

# Saunders Road Widening Conceptual Study

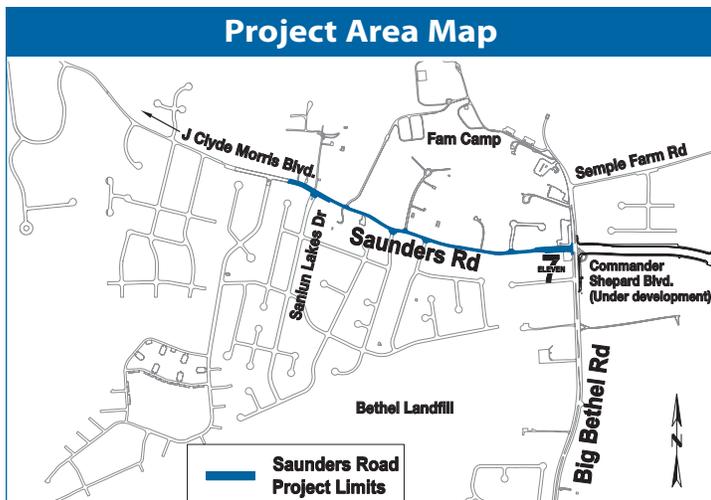
April 2011



The City of Hampton encourages you to stay involved in the planning process to improve Saunders Road. The first public meeting was held June 17, 2010 and provided an opportunity for citizens to learn about the study and share ideas.

## Exploring Ways to Improve Saunders Road

The City of Hampton's Comprehensive Plan/Transportation Section calls for the establishment of an east-west corridor in the northwest quadrant of the City to improve traffic flow from current and future employment centers, including NASA/Langley Air Force Base and the Hampton Roads Center North Business Park, to residential and commercial areas in Hampton, Newport News and York County. The city is currently exploring widening Saunders Road from two lanes to four lanes from Big Bethel Road to the intersection with Sanlun Lakes Drive.



Saunders Road is a two-lane roadway with side ditches and above-ground utilities. The surrounding area is primarily single-family residential. Accident records show that during 2005 through 2007, 72 crashes occurred along this section of Saunders Road. The majority of the crashes were cars going off the road and hitting utility poles, trees, ditches or other objects along the roadside.

## Citizen Information Meeting Overview

The first citizens' information meeting for the study was held on June 17th and provided a forum for citizens to share ideas and to ask questions about the proposed project. Out of 32 attendees, 29 citizens including residents, property owners, business representatives, and commuters offered their comments and opinions using the comment form provided. The study team presented an overview of the potential designs and

outlined the study process. Citizens were asked to comment on the issues most important to them including potential impacts on traffic and the community that should be considered as the study moves the design solutions forward.

In this newsletter, we have summarized your comments that reflect ideas, recommendations and concerns. These comments will help build the foundation for the next phase of the project.

The project team addresses the comments in the final report of the study entitled "Saunders Road Widening Conceptual Study" which can be found on the project website. The report documents the need for the project, the study process and provides other extensive project information.

## What We Heard From You

- Comments returned at the meeting suggest that most were interested in the effects of the project related to traffic, noise, and access.
- Although there is support for Alternative 1B, there also is support for an Alternative with three lanes and a center turn lane. The three lanes with a center turn lane alternative, however, was not considered in this study because it will not meet the needed capacity.
- Citizens also supported the "No Action" alternative which means doing nothing more than lowering speed limits and increasing police presence.
- It was requested that utilities be put underground and there were questions about the sewer system.
- Several comments cited that traffic could back up at the Newport News corporate line.

## Project Timeline

The project is at the conclusion of the conceptual study phase.

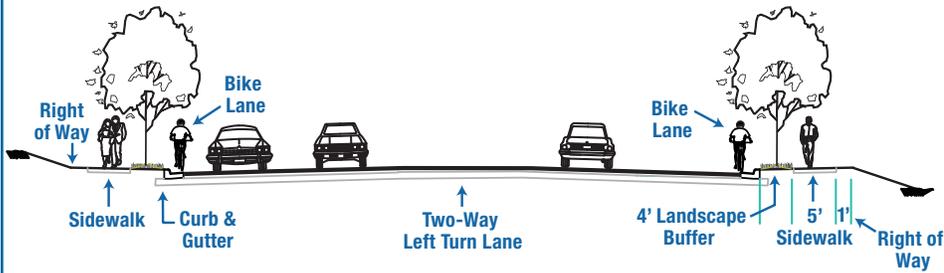
- Project initiation – May 2008  
Data Collection and Identification of Alternatives/Solutions  
Evaluate Alternatives
- First Citizen Information Meeting – June 17, 2010
- Document Findings and Refine Alternatives/Solutions, Publish Report - March 2011
- Begin Design Phase/Environmental Coordination – Early 2011  
Public Hearing – Early 2012  
Project Engineering  
Land Acquisition
- Begin Construction Summer – 2014

## Roadway Design Options Presented

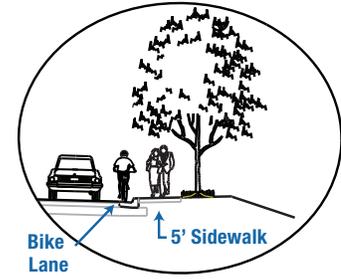
The following conceptual design options were presented at the public meeting. The features of the alternatives shown are designed to provide additional traffic capacity

that will be needed to reduce the number and proportion of traffic accidents, provide greater neighborhood mobility and provide a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists.

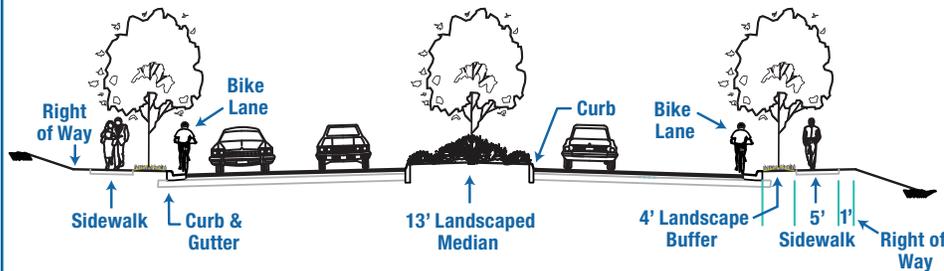
**Alternative 1a:** Four-lane roadway with a two-way left turn lane in the center, with one bike lane in each direction, landscaped buffer zone, and a five-foot wide concrete sidewalk on each side. Because the two-way left turn lane requires greater sight distance along its length, the alignment of Alternative 1 has flatter curves and therefore an alignment slightly different than Alternative 2.



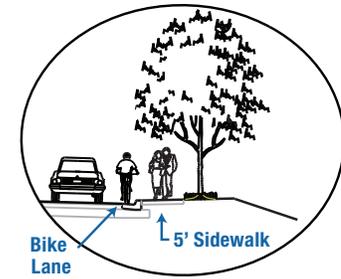
**Alternative 1b:** The same roadway configuration as Alternative 1a, except that the sidewalks will be adjacent to the back of the curb and the area behind the sidewalk will be landscaped.



**Alternative 2a:** Four-lane roadway with a raised, curbed and planted median, with one bike lane in each direction, landscaped buffer zone, and a five-foot wide concrete sidewalk on each side.



**Alternative 2b:** The same roadway configuration as Alternative 2a, except that the sidewalks will be adjacent to the back of the curb and the area behind the sidewalk will be landscaped.



### Recommended Alternative

Based on expected future traffic operations and consideration of design requirements, a 4-lane section is recommended. However the details of median type/style, sidewalk placement, bike lanes, and other roadside features is not final. The final design process and additional public involvement may reveal other considerations that could affect the final option selected.

### Stay Involved

We encourage you to stay involved throughout the study as planning decisions are made. If you were unable to attend prior meetings and would like to share your thoughts with us, please contact the project manager by mail or phone:

Selena D. Griffett, Project Manager  
City of Hampton  
22 Lincoln Street, Hampton, VA 23669  
757-727-6346

### How Can You Learn More?

Visit the study website to view the Saunders Road Widening Conceptual Study and for additional information, updates and the date and location of the Public Hearing in Early 2012.

[http://hampton.gov/publicworks/engineering/saunders\\_road\\_citizen\\_information\\_meeting.html](http://hampton.gov/publicworks/engineering/saunders_road_citizen_information_meeting.html)

**Thank you for your interest in improving Saunders Road and your community!**

*Hampton*  
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