



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

September 23, 2021

TO: Alaina Ray, AICP
Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Loudoun County

FROM: Yao Lu, P.E.
Area Land Use Engineer, Loudoun County Transportation and Land Use
Virginia Department of Transportation
703-259-1769 Yao.Lu@VDOT.Virginia.gov

SUBJECT: CPAM-2021-0002, US Route 15 North – Widening and Safety Improvements

In accordance with the Virginia Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations, 24VAC30-155, the proposed comprehensive plan amendment was submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for review on August 13, 2021.

VDOT has reviewed the subject proposed comprehensive plan amendment and prepared a report with our written comments. The report presents a summary of our key findings as well as comments on the future transportation improvements that will be needed to support the current and planned development of the locality.

Our report and comments are attached to assist the Planning Director, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors in their decision-making process regarding the comprehensive plan amendment. Finally, I ask that you arrange to have VDOT's official comments included in the locality's official public records and to have both of this letter, VDOT's report and written comments placed in the official file for the comprehensive plan amendment. VDOT will make these documents available to the general public through various means such as posting them on our website.

Sincerely,

Yao Lu, PE
Area Land Use Engineer

CC. Farid Bigdeli, PE – Assistant District Administrator/NoVA - Director, Transportation & Land Use – Loudoun County
Maria Sinner, PE – Assistant District Administrator/NoVA - Planning & Investment Management

Comprehensive Plan Amendment
CPAM-2021-0002, US Route 15 North – Widening and Safety Improvements

Loudoun County has submitted a proposed comprehensive plan amendment to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on August 13, 2021. The proposed comprehensive plan/amendment included project narrative, DRAFT CTP Roads Countywide Map, DRAFT CTP Roads Detail Map, 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan Proposed Changes to Appendix 1. The CPAM packet was provided to the following agencies for reviews and comments.

- VDOT – Transportation Planning
- VDOT – Traffic Engineering
- VDOT – Traffic Operations
- VDOT - Transportation and Land Use
- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

VDOT - Transportation planning Comments:

1. The Chapter 527 Administrative Guidelines provides a checklist of items to be included in a comprehensive plan amendment package. Please include in the package the items identified in the guidelines at the link below:
https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/TIA_Administrative_Guidelines.pdf
2. For the Chapter 536 reporting requirements: please provide data on the traffic volumes and capacities of the roadways in the study area.
3. The widening of Route 15 from 2 to 4 lanes from Montresor Road to Spinks Ferry Road is not currently included in the 2020 Visualize 2045 Air Quality Conformity Analysis or in the ongoing update.
4. VDOT recommends a robust public involvement process to address the context sensitive comments received so far. For example: Traffic calming measures, innovative intersections, bike / pedestrian safety, environmental impacts etc.
5. Please identify the type of bike / pedestrian facility in the comprehensive plan to guide the design as well as which side of the roadway it will be provided.

VDOT - Traffic Operations Comments:

In order to enhance the safety and mobility along this heavily congested/traffic accident prone Route 15 corridor, the proposed change of classification along with the options for widening, safety, and operations improvements as described in the Comp Plan Amendment is needed.

VDOT - Traffic Engineering Comments:

No comments.

VDOT - Transportation and Land Use

1. Provide design speeds for each roadway classification. Some important factors should be considered when selecting design speed, such as providing the appropriate level of mobility and

land use access for motorist, bicyclists, and pedestrian facilities while maintaining a high degree of safety.

2. Provide guidance regarding lane, shoulder, curb and gutter and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
3. Be advised that new signals shall not be installed without completion a signal justification report (SJR) that has been approved VDOT. Route 15 is on the Arterial Preservation Network, for the proposed signal at Lovettsville Road, a SJR shall be submitted first to the District Traffic Engineer for their review. If the District Traffic Engineer (DTE) and District Engineer (DE) concur with the request, then the DTE will forward the SJR to the Innovative Intersection Committee, which will aid the State Traffic Engineer in his review and approval.

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

No comments.