

RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED
THREE CHOPT ROAD WIDENING CITIZEN INFORMATION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 19, 2015
PREPARED BY HENRICO COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, MARCH 31, 2016

Many questions and comments that we received from the public for this project were duplicates. For brevity, we have condensed and combined comments for a concise response. A complete summary of comments is available for review at the Department of Public Works, 4301 E. Parham Road, Administration Annex Building, 3rd Floor. Please contact Rob Tieman at 501-5985, for additional information.

General:

1. **Comment:** Requests follow-up meeting to present responses to comments.
Response: A second citizen information meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2016 in order to receive additional input on the project.
2. **Comment:** Opposed to widening Three Chopt Road.
Response: The County of Henrico Board of Supervisors has identified Three Chopt Road as a Major Collector Roadway on the approved 2026 Major Thoroughfare Plan. Existing traffic volumes and some narrower sections of the road necessitate that improvements be made along this section of Three Chopt.
3. **Comment:** Requests that the County widen the Cox Road Bridge over I-64 which creates a traffic bottleneck that may be exacerbated with widening of Three Chopt Road.
Response: The Cox Road Bridge over Interstate 64 is included in the 2035 Richmond Regional Long Range Transportation Plan as a bridge replacement and widening project. While no schedule has been established at this point, the County will work with VDOT to identify funding and to program this project.
4. **Comment:** Requests meetings with County staff.
Response: The County welcomes the opportunity to meet with businesses, homeowners, associations, and organizations.

Design:

1. **Comment:** Requests clarification of, and justification for, future traffic projections, including trucks.
Response: The traffic volume projections and percentage of trucks are primarily used to determine the roadway width (number of travel lanes, divided vs. undivided roadway) and pavement design (pavement, base, and subbase depth). This information is also used as one of the input parameters for the required noise modeling analysis to determine the potential sound wall locations. During design work, the original traffic volume projections for this project developed in 2005 were revised in 2014. These projections are consistent with the traffic growth rates used in other recent traffic studies for public and private projects in the Short Pump area.
2. **Comment:** Requests speed limit to be reduced to 35 mph.
Response: The roadway has been designed for a 45 mph speed limit. The results of a speed study concluded this is the appropriate speed for this road.
3. **Comment:** Concerned about decrease in access due to raised medians.
Response: Access management standards limit median breaks to a minimum of 800 feet between breaks. This improves the overall safety of the roadway. U-turns will be permitted, where feasible, to provide access to adjacent properties. A median break will be included between the entrances to Cedarfield and Dogwood Terrace to accommodate U-turns along this section of Three Chopt Road.
4. **Comment:** Requests adding a westbound turn lane for Deep Run Baptist Church.
Response: The County will remove the planned median extension between Rainbow Station and Newlands Avenue. In its place, a center dual left turn lane will be constructed to provide access to Deep Run Baptist Church, as well as the other business in this portion of the project.

5. **Comment:** Concerned traffic flow will be more congested on Three Chopt Road, particularly at the intersection of Gaskins Road and the intersection of Cox Road/Church Road due to increased traffic volumes.
Response: Increased traffic volumes are expected on Three Chopt Road and other roads in the area regardless of the road widening project. The Three Chopt Road Improvement Project will improve traffic flow and overall safety in the corridor.
6. **Comment:** Confirm location of new power lines. Will they be placed underground?
Response: Road widening requires utility poles to be set back to accommodate the widening. Placement of relocated utilities is at the discretion of the utility company, but is typically done in the same manner as the existing utility.

Traffic Control:

1. **Comment:** Requests truck traffic be limited on Three Chopt Road and diverted to West Broad Street.
Response: No truck restrictions are proposed. Three Chopt Road is classified as a Major Collector roadway. As a Major Collector, it is expected to carry some amount of truck traffic. Recent traffic counts show that less than 1% of the traffic volume on along this section of roadway is truck traffic.
2. **Comment:** Requests right turn lane for Church Run Subdivision.
Response: The County has evaluated this request and will incorporate a right turn lane on Three Chopt Road at Church Run Parkway as part of this project.
3. **Comment:** Requests traffic signals at the intersection of Three Chopt Road and Church Run Parkway and the intersection of Three Chopt Road and Thamesford Way.
Response: Signal studies were conducted at both intersections and the studies show that the traffic signals are not warranted.
4. **Comment:** Concerned about increased cut-through traffic in neighborhoods during construction.
Response: The detour routes to be used for temporary road closures will not detour traffic through residential neighborhoods.

Pedestrian:

1. **Comment:** Requests shared-use path, similar to N. Gayton Road, to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.
Response: Sidewalk is included on both sides of the roadway for the length of the project. A shared-use path was not included in the scope of the project. Additionally, there is insufficient right-of-way to construct a shared-use path to current standards.
2. **Comment:** Requests pedestrian study of entire corridor to optimize placement of pedestrian crosswalk to access West Broad Village.
Response: In response to concerns raised about crossing Three Chopt Road, the County has further reviewed the corridor and determined the intersection of Thamesford Way is the preferred location for a protected crosswalk. A flashing pedestrian warning signal will be installed in conjunction with a marked crosswalk at this location.

Landscaping :

1. **Comments:** Concerned about quality of forthcoming landscaping plan.
Response: The landscaping will be a separate companion project to the Three Chopt Road Improvement Project. The scope and budget for the landscaping has not been established. The County will work with representatives from the adjacent homeowner associations and businesses through a landscaping advisory committee to develop, what we hope to be, a mutually acceptable landscaping plan and project.

2. **Comments:** Requests forming a landscape committee now.
Response: The County is committed to working with the community to develop a mutually acceptable landscaping plan to be done as a companion effort to the road improvement project. We anticipate beginning this effort following the completion of the public hearing process for the road project. This will allow adequate time to work with the landscaping advisory committee to develop a budget and plan, program the funds, as well as advertise and award a landscaping installation contract prior to completion of the road improvement project. The County appreciates the interest of those who volunteered to serve on the landscaping advisory committee.
3. **Comment:** Requests 72" brick wall and planting of mature trees to reduce noise, landscape the roadway, and decrease impact to property values of those adjacent to project.
Response: This project is federally funded and these amenities cannot be added to the budget. Federal regulations have required that the County to perform a noise study. The study is completed. The presence and type of noise abatement measures are considered only if the noise study and approval process determines noise walls are required.

West Broad Village:

1. **Comment:** Requests careful examination of grades at eastern end of West Broad Village to ensure the landscape bank does not need to be removed.
Response: Survey of the landscape bank between the pond and road was obtained after the construction of West Broad Village. The plans reflect the existing earthwork.
2. **Comment:** Requests confirmation that West Broad Village complies with the proffered landscaping buffer.
Response: The proffers of Zoning Case C-012C-06 for West Broad Village requires a landscaping buffer to be installed in sections. Currently, all required landscaping is in place. As the property continues to develop, additional landscaping will be installed per the proffered requirement.
3. **Comment:** Requests clarification on purpose and fate of existing gate that is locked blocking access from Three Chopt Road to West Broad Village.
Response: The proffers of Zoning Case C-012C-06 for West Broad Village prohibit vehicle access from Three Chopt Road, other than emergency access. No public access is proposed or contemplated to West Broad Village from Three Chopt Road.