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MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: John A. Bishop AICP, Deputy Director - Transportation

RE: Eastern Road Plan Update

DATE: November 7, 2017

Topic Synopsis

The Eastern Road Plan is the primary transportation map in the County Comprehensive Plan. As such, it is the document that guides transportation planning in the County, keeps citizens apprised of long term transportation planning, and assists the Board of Supervisors and County planning staff through land use planning actions. The Eastern Road Plan is developed to plan a transportation network that supports the Board of Supervisors' long-range vision for the overall development of the County. This update is primarily to incorporate VDOT work on Route 37 and Route 522 and to clean up/clarify a number of items as described below.

Analysis

Attached, please find a series of maps which detail the updates described below. Each highlighted area has a zoom in map that shows the update and comparison to the current plan in greater detail.

1. Route 37

Staff is seeking to incorporate updated VDOT work on Route 37 in order to have the needs shown be as up to date as possible. Included are ramps updated to more current standards, ramp work where previously there had only been a note of a desire for an interchange, and updates to the centerline where needed for engineering purposes. At the proposed interchange for Snowden Bridge Boulevard there are two scenarios shown. One scenario shows an interchange with a spacing of 800 feet while the other interchange shows a spacing of 1,200 feet. There are positives and negatives to both designs. The 800 feet ramp spacing allows less room for stacking and as such would require future Snowden Bridge Boulevard to have features such as double lefts to adequately accommodate stacking. However, the reduced spacing results in a much smaller impact on the surrounding industrial property. The 1,200 feet ramp spacing

scenario allows for better stacking and thus a narrower Snowden Bridge Boulevard, but results in a much more significant right-of-way impact.

2. Independence Drive alignment

When zoomed in closely, the current Eastern Road Plan shows an offset between Independence Drive and what was formerly known as the Channing Drive extension, now Constitution. This update corrects the offset.

3. Lenoir Drive – Slip ramp clarification

For many years a ramp has been shown on the plan connecting Lenoir Drive to Route 37 at Stonewall Industrial Park. However, as drawn currently, it gives the impression that a vehicle could only exit Lenoir Drive onto southbound Route 37. The update clarifies that traffic could exit to southbound Route 37 and also exit from southbound Route 37.

4. Route 522 Realignment

As part of their modeling and study surrounding Exit 313, VDOT analyzed the planned Route 522 realignment and has recommended the alignment shown in this update. The current plan has the Route 522 realignment intersecting with Route 50/17 at Ryco Lane, while the proposed change realigns Route 522 to Prince Frederick Drive. The new alignment is preferable due to improved spacing from surrounding intersections and reduced direct impact on surrounding businesses. As part of this recommendation, VDOT vetted this improvement through the regional travel demand model.

5. Stephens City Bypass – Connector Road

The Stephens City bypass does not have access to Route 11 due to the close proximity to the future relocated Exit 307. This update incorporates the connector roadway from Stephens City, planning that offers the first access back to Route 11 from the Stephens City bypass.

6. Tasker Road Alignment

This update adjusts the alignment of Tasker Road to match the work completed by VDOT in the vicinity of I-81 Exit 310.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends a recommendation of approval of the changes to the Board of Supervisors with the 800 feet wide interchange at Snowden Bridge Boulevard and Route 37. The Transportation Committee reviewed the proposed changes on October 30, 2017 and recommended approval and the Comprehensive Plans and Programs Committee is reviewing the item on November 13, 2017.

Attachments































