US 221/US 501 Intersection Improvements Project

About the project

The City of Lynchburg is proposing roadway improvements in the vicinity of the intersection of US 221 (Lakeside Drive) and US 501 (Lynchburg Expressway) to alleviate existing traffic congestions and delay, improve public safety, and accommodate anticipated traffic increases as growth continues in the area.

The City of Lynchburg Comprehensive Plan for 2013 to 2030 is consistent with VTrans 2035 (Virginia’s long-range multimodal transportation plan) and the Commonwealth’s Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP). The Comprehensive Plan includes detailed information related to the transportation improvement needs in the City of Lynchburg to provide “safe, efficient, effective, well-planned transportation systems and facilities that are sustainable, enhance economic development and redevelopment opportunities and preserve the integrity and character of the affected neighborhoods, historic district and natural areas”.

- **Scope**: The current scope of work is to identify roadway improvement alternatives and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will consist of a technical evaluation and identify potential economic, social and environmental effects of the proposed roadway improvement alternatives.

- **Collaboration**: The work will be completed in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the City of Lynchburg community.

- **Study area**: South of Breezewood Drive on US 501, West of Breezewood Drive on US 221, North of RR Bridge on Old Forest Road, West of Old Forest Road/US 501 Intersection, East of Country Place Lane on US 221.

*The traffic count for U.S. 501 sees an average of 34,000 vehicles per day (vpd), and U.S. 221 sees 33,000 vpd west of U.S. 501, and 19,500 vpd east of U.S. 501.

*Traffic has been shown to backup over a half mile on the north and southbound approaches, and 775 feet on the westbound approach during peak hours.

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- **Schedule:** The current study phase began January 12, 2018 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

- **Estimated Project Costs:**
  - $1.5 million for Environmental Study
  - $4 million for Project Design ($2 M City of Lynchburg/$2 M Revenue Share)
  - $25 million for Construction

A number of previous studies and reports have been prepared throughout the project history. These reports support the need for the proposed project.

**Table 1. Previous Studies & Reports**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TITLE/DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Route 501/Route 221 (Lakeside Drive) Sub-Area Traffic Study, Lynchburg, Virginia (Parsons, 2006)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>City of Lynchburg, Virginia Comprehensive Plan 2013-2030</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Phase I Cultural Resources Survey (Circa Cultural Resource Management, 2014)</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Wetland Investigation (Wiley Wilson, 2014)</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Utility Coordination Report (Wiley Wilson, 2014)</td>
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