 1	ALTERNATIVE 2
Total Area (acres)	0	13.0	12.9
Businesses Displaced (no.)	0	2	2
Section 4(f) Property (acres)	0	0	0
Historic Properties Within Area of Potential Effects (no.)	0	1 ²	1 ²
Stream Crossings (no.)	0	1	1
Length of Streams (linear feet)	0	259	278
Wetlands (acres)	0	0	0
Floodplains (acres)	0	0	0
Forest Area (acres)	0	0	0
Natural Heritage Resources (Conservation Sites and Stream Conservation Units)	0	0	0
Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Identified by the US Fish & Wildlife Service that may be affected by the Proposed Project (no.)	0	1	1
Hazardous Material Sites of Recognized Environmental Concern (no.)	0	2	2
Agricultural and Forestal District Land Used (acres)	0	0	0
Prime and Unique Farmland (acres)	0	0	0
Violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (no.)	0	0	0
Noise Receptors Impacted Without Mitigation (no.)	--	7 (6 residential outdoor use areas and the playground of a day care center)	7 (6 residential outdoor use areas and the playground of a day care center)

1. The No Build Alternative includes several planned and programmed transportation projects, as described further in the EA. These projects may impact resources included in this table. However, the exact nature and extent of impacts of these future projects are unknown and reporting them would be speculative. Regardless, any such impacts would occur for the Build Alternatives as well, so the relative outcome of effects for comparing the Alternatives, as shown in this table, would be no different.

2. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) concurred in January 2017 that the Soapstone Connector project would have no adverse effect on historic properties.



SOAPSTONE CONNECTOR

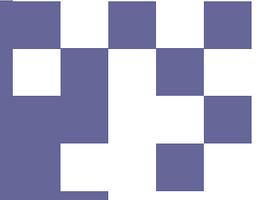


FAIRFAX COUNTY FUNDED BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS





SOAPSTONE CONNECTOR



SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS

Project Schedule

Project Scoping	Complete
Data Collection	Complete
Alternatives Development / Public Information Meeting	Complete
Environmental Assessment / Public Hearing	We Are Here
Final Decision on the Environmental Assessment by FHWA	Early 2018

Next Steps

- Study team review of public comments.
- Revision of EA, as appropriate, to reflect changes or new information resulting from comments received on the EA.
- FHWA Decision.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to review the materials presented at this public meeting. Your comments are valuable and greatly appreciated. Fairfax County will carefully consider all comments received at this meeting and during the comment period.

Written comments must be postmarked or sent electronically **no later than November 18, 2017** and may be submitted in one of the following ways:

At this Meeting: Put written comments in the designated box or record your comments orally at the designated recording station.

By Mail: Audra K. Bandy, P.E.
Project Manager
Fairfax County Department of Transportation
4050 Legato Road, Suite 400
Fairfax, VA 22033

By Email: audra.bandy@fairfaxcounty.gov

Complete a Comment Form on the project website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/soapstoneconnector.htm>

All comments submitted at this meeting and during the comment period will be incorporated in the meeting record, which is subject to public review.