

CONGESTION KNOCK OUT AT THE FALMOUTH INTERSECTION

VY TRAN

PROJECT FAST FACTS

Location: Intersection of Route 1, Route 17 Business and Route 218, Stafford County

Contractor: Tavares Concrete, Inc., or Lorton, VA

Cost: Total project cost is an estimated \$22.4 million.
Federal funds are paying for 80% of the project's cost.

Purpose: Reduce congestion and driver delay on this critical primary road and alternate route for Interstate 95 in the Fredericksburg area.

http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/Fredericksburg/Falmouth_Fact_Sheet,_Page_1.pdf

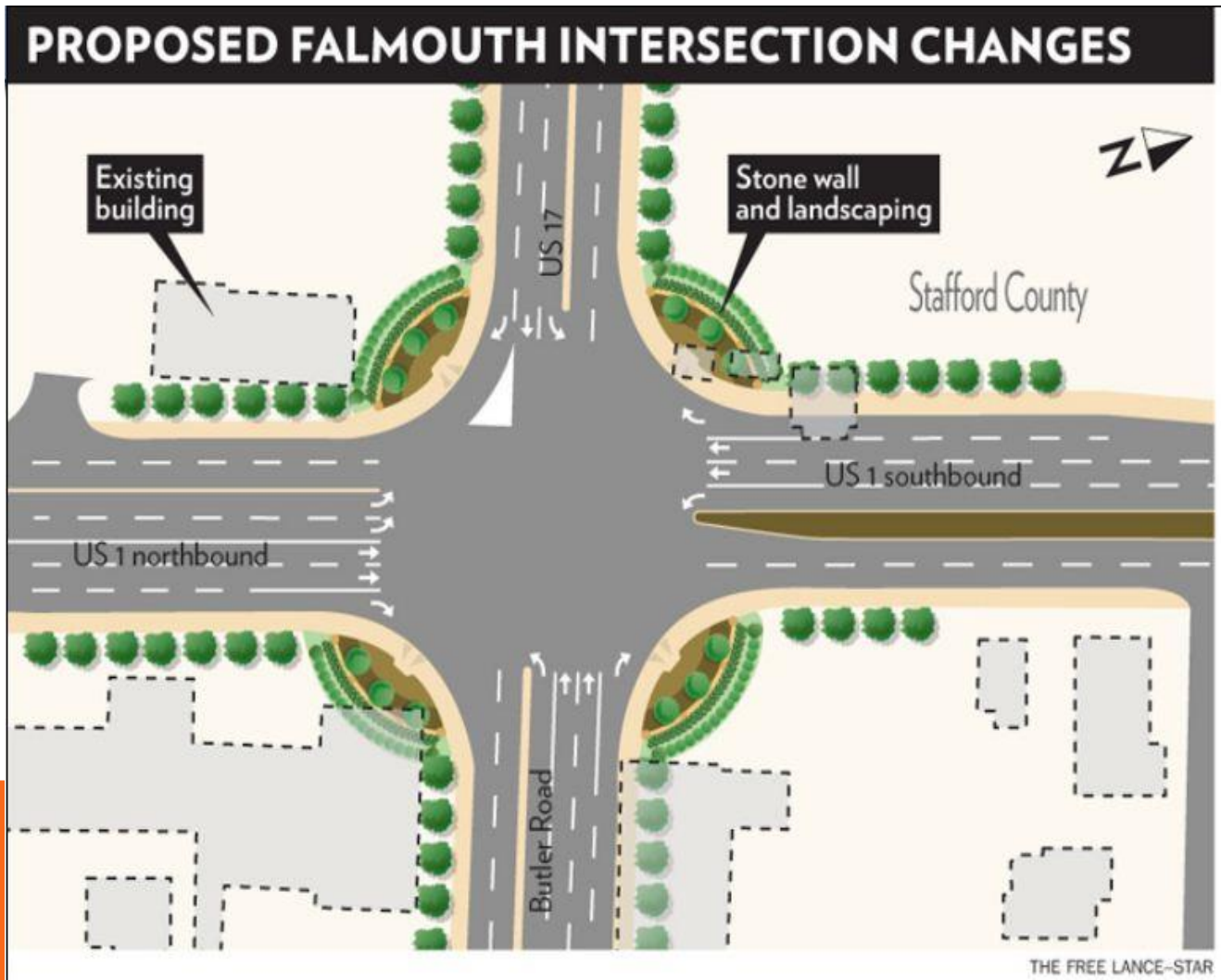
LOCATION

- The Falmouth intersection is north of the University of Mary Washington leading into Stafford County. It connects Route 1, Route 17 business and Route 218.



- http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/transportation/work-moving-along-on-area-s-three-big-road-projects/image_037c3f7c-af6b-503d-ad3f-d545a671846c.html

OVERVIEW OF PLAN

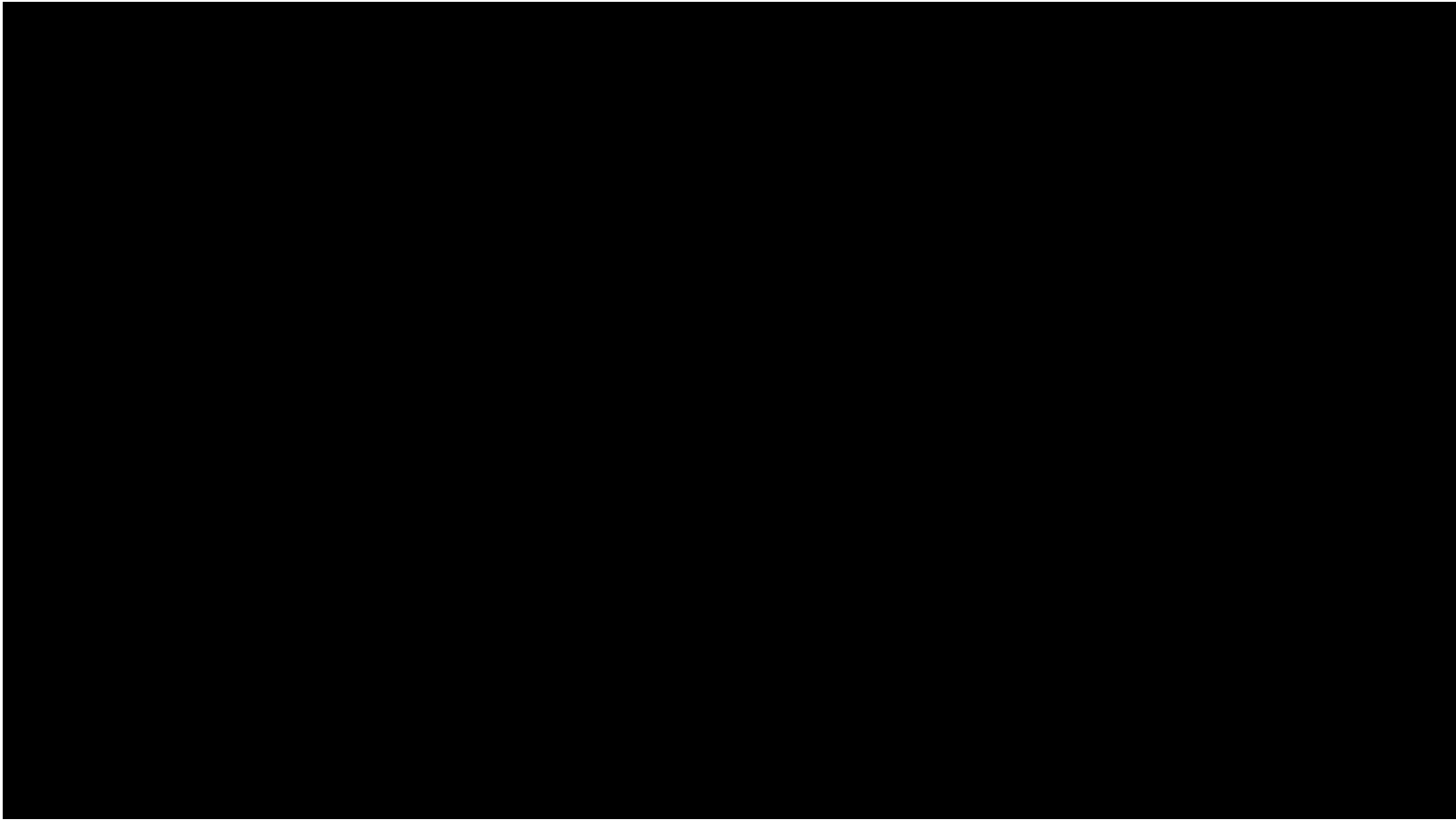


The additional lanes are included in this proposed plan photo. The separate turning lanes are added in at each signal of the intersection.



OVERVIEW OF PLAN

The purpose of this project was to add additional turning lanes at each signaled intersection to decrease the delay time for motorists and increase the flow of traffic. Originally, Route 1 southbound that connects into Stafford County had one combined lane for those going straight and those turning left. There will now be separate lanes for each direction and this will effectively split up the traffic. The construction began in spring of 2014 and was projected to be completed by September 2015. The project completion was on schedule and the additional lanes are now in use.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vLBimHSc6o

A VDOT construction worker reports the implications of the proposed plan for the Falmouth intersection.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



www.VirginiaDOT.org
Fredericksburginfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Public Hearing

Project: 0218-089-114, C501

Falmouth Intersection

**Improvements at Route 1, 17, and
218 in Stafford County**

Thursday January 6, 2011 – 4:00PM – 7:00PM

VDOT Fredericksburg District Auditorium

86 Deacon Road

Fredericksburg, VA, 22405

Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) public hearing on proposed improvements at the Falmouth Intersection in Stafford County.

This public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project. VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in important decisions regarding transportation projects and programs affecting them.

VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this meeting and your input is encouraged. All written comments received on this project will be included in a transcript for review by VDOT personnel, citizens and other interested parties.

VDOT staff will address questions and concerns raised as a result of this meeting before the project is presented to VDOT's chief engineer for consideration.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- As seen in the underprivileged areas studied in class, lack of community members' input results in conflict with dissatisfied residents. Although it only makes sense to involve the thoughts and opinions of residents in the area of Fredericksburg/Stafford for this project, I was positively surprised that there was a public meeting held for this purpose. It gave community members a chance to give suggestions for the project since transportation construction decisions will be affecting them. It is interesting to see the process of this project plan from start to finish. Local authorities who proposed this construction plan are not making decisions without the input of the community took the steps to give everyone a voice.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT BENEFITS



Not only were additional turning lanes added, but the intersection got new traffic signal equipment. Here, you can see the new and improved intersection from the view of Route 17 business.

http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/transportation/has-the-widened-falmouth-intersection-helped-your-travels-through-that/poll_0779ef4c-6ec5-11e5-ba45-df5065d3fce5.html

There are also pedestrian crossings now at three out of the four intersection approaches. This includes pedestrian push button equipment. In this photo, you can see they've also added sidewalks for the convenience and safety of pedestrians.



http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/transportation/falmouth-intersection-work-is-complete/article_b425cf94-c7f6-568d-a439-4f86323b6cc1.html



Sidewalks in construction.

http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/transportation/vdot-picking-up-pace-on-falmouth-intersection-work/image_dc17a3d7-48c2-598c-b0ef-ae4dc8b6b887.html

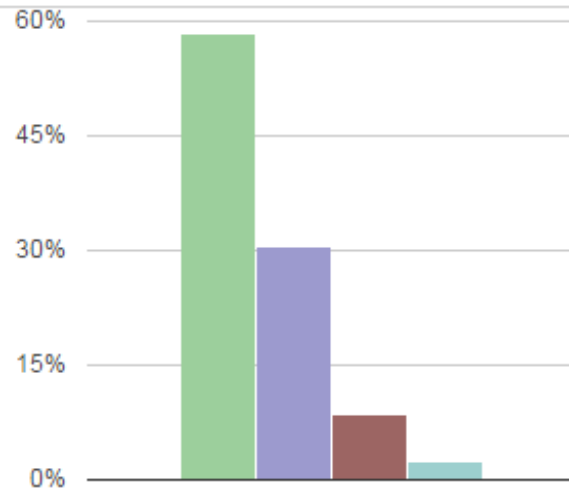


The project included revamped overhead street signs to be larger for visibility.

<http://potomaclocal.com/2015/09/29/what-22-million-got-drivers-who-pass-through-falmouth/>

COMMUNITY REACTION

Has the widened Falmouth intersection helped your travels through that area of Stafford County?



 It is a good thing.	58.4%
 It doesn't do enough.	30.5%
 I don't use it.	8.6%
 Other (Comment below)	2.5%

In an online poll for the opinions of community members in how they rate the ease of travel with the improvements, most believe it is a good thing.

http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/transportation/has-the-widened-falmouth-intersection-helped-your-travels-through-that/poll_0779ef4c-6ec5-11e5-ba45-df5065d3fce5.html

CONCLUSION

- The improvement of the Falmouth intersection proved beneficial for travelers in the area with the 8 additional lanes. In addition to the project benefits depicted in the photos, landscaping around the intersection is to be done later in the fall when temperatures are cooler. With most of the traffic congestion cleared up, it is also environmentally beneficial due to reduction of vehicle emissions from idling vehicles. In the case of emergency, vehicles have more room to make way for police or ambulances to pass through. Overall, the project yielded positive results that involved the community and was a good planning model to imitate for future transportation reconstruction projects.

SOURCES

- http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/transportation/work-moving-along-on-area-s-three-big-road-projects/image_037c3f7c-af6b-503d-ad3f-d545a671846c.html
- http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/Fredericksburg/Falmouth_Intersection_Brochure.pdf
- http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/fredericksburg/route_1,_route_17_business,_and_route_218_butler_road.asp
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vLBimHSc6o