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DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

U.S. 17 at Route 663 Intersection Improvements Fauquier County

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 5-7 p.m.

Bealeton Library

10877 Willow Drive North, Bealeton, VA 227123

Incident weather date: Friday, December 1, 2023

Public Meeting

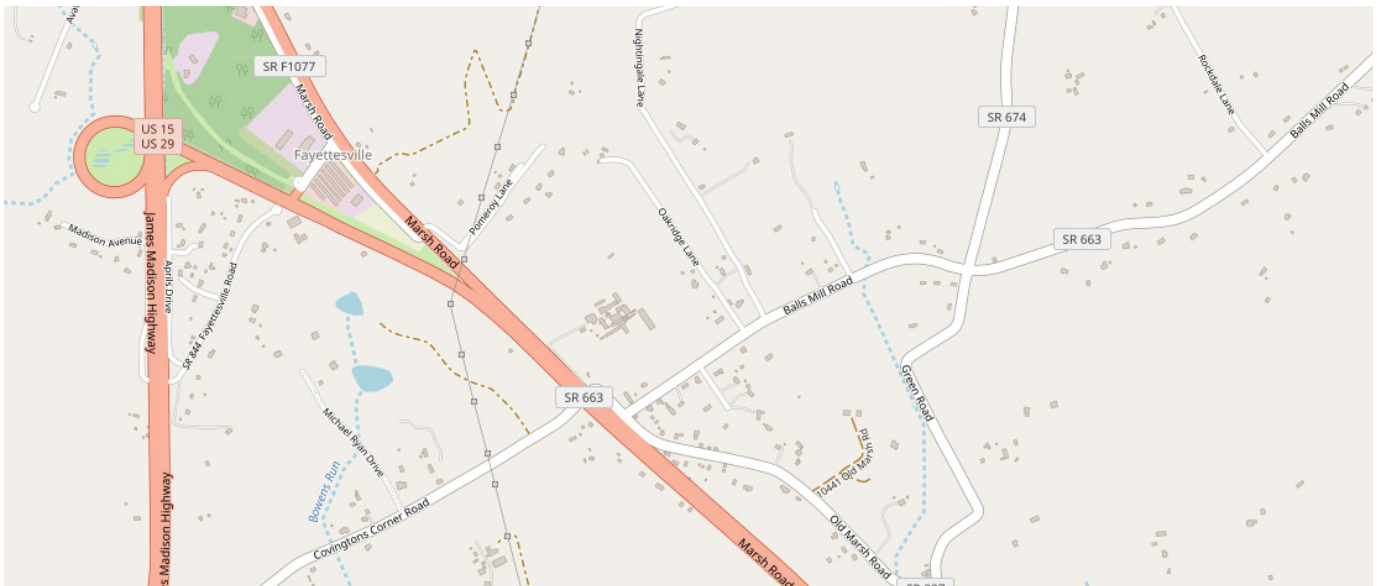
Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's design public hearing for a project to improve safety at the intersection of U.S. 17 (Marsh Road) and Route 663 (Covingtons Corner Road/Balls Mill Road) in Fauquier County.

This public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing agency, to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project.

VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the 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 handout for this meeting, and your input is encouraged. All oral and written comments received on the project will be included in a transcript for review by VDOT personnel, citizens and other interested parties.

Project Location and Overview



Anticipated cost: \$10 million

Improvements: Convert the existing stop sign-controlled intersection to a restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT) intersection

Purpose: To improve motorist safety by reducing the number and severity of vehicle-to-vehicle conflict points

Project length and limits: 0.6 mile; From 0.4 mile north of Route 663 to 0.2 mile south of Route 663

Project Description

This SMART SCALE project will convert the existing stop sign-controlled intersection at U.S. 17 (Marsh Road) and Route 663 (Covingtons Corner Road/Balls Mill Road) to a Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) intersection.

In this innovative intersection design, all side street movements begin with a right turn. Through movements and left turns are prohibited. Two new U-turn movements will be created on northbound and southbound U.S. 17 to replace the displaced movements from installing the RCUT at the Route 663 intersection.

The U-turn locations are approximately 0.17 mile north and south of the intersection, giving drivers sufficient space and time to merge into the left lane.

With this project, left-turn lanes will be constructed on U.S. 17 and roadway shoulders will be widened to

accommodate the new U-turn movements. The right-turn deceleration lanes on U.S. 17 north/south at the intersection will be lengthened and a storm water management pond will also be constructed.

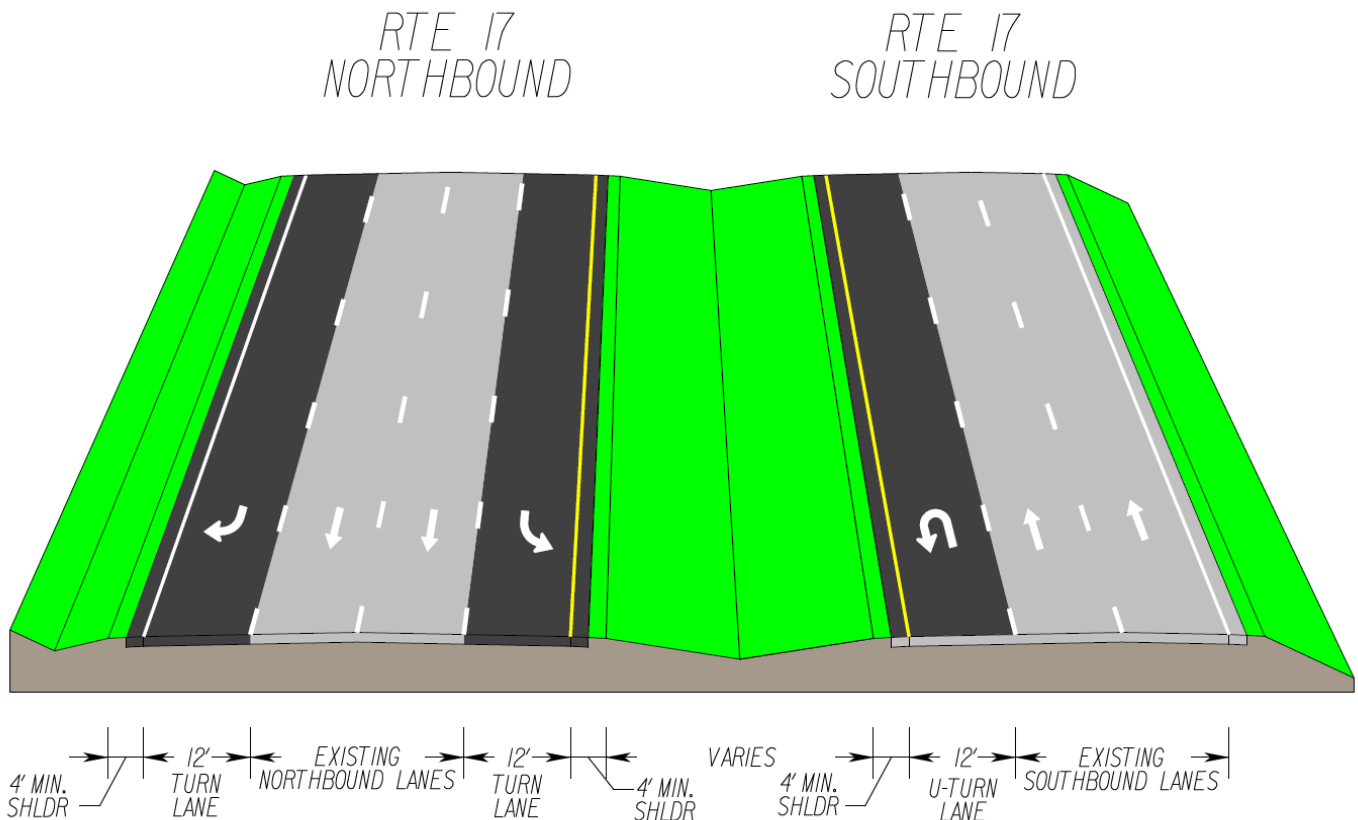
New signs and pavement markings will be installed to align with the new traffic pattern.

This project also involves a change in limited access control on U.S. 17, which will require approval by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

According to a 2021 traffic count, an average of 26,000 vehicles use this stretch of U.S. 17 per day and the average daily traffic on Route 663 is 1,700 vehicles.

More information about the project is available on VDOT's website: www.virginiadot.org/projects/culpeper/us-17-at-route-663-rcut.asp

Typical Section



Estimated Project Cost

Estimated total cost:

\$10,000,000

Engineering of roadway plans:

\$1,000,000

Right of way acquisition and utility relocation:

\$583,000

Construction:

\$8,200,000

Cost is subject to change as the design is developed.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:

Public hearing: Nov. 14, 2023

Public comment period ends: Nov. 27, 2023

Project advertisement: Fall 2025

Construction start: Spring 2026

Construction completion: Fall 2026

Project schedule is subject to change.

Environmental Review

VDOT's Culpeper District Environmental office has performed 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.

State Environmental Review Process (SERP) documentation and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) forms have been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality and noise.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation.

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 and permits 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.

Representatives are available to discuss this information and to answer questions.

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 with regard 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

The construction of this project in Fauquier County will not require the displacement of any families, businesses or non-profit organizations.

As the project is further developed, additional right of way for utility relocation or construction may be required beyond the proposed limits shown on the public hearing plans. The property owners will be informed of the exact location of the easements during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's Right of Way and Utilities brochure, "A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available on the [VDOT website](#) and from any VDOT Right of Way agent.

After the public hearing, information regarding right of way may be obtained from the Right of Way contact listed on the back of this brochure.

Get Involved

Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing; by mail to Mr. David Cubbage, Project Manager, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701 or by email to David.Cubbage@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT **by Monday, November 27, 2023** in order to be included in the public hearing record. After the public comment period closes, VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of this hearing.

This information, including the hearing summary, will be available for review at the VDOT Culpeper District office. After all comments have been addressed, the information

received as a result of the hearing will be presented to VDOT's Culpeper District's Project Development Engineer for consideration. If approval of the major design features is received for the project, it will move forward to the final design phase.

The public will be notified about traffic impacts and changes through media reports, [@VaDOT_Culp](#) on X (formerly Twitter), the [VDOT Culpeper Facebook Group](#), and the [511 Virginia web site](#) and mobile app.

More information about the project is available on VDOT's website: www.virginiadot.org/projects/culpeper/us-17-at-route-663-rcut.asp

Contact Information

Primary Contact:
David Cubbage
Project Manager

Culpeper District
Location and Design

1601 Orange Road
Culpeper, VA 22701

540-727-7129
800-367-7623

David.Cubbage@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Scott Strickland
*Right of Way
Manager*

Culpeper District
Right of Way

1601 Orange Road
Culpeper, VA 22701

540-829-7606
800-367-7623

Scott.Strickland@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Judy Page
Civil Rights Manager

Culpeper District
Office of
Civil Rights

1601 Orange Road
Culpeper, VA 22701

540-829-7391
800-367-7623

Judy.Page@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Lou Hatter
*Communications
Manager*

Culpeper District
Office of
Communications

1601 Orange Road
Culpeper, VA 22701

540-727-3201
800-367-7623

Louis.Hatter@VDOT.Virginia.gov

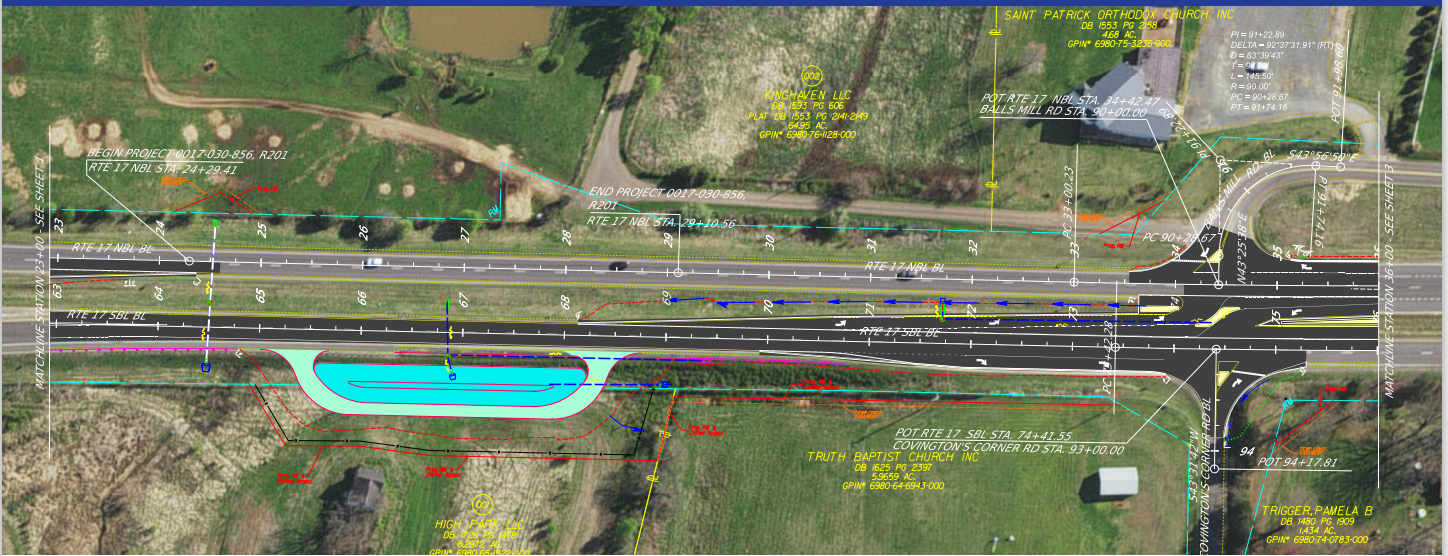
U-turn accommodations on U.S. 17 north of Rt. 663 intersection

For drivers on westbound Route 663 (Balls Mill Road) wishing to reach points south or west



Restricted crossing at U.S. 17 and Rt. 663

Route 663 traffic movements at the intersection will be restricted to right turns only; left and through movements prohibited



U-turn accommodations on U.S. 17 south of Rt. 663 intersection

For drivers on eastbound Route 663 (Covingtons Corner Road) wishing to reach points north or east

