



# CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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## **Community Information Meeting for the Lakeview Avenue Modernization Project Held on July 18, 2012 at City Hall, 201 James Avenue, City of Colonial Heights, VA 23834**

A combined community information meeting was held on July 18, 2012 for the Dupuy Avenue and Lakeview Modernization projects, which will be constructed separately. The meeting was held in Council Chambers and a total of 23 citizens turned out to ask questions and provide comments on the two projects. Sixteen people indicated they were interested in the Dupuy Avenue project and seven in the Lakeview Avenue project.

By the end of the comment period that was extended to August 17<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Public Works had received a total of three written comment sheets, two letters and two citizen survey forms in addition to the oral comments received during the meeting.

Below is a summary of responses to questions and comments received at the meeting for the **Lakeview Avenue Modernization Project**:

### **PUBLIC INQUIRIES AND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

- 1. Who should I contact if I have questions or require additional information about this project?**

*Please contact the Department the Department of Public Works at 804-520-9334.*

- 2. A. How can we receive more information on this project in the future?**

**B. Will there be another chance for public comment, and when?**

*A copy of all comments, questions and concerns received at the meeting or thereafter and the Department of Public Works' staff responses will be sent directly to each affected property owner. In addition, this information will be posted on the Department of Public Works' Web Page:*

*(<http://www.colonialheightsva.gov/index.aspx?nid=67>).*

*Interested parties may also request information by contacting the Department at 804-520-9334.*

*A public hearing on the recommended design will be held later this year. Before scheduling the hearing, however, staff's preferred design will be presented to City Council for consideration at one of their regular public meetings, which is open to the*

*public. After final endorsement by Council, design plans will be made available to the public at the public hearing, which will be announced in advance by advertising in the local media. Based on comments received from City Council and at the public hearing, the project staff may make additional design revisions as appropriate. Interested parties are encouraged to attend public meetings and hearings on the project.*

### **FUNDING**

**3. Is the City providing funding for this project?**

*The cost of modernizing and improving Lakeview Avenue is 100% payable with funds awarded to the City through the federal Regional Surface Transportation Program administered by the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Virginia Department of Transportation . No city funds are being used to pay the costs of engineering, design, construction or enhancement of the street.*

*However, the City will incur a nominal cost for staff of the City's Department of Public Works, to administer the project. In addition, replacing, bettering or otherwise improving municipal water and sewer infrastructure will be a cost responsibility of the City in its entirety.*

**4. Can the City use the funding for this project to do something else?**

*This project was selected through a competitive process administered by the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) of which Colonial Heights is a member jurisdiction. The selection criteria include the project's importance to the region and its ability to improve capacity and safety for intracommunity travel. The funds are being made available solely for these purposes of implementing capital improvements to Lakeview Avenue between the Boulevard and Brijidan Avenue. If it were decided for any reason to cancel the project, all expended funds would have to be repaid by the City and the balance of unspent funds returned to the MPO for future reallocation to a member jurisdiction, which may or may not be the City of Colonial Heights.*

### **PROPERTY ACQUISITION/IMPACT**

**5. How will this project affect my property value?**

*One of the goals of this project is to improve safety and access while simultaneously enhancing the aesthetics of the corridor. Capital improvements, including the provision of landscaping and lighting (streetscape) enhancements, will enhance the value of properties along the corridor.*

**6. Will I be compensated for right-of-way or easement purchase on my property?**

*The U.S. Constitution and the Virginia Constitution require that a property owner be paid "just compensation" when the government acquires private property. In addition,*

*federal regulations require that an “approved appraisal” be used to develop an amount the agency believes to be just compensation. The regulations also require that the amount offered to the property owner must be at the least the “approved amount” of the appraisal. Further, the regulations require that the City make every reasonable effort to expeditiously acquire real property by negotiation.*

7. What will be the impact to the homes in the northwest corner of Lakeview and Woodlawn, and will driveways on Woodlawn (north of Lakeview) be impacted?

*It is noted that the width of right-of-way along Lakeview Avenue narrows to the west of Woodlawn and the acquisition of additional right of way and easements appears necessary. However, project staff is evaluating whether or not the horizontal alignment of the street can be shifted to mitigate the space requirement.*

*The project is still in its initial development stage; therefore, the specific impacts to individual properties and parking are uncertain at this time. However, as design of the project progresses, the City will work with individual property owners to address, to the extent possible, their concerns related to property acquisition.*

#### **PARKING AND DRIVEWAYS**

8. A. The proposed modernization of Lakeview Avenue will certainly improve the appearance of the home sites. My only concern is my duplex at 209-211 Lakeview Avenue probably has less frontage (the distance between the payment [sic] (pavement) and the front of the house) without enough land on either side for a driveway to the backyard than any other house on Lakeview avenue. I would like to have assurance there will be adequate space for cars to park in front of the house since it is not possible to drive to the backyard and there is no parking on the avenue.
- B. Will I lose parking space in my residential driveway or my business parking lot as a result of this project? If so, can the impact be mitigated?

*Again, this project is still in its initial development stage; therefore, the individual impacts to property, driveways and parking areas are uncertain at this time. However, as the project design progresses the City will address, to the extent possible, property owners’ concerns related to each. An important part of the upcoming design process will be to look at each property individually and to identify the best approach to accommodate off-street parking within the available area on each lot or parcel. Parking configurations may vary by lot. Modifications to existing driveways or the creation of new parking areas may be necessary to mitigate impacts caused by the project.*

9. Can on-street parking be considered?

*Lakeview Avenue is classified as an urban collector roadway whose primary function is to collect traffic from local roads and distribute to larger roads in the vicinity. On-*

*street parking would impede traffic flow and may increase the frequency and severity of crashes. . In addition, on-street parking would require a wider street to provide parking lanes. Project staff's opinion is that providing on-street parking would make Lakeview e less safe and be counterproductive to the road's primary purpose within the overall transportation network. For these reasons, on-street parking is not currently being recommended for this project.*

### **TRAFFIC AND SAFETY**

#### **10. Are bike lanes and/or sidewalks required for federal funding?**

*Department staff do not intend to designate a bike lane on Lakeview Avenue as a part of this project. However, in accordance with federal and state recommendations, the project will include paved shoulders between the travel lane and curb. This shoulder would not be signed or marked as a bike lane. Federal and state policy direction is to include shoulders on urban collectors such as Lakeview Avenue. Shoulders provide space for some bicyclists but also contribute to reducing the severity of crash frequencies and severity. In addition, shoulders improve drainage, provide partial protection to vehicles turning in and out of driveways and provide storage space for plowed snow.*

*The policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is to incorporate safe and convenient walking and bicycling facilities into federally funded transportation projects. Therefore, accommodations for people regardless of age, ability or mode of transportation must be objectives of this project.*

*The U.S. Access Board is the coordinating body for all federal agencies including the USDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. The Board develops accessibility criteria and enforces accessibility standards for federally funded facilities.*

*The Board has established a five-foot wide sidewalk as the current standard for people of all ages and abilities in accordance with the Americans with Disability Act. Accordingly, VDOT has adopted a five-foot wide sidewalk as its standard. Because the source of funding originates with the federal government and is allocated by VDOT, the City must conform to the current standard for sidewalks.*

#### **11. What is the level of traffic on Lakeview Avenue?**

*A machine count of traffic in March 2012 indicated 8,500 vehicles per day. Traffic volume is forecasted to increase almost 50% to 12,200 vehicles per day over the life of the project (Year 2035)*

### **SIDEWALKS, STREET LIGHTING AND LANDSCAPING**

#### **12. Do we have to have sidewalks on both sides?**

*Federal and state policy is to include the construction of sidewalks on both sides of streets in every federal-aid construction project in an urban area. Sidewalks provide consistent pedestrian access from either side of the street and reduce the need for pedestrians to cross a busy street such as Lakeview Avenue.*

**13. Where will the street lights be located?**

*The location of street lights will be determined at a later stage of design. To the extent possible, street lights will be located to avoid adverse impacts to properties.*

**14. Who will maintain the grass/landscaping that's put in as part of this project?**

*Generally, the City is responsible for maintenance of the public right-of-way. However, to keep taxpayer costs low the City looks to property owners to assist in the upkeep of their property frontages. This includes mowing adjacent areas in the right-of-way.*

**15. New trees will be sight obstructions and will grow up under overhead utility lines. Can trees be eliminated?**

*Aesthetic improvements to streets is a stated goal of the City. Landscaping will improve the appearance of the Lakeview Avenue corridor. The character and location of plantings will be determined at a later stage of design. To the extent possible, plantings will be done in a manner that will avoid adverse impacts to driveways along the corridor.*

### UTILITIES

**16. Why can't the overhead utilities be relocated underground?**

*Placing overhead utilities underground is prohibitively expensive and cannot be accomplished within the fiscally constrained budget for this project.*

**17. Will overhead utility poles have to be relocated? Where would they go? Can they be moved away from driveways?**

*Relocation of utility poles and lines is anticipated to be caused by this project. Efforts will be made to work with the public utility companies to consolidate utility poles. Consolidation should result in an overall reduction in the number of poles along Lakeview Avenue. To the extent possible, utility poles will be relocated in a manner that will avoid or minimize adverse impacts to driveways.*

### CONSTRUCTION

**18. When will construction begin?**

*The start of construction is planned for FY 2014-2015*

**19. How long will construction last?**

*It is anticipated that construction for this project will last 12-18 months.*

**20. What will the traffic detours look like?**

*Again, the project is still in its initial development stage; therefore, the need for traffic detours is uncertain at this time. Any traffic detours anticipated as part of this project will be included in the information available for public review on the project website and at the City's Department of Public Works, 201 James Avenue, Colonial Heights, VA 23834.*

**21. Will drainage improvements be part of the project? How will this project affect drainage?**

*This project will include the construction of curb and gutter on both sides of Lakeview Avenue and an enclosed, underground system for conveyance of storm water. Construction of a storm water system will improve drainage.*