

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 20, 2018

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: HILLARY ORR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #6 – VDOT I-395 Shirlington Interchange Improvements Study

ISSUE: Present Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) plans to study safety and operational improvements at the I-395 Shirlington interchange (Exit 6) in Arlington County.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receives information from VDOT representative on the safety and operational improvements study regarding the I-395 Shirlington interchange.

BACKGROUND: In 2016, data on traffic volumes and vehicle movements was collected to identify safety and operational issues. Alternatives have been identified which aim to reduce congestion, improve safety, and boost the interchange's overall performance. Over the next several months these alternatives will be refined and analyzed, with another public information meeting to be held in Fall 2018.

DISCUSSION: Olivia Daniszewski, Engineer with VDOT, will present information from the study to the Transportation Commission.

This study includes the I-395 (Henry G. Shirley Memorial Highway) and South Shirlington Road interchange, the I-395 southbound ramp from Glebe Road (Route 120), and the intersections adjacent to the interchange. The goals of the study include:

- Improving safety and operations of the interchange
- Evaluating operational analysis
- Assessing cost estimates and feasibility for alternatives

In cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, VDOT will be initiating an environmental study to evaluate potential impacts to socio-economic, natural and historic resources. VDOT will coordinate the appropriate federal, state and local agencies as part of the environmental review and approval process required during the project design development.

Preliminary alternatives presented on the displays are conceptual and may change as the study and concepts are refined. Property owners would be informed of the exact location of any easements during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure, "Right of Way and Utilities: Guide for Property Owners and Tenants."

The City provided information to the four adjacent civic associations about the study and opportunity to comment. The Park Fairfax association has been actively involved. VDOT is hosted a meeting on June 13th at the Fairlington Civic Association but invited a number of other associations as well. VDOT extended the comment period until June 15, 2018 in order to receive comments after this community meeting. The City has provide comments on this project in the past and is providing additional comments at this stage of the study as well.

For more information regarding this study, including proposed alternatives, please visit:

http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/i-395_shirlington.asp