



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 482-5818
Fax: (804) 786-2940

Agenda item # 2

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

October 18, 2023

MOTION

Made By: Ms. Hynes **Seconded By:** Mr. Kasprowicz

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Location Approval for Frontier Drive Extension,

WHEREAS, State Highway Project 2677-029-204, P101, R201, C501 (UPC #106742) will extend Frontier Drive (Route 2677) in Fairfax County, from Franconia-Springfield Parkway (Route 289) to Loisdale Road (Route 789), provide braided ramps at the Frontier Drive/Franconia-Springfield Parkway Interchange, and improve access to the Franconia-Springfield Metro station (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the § 33.2-208 of the *Code of Virginia* and the policies and regulations of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), including 24 VAC 30-380-10, a Joint Virtual Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Combined Location & Design Public Hearing and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Public Hearing (the "Hearing") was held on July 12, 2022, for the purpose of considering the preferred alignment of the extension of Frontier Drive as shown in Attachment A, and the potential impacts of the Project; and

WHEREAS, proper notice of the Hearing and the potential alignments to be considered was given in advance, and all those present were given a full opportunity to express their opinions and recommendations on the alternatives under consideration, and their statements have been duly recorded; and

WHEREAS, the economic, social and environmental effects of the evaluated alternative alignments have been examined and given proper consideration and this evidence, along with all other relevant evidence has been carefully reviewed; and

WHEREAS, the Project is in compliance with the NEPA requirements and an Environmental Assessment was prepared under an agreement between VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and approved for public availability on May 23, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2023, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors endorsed the Project design, as generally presented at the Hearing, and a letter of support from Fairfax County is provided as Attachment B; and

WHEREAS, review of all data resulted in VDOT's recommendation that the alignment presented at the Hearing be identified as the Preferred Alternative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CTB hereby approves the location of Frontier Drive Extension as proposed and presented at the Hearing for the Project and as shown in Attachment A.

#####

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Decision Brief

Location Approval for Frontier Drive Extension

Issue: The extension of Frontier Drive (Route 2677), south from Franconia-Springfield Parkway (Route 289) to Loisdale Road (Route 789), shall include grading and the construction of four (4) 11-foot lanes of Minor Arterial roadway, medians, curb and gutter, and shared use paths on both sides along a new alignment (the “Project”). Pursuant to § 33.2-208 of the *Code of Virginia*, the CTB is required to approve the location of the Frontier Drive Extension from among the alternative alignments that were evaluated.

Facts:

- No other alternative alignments were considered viable in the draft Environmental Assessment document approved for public availability by the Federal Highway Administration.
- The Project will reduce congestion, improve safety, enhance traffic operations, and improve access to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station for all travel modes. The Project also provides facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
- The Project improves entrance and exit ramps to and from Frontier Drive to Franconia-Springfield Parkway with the addition of braided ramps.
- The Project will accommodate high existing and future traffic demands in the Springfield area.

Recommendations: VDOT recommends approval of the location of the Frontier Drive Extension as presented at the July 12, 2022, Virtual VDOT and WMATA Joint Location and Design Public Hearing. (See attached).

Action Required by CTB: The *Code of Virginia* § 33.2-208, requires the majority vote of the CTB to locate and establish the routes to be followed by the roads comprising systems of state highways between points designated in the establishment of such systems.

Result, if Approved: If approved by the Board, the Project will move forward to the detailed design phase.

Options: Approve, Deny or Defer

Public Comments/ Reaction: The Hearing was held on July 12, 2022. Those that attended were provided with a presentation of the Project, which included all design aspects of the Project, and the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

Eighty-three (83) citizens attended the virtual hearing. A total of eighty-six (86) comments were submitted. VDOT received forty-eight comments: forty (40) written comments, six (6) comments from Project webpage, and two (2) oral comments. WMATA received an additional thirty-eight (38) comments about the Project that were not specifically related to the Metro station. Of the total comments received regarding the Project, fifteen (15) supported the Project as proposed and presented, five (5) supported the Project as proposed and presented with modifications, and eleven

(11) opposed the Project. Fifty-five (55) comments provided remarks on specific details of the Project without providing support or opposition.

Fairfax County endorsed the Project as generally presented at the Hearing on April 11, 2023. (See attached letter in Attachment B.)

CTB LOCATION AND DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

Frontier Drive Extension and Braided Ramps Project Fairfax County

State Project: 2677-029-204, P101, R201, C501

UPC: 106742

Federal Project: STP/F-5B01 (030)

Fr: Franconia Springfield Parkway

To: Loisdale Road

Project Length: 1.24 miles

PROJECT HISTORY –

The Springfield-Franconia area contains one of the largest commercial developments in Fairfax County. With the newly renovated Springfield Mall, the area has also become one of the largest retail submarkets in the County, according to the March 2017 Interchange Modification Report (IMR). For the past several years, regional stakeholders, including Fairfax County and VDOT, have worked to develop strategies and improvement plans to address growing demands and challenges in the Springfield Area.

In 2010, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation initiated a traffic study to explore options for the possible extension of Frontier Drive (Route 2677) from its current southern terminus at Franconia-Springfield Parkway (Route 289) to intersect with Loisdale Road (Route 789). The study was completed in 2012 and the conclusions derived from this study were determined through consensus achieved by way of a series of design workshops that explored more than ten alternatives. Each alternative was reviewed and discussed in terms of operational aspects such as vehicular flow, parking impacts, transit impacts, and pedestrian/bicycle accessibility. The preferred alternative that was ultimately selected included the preliminary alignment of the Frontier Drive extension and braided ramps at the Frontier Drive/Franconia-Springfield Parkway Interchange (the Frontier Drive Extension and Braided Ramps Project or the “Project”).

Subsequent to the 2017 IMR, VDOT conducted a Value Engineering study in June 2018, which recommended a jughandle design at the intersection of Frontier Drive Extension and the Metro Station Access Road. Accordingly, the environmental document and IMR were revised to reflect the jughandle design. During the preliminary engineering phase, close coordination has occurred among VDOT, Fairfax County, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). This coordination continued with the Joint Virtual VDOT and WMATA Combined Location & Design and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Public Hearing for the Project (the “Public Hearing”).

PROJECT PURPOSE –

The purpose of the Frontier Drive Extension and Braided Ramps Project is to address traffic congestion, improve traffic operations and safety, improve accessibility to local businesses and facilities, and enhance the overall transportation network connectivity in the Springfield area.

TYPICAL SECTION –

The Project design includes (i) construction of a four-lane divided roadway; (ii) new braided ramps at the Frontier Drive/Franconia-Springfield Parkway Interchange; (iii) a new intersection at the Metro Access Road with Frontier Drive; (iv) reconfigured sections of the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station circulatory road; (v) additional bus bays, storage space, and a new intersection at the eastern end of the circulatory road; and (vi) a new bridge to span Long Branch Stream.

Frontier Drive is proposed as a four-lane divided roadway composed of new construction and improvements to the existing Springfield Center Drive at its intersection with Loisdale Road. The overall width of the Frontier Drive Extension is ninety-eight (98) feet, with two eleven (11) foot lanes in each direction, a variable width median, and a ten (10) foot shared use path on both sides separated by a six (6) foot buffer from the road. New braided ramps at the Frontier Drive/Franconia-Springfield Parkway Interchange are also included with this Project.

PUBLIC HEARING –

Type - Combined Location and Design, jointly held between VDOT and WMATA
Date - July 12, 2022
Time - 7 pm
Location - Virtual

ATTENDANCE –

Eighty-three (83) citizens attended the Public Hearing.

COMMENTS RECEIVED –

Eighty-three (83) citizens attended the virtual hearing. A total of eighty-six (86) comments were submitted. VDOT received forty-eight comments: forty (40) written comments, six (6) comments from Project webpage, and two (2) oral comments. WMATA received an additional thirty-eight (38) comments about the Project that were not specifically related to the Metro station. Of the total comments received regarding the Project, fifteen (15) supported the Project as proposed and presented, five (5) supported the Project as proposed and presented with modifications, and eleven (11) opposed the Project. Fifty-five (55) comments provided remarks on specific details of the Project without providing support or opposition.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA –

The Project is in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act requirements and a draft Environmental Assessment was completed to assess the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed improvements. The draft Environmental Assessment was approved by the

Federal Highway Administration for public availability on May 23, 2022, and was provided at the Public Hearing for review and comment.

The Project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as part of the environmental review and approval process required throughout the remainder of the project development process 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 practices will protect the environment during construction.

ESTIMATED COST –

Preliminary Engineering	- \$ 12.6M
Right of Way and Utilities	- \$ 42.1M
<u>Construction</u>	<u>- \$167.0M</u>
Total estimated cost	- \$221.7M*

* Presented at the Hearing

ADVERTISEMENT – Construction is to be determined as additional funding becomes available.

RIGHT OF WAY – No (0) families and five (5) businesses, which includes no (0) non-profit organizations, will be displaced as a result of this Project.

TRAFFIC DATA – It is anticipated that, in the design year of 2043, the average daily traffic volume will be 41,400 vehicles per day on the new roadway.

STAFF RECOMMENDS – Approval of the location of the Frontier Drive Extension as proposed and presented at the Public Hearing and as shown on the attached exhibits.



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax

April 24, 2023

Mr. John D. Lynch, P.E.
District Administrator
Northern Virginia District
Virginia Department of Transportation
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Subject: Board of Supervisors Endorsement of Frontier Drive Extension, UPC 106742

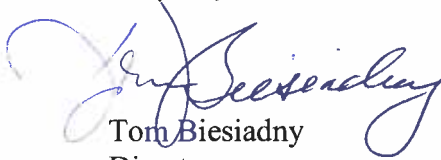
Dear Mr. Lynch: *John*

On April 11, 2023, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors endorsed the design plans to extend Frontier Drive to Loisdale Road, as generally presented at the July 22, 2022, public hearing. This multimodal project is intended to reduce congestion, improve safety, enhance traffic operations, improve access to the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station for all travel modes, and provide facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project also includes a change in limited access control, endorsed by the Board on February 21, 2023.

The project includes the extension of Frontier Drive approximately along the alignment of existing Springfield Center Drive to four travel lanes with a median, shared use paths on both sides of the roadway, new braided ramps at the Franconia-Springfield Parkway interchange, a new jughandle intersection at Frontier Drive and the Metro Access Road, changes to the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station including new bus bays, and a new signalized intersection at the eastern end of the Metrorail station circulatory road.

Please call Nick Alexandrow at (703) 877-5754 or me at (703) 877-5663, if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you for your assistance with this important project.

Sincerely,


Tom Biesiadny
Director

Fairfax County Department of Transportation
4050 Legato Road, Suite 400
Fairfax, VA 22033-2895
Phone: (703) 877-5600 TTY: 711
Fax: (703) 877-5723
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot



Mr. John Lynch
April 24, 2023
Page 2 of 2

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Bryan J. Hill, County Executive
Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Executive
Zamir Mirza, P.E., Project Manager, VDOT
Nicholas Roper, P.E., Project Development, VDOT
Minwoo Ha, Manager, Preliminary Engineering, VDOT
Gregg Steverson, Deputy Director, FCDOT
Eric M. Teitelman, Chief, Capital Projects and Traffic Engineering Division, FCDOT
Michael J. Guarino, Chief, Capital Projects Section, FCDOT
Tad Borkowski, Capital Projects Section, FCDOT
Nick Alexandrow, Capital Projects Section, FCDOT



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
Commissioner

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 786-2701
Fax: (804) 786-2940

October 1, 2023

The Honorable W. Sheppard Miller, III
The Honorable E. Scott Kasprovicz
The Honorable Greg Yates
The Honorable Mary Hughes Hynes
The Honorable Raymond D. Smoot, Jr.
The Honorable Mark H. Merrill
The Honorable Frederick T. Stant, III
The Honorable Tom Fowlkes
The Honorable Burwell Wayne Coleman
The Honorable H. Randolph Laird
The Honorable Thomas Moore Lawson
The Honorable Darrell R. Byers
The Honorable Laura A. Sellers
The Honorable Joel "Rex" Davis
The Honorable Linda Green
The Honorable Stephen C. Brich, P. E.
The Honorable Jennifer DeBruhl

Subject: Location Approval for the Frontier Drive Extension and Braided Ramps project in Fairfax County.

Dear Commonwealth Transportation Board Members:

The Department has initiated the above request for Location Approval for your consideration. The proposed Location Approval on State Highway Project 2677-029-204, P101, R201, C501; (UPC# 106742) has been recommended for approval by the Department's staff.

I have reviewed the staff's recommendations and determined that this request should be considered by the Board.

Sincerely,

Barton A Thrasher
2023.09.27 14:37:28-04'00'

Barton A. Thrasher, P.E.
Chief Engineer

