

Date of Meeting: October 19, 2011

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COMMITTEE
INFORMATION ITEM**

IO-B

SUBJECT: EASTERN ROUTE 7 SAFETY PROJECT

FORMER ELECTION DISTRICT: Sterling/Sugarland Run/Potomac

NEW ELECTION DISTRICT: Algonkian/Sterling

STAFF CONTACTS: Mr. Lewis Rauch, Department of Construction and Waste Management.
Mr. Jim Rauch, Department of Construction and Waste Management.
Ms. Terrie Laycock, Office of Transportation Services

BACKGROUND:

The funding for the Eastern Route 7 Safety Project was approved in the Adopted 2006-2008 Capital Improvement Program for spot improvements at Community Plaza/Lakeland Drive, Augusta Drive, Cardinal Glen Circle at Sterling Blvd, Potomac View Drive and Campus Drive along Route 7, Leesburg Pike in Sterling, Virginia. The scope of the work was subsequently changed, as reported at the October 20, 2010 Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting, to include only the intersections of Potomac View Drive, Sterling Blvd, and Augusta Drive. The purpose of this item is to update the Board of Supervisors on the design and construction schedule for the project, as requested at the July 20, 2011 Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting.

In accordance with the project schedule, design documents were submitted in mid August to VDOT and the County for review. VDOT review comments were received in mid September. County staff and the design consultant recently met with VDOT to clarify review comments and agree on next steps going forward. Several ongoing issues were resolved such as the replacement of several signal poles and the installation of the curbing/concrete/guardrail in front of the red wall that will not be needed. Action steps from the meeting include coordinating the access and maintenance needs for the storm water management facilities, coordinating landscaping requirements with VDOT, providing options for treatment along 'red wall' for VDOT and County review, reviewing median areas and determining course of action for slopes, providing an updated drainage report to VDOT, and revising the road widening alignment at the intersections.

After the comments are incorporated, final plans will be submitted to the Department of Building and Development and VDOT for approval. Design completion is planned for the end of November 2011 with bids issued in early December, subject to the acquisition of easements and right of way. These plans are being reviewed concurrent with the work to identify the scope of utility relocations and the work to acquire easements and right of way. The design consultant and County staff have met with each utility company to determine the location of existing utilities, and the consultant is reviewing as-built information to determine the extent of any relocation that may be needed. County staff is also working diligently to acquire the temporary construction easement and the right of way that are needed for this project. Now that the alignment at each of the intersections is finalized, negotiations are beginning for each of the 2 locations. Construction is planned to begin in the spring/summer of 2012 and the work is planned for completion in the spring/summer of 2013.

ISSUES: The work requires that a temporary construction easement and additional right of way be acquired. Staff is working with the property owners to insure that documents are executed in a timely manner so as not to impact the start of construction.

The preliminary estimate for the work at an earlier stage of design was \$2,325,000 and within the project budget. As the design is progressing, however, additional pavement has been added, the size of the storm water management features has increased, and a signal at Potomac View Road must be relocated. These items as well as utility relocation costs may increase the cost of the work. All costs are estimates at this time, and actual costs will be known when the design is completed and the work is put out for bids.