

Get Involved

The public is encouraged to submit written comments about the design plans at the meeting by mail or email. All comments need to be submitted to the City of Charlottesville, City Hall, 610 E Market St, PO Box 911, Charlottesville, VA 22902 **by December 13, 2019** or via email at motscht@charlottesville.org in order to be included in the official meeting record.

Adjacent to Ivy Corridor Development



Railroad Tunnel Underpass



From Massie to Arlington, Shifted Section



From Massie to Arlington, Typical Section



Contact Information

Primary Contact:
Tim Motsch

Transportation
Project Manager,
City of Charlottesville

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610 E Market St
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Visit the project website for updates at www.emmetstreetscape.org

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Design Public Hearing Emmet Streetscape Project

PROJECT NUMBER: U000-104-297, PE-101, RW-201, C-501

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Informal Plan Review: 5:00PM to 8:30PM

Hearing: 7:00PM to 8:00PM

Location: Walker Upper Elementary School
1564 Dairy Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903

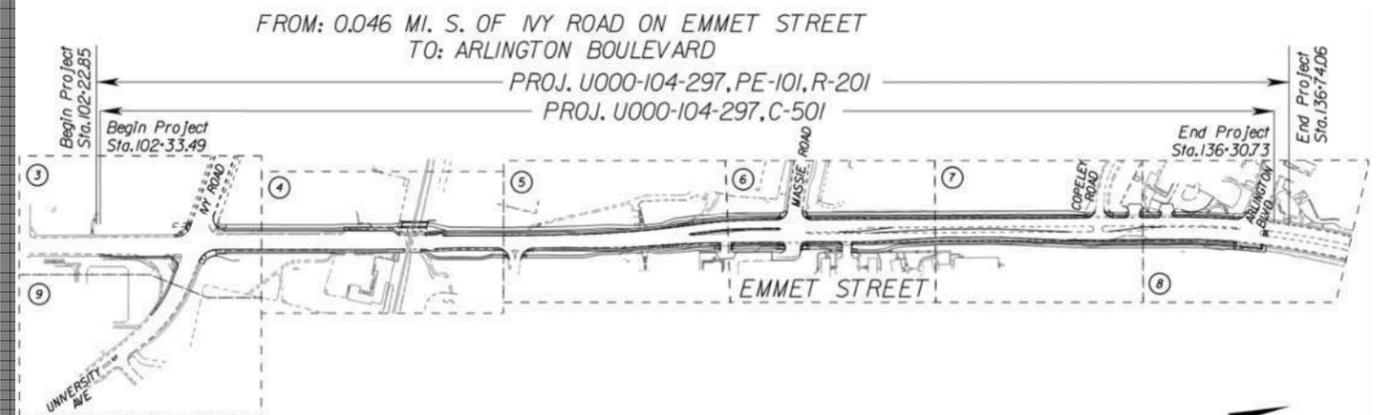


Design Public Hearing

Welcome to the Design Public Hearing for the **Emmet Streetscape Project**. This meeting provides an opportunity for any person, acting on his or her behalf or representing a group or governmental agency, to review the displayed project exhibits and give the City of Charlottesville comments and/or suggestions on this project. Verbal comments will be accepted during tonight's hearing. Written statements may be submitted via comment forms, in writing to the City (address on back) on or before December 13, 2019.

All comments will be reviewed by the City of Charlottesville and the project design team personnel. Questions and concerns raised as a result of this public meeting will be considered by the City of Charlottesville before the project is approved for right-of-way acquisition and construction. A transcript of all comments will be available to the public after the public hearing comment period closes on the project web site and at City Hall. Your input is encouraged and appreciated by your community.

Project Overview



Project Description

The Emmet Street corridor, north of the University Avenue/Ivy Road intersection, is one of the highest traffic volume corridors in the city. It serves as a gateway to the University of Virginia and provides a critical link between the University and commercial shopping areas north of the city.

The City of Charlottesville has been engaged in a process to enhance this corridor with urban amenities and safe, interconnected streets that promote walking, biking, and efficient public transit while maintaining levels of service (LOS) for vehicular traffic. The student population and the corridor's direct proximity to the UVA grounds present a tremendous opportunity for modal shift with improved bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The project area extends from the intersection of University/Ivy Road to Arlington Boulevard and includes a shared use path, improved bike lanes, consolidated bus stops/optimized bus shelters, landscaping, and improved pedestrian crossings at the intersections within the study area. The project implements recommendations from the Comprehensive Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, MPO Long Range Transportation Plan, and supports the University's long term development plans.

A critical element of the project in improving multimodal transportation on the Emmet Street corridor is the incorporation of a new 10-foot wide shared-use path (SUP) paralleling Emmet Street. A SUP is a form of surface transportation infrastructure that is physically separated from motor vehicular traffic with an open space or barrier and supports multiple recreation and transportation options, such as walking, bicycling and wheelchairs.

An existing railroad owned by CSX and leased and operated by Buckingham Branch Railroad crosses Emmet Street between Ivy Road/University Avenue and Massie Road. The new SUP requires a pedestrian tunnel under the existing railroad. In order to accommodate the required clearance envelope, the pedestrian tunnel will have a 16-ft finished inside diameter.

The Emmet Streetscape project is being funded through Smart Scale as VDOT Project U000-104-297, UPC 109551. Emmet Street is also U.S. 29 Business, which is part of the Seminole Corridor in the state's Corridors of Statewide Significance program. Emmet Street within the study area is classified by VDOT as a principal arterial roadway, and the posted speed limit is 35 mph. At present, the corridor carries approximately 26,000 vehicles per day, and is also heavily traversed by bicycles and pedestrians. The abutting land use is primarily institutional, and the primary land ownership is related to the University of Virginia, though on the north end of the corridor, near Arlington Blvd, the land use transitions to retail uses. Overall, the users of the corridor are a mix of commuters, students, and shorter local trips. As well, the John Paul Jones arena is located adjacent to the corridor and at times the corridor conveys event traffic, including both vehicular traffic and bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Intersections within the project limits will receive upgrades such as signage, signal improvements, bike/pedestrian accommodations, lighting, and landscaping. The design includes the following main features:

- 10-foot wide SUP from Ivy Road to Arlington Blvd.
- 16-foot diameter tunnel under the RR for the new SUP
- 6.5-foot wide raised bike lane in both directions from the RR to Arlington Blvd.
- 6-foot wide planting strip between the bike lane and SUP/sidewalk for landscaping



Right-of-Way

Improvements will require the acquisition of land for right-of-way and easements. The right-of-way and easements, depicted on the meeting displays, are preliminary. As the City of Charlottesville further develops the design of the project, additional easements or right-of-way may be required beyond the proposed limits shown on the preliminary plans. Impacted property owners will be informed of the exact location of right-of-way and easements during the formal right-of-way acquisition process.

Information about right-of-way acquisitions is provided in VDOT's brochure entitled *Right-of-Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants*, which is available at the public hearing or online at: https://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/Right_of_way/A_Guide_for_Property_Owners_and_Tenants.pdf. After this meeting, information regarding right-of-way acquisition may be obtained from the City of Charlottesville Neighborhood and Development Services, located at City Hall, 610 E Market St. Charlottesville, VA 22902.

Estimated Project Cost

The latest project estimate is approximately \$7,917,412 which is greater than the SMART SCALE budget. The City is able to fund the difference in cost between the SMART SCALE funding and total estimate. The project is financed with federal, state, and local funds.

Environmental Review

The City of Charlottesville has prepared environmental reviews and performed coordination efforts to obtain information about environmental resources within the project vicinity. Natural and historic resource agencies have been provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development. Opportunities for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of environmental impacts have been identified. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a NEPA document (Programmatic Categorical Exclusion) has been prepared in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and in accordance with federal guidelines.

The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, water resources, threatened and endangered species, and other quantifiable impacts. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places also has been evaluated.

The draft environmental document is available for review at this meeting and on the project website. At this time, the project has received a ruling of no adverse effect from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) due to little or no impact on historic resources.

Federal Aid

This is a federal aid project; FHWA must approve the need for the proposed highway improvements as well as the environmental documents, plans, specifications, cost estimates, right-of-way acquisitions, and construction procedures. This process provides additional assurance that federal, state, and local goals and objectives are met and that opportunity for public participation is provided. Federal and state regulations require that a wide range of factors and impacts are considered and that the final decisions are made in the best overall public interest.



Project Schedule

The public comment period will close on December 13, 2019. At that time, City representatives will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the hearing, adjusting the project design as needed. After the public hearing, Charlottesville City Council will be requested to pass a resolution endorsing the major design features.

The project will then progress to the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) before construction begins.

Milestone	Date Completed
Public Hearing	December 3, 2019
City Council Meeting	February 2020
Preliminary BAR Meeting	January 2020
Right of Way Begins	April 2020
Right of Way Ends	March 2021
Final BAR Meeting/COA Issued	Spring 2020
Authorization and Advertisement for Construction	August 2021
Public Pre-Construction Meeting	October 2021
Targeted Construction Completion	Early 2023

Civil Rights

It is the responsibility of the City of Charlottesville to ensure that all members of the community are afforded an opportunity to participate in public decisions about transportation systems and project affecting them, which is why your input is greatly encouraged.

The City of Charlottesville and VDOT ensures non-discrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. No person shall be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. If you feel you have been denied participation in, or denied benefits of, or been subjected to discrimination, in regard to this project or otherwise discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability, you may contact the Virginia Department of Transportation, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1401 E. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219 or phone (804) 786-2835 or TDD (800) 307-4630, TTY/TDD 711.



COMMENT SHEET

Emmet Streetscape Project

PROJECT NUMBER: U000-104-297, PE-101, RW-201, C-501

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Walker Upper Elementary School

1564 Dairy Road

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

Please respond to the following statements by checking the box that best expresses your opinion:

1. Do the design features adequately address the needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists?

Please explain.

Yes No Not Sure Explain Why:

2. Do you agree that the following project features are attractive while providing a connecting corridor from Ivy to Arlington Blvd?

Landscaping:

Agree Neutral Disagree Comment:

Lighting:

Agree Neutral Disagree Comment:

Flip over for more opportunity to comment

Sidewalk, Shared-use path, Crosswalks:

Agree Neutral Disagree Comment:

Public Spaces:

Agree Neutral Disagree Comment:

3. Did the visual information (typical sections, plans, etc.) on display at the hearing help your understanding of the project?

Yes No Not Sure If No, please explain why:

4. Do you have any comments on the environmental document or comments regarding potential environmental issues?

5. Please use the following space for any additional comments.

Please leave this comment sheet at the designated location or mail to the addressee below on or before December 13, 2019. You can also submit your comments electronically via e-mail by sending to motscht@charlottesville.org. Thank you.

**Mr. Tim Motsch, Transportation Project Manager
City of Charlottesville, City Hall
610 E. Market Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902**