

Saunders Road Widening Conceptual Study

May/June 2010



We welcome your participation in this important road improvement project for the City of Hampton. This newsletter contains general information about the project, the public meeting schedule and public comment opportunities. We invite you to learn more about the project and get involved in the planning process.

About the Project

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. This study will examine the potential widening of Saunders Road from two lanes to four lanes from Big Bethel Road to the intersection with Sanlun Lakes Drive. The project is currently in the conceptual study phase. This phase of the project will take approximately six months to complete.

Public Meeting Scheduled

We invite you to join us for a citizen information meeting on June 17th to review the conceptual design of the project and to share your thoughts with the study team.

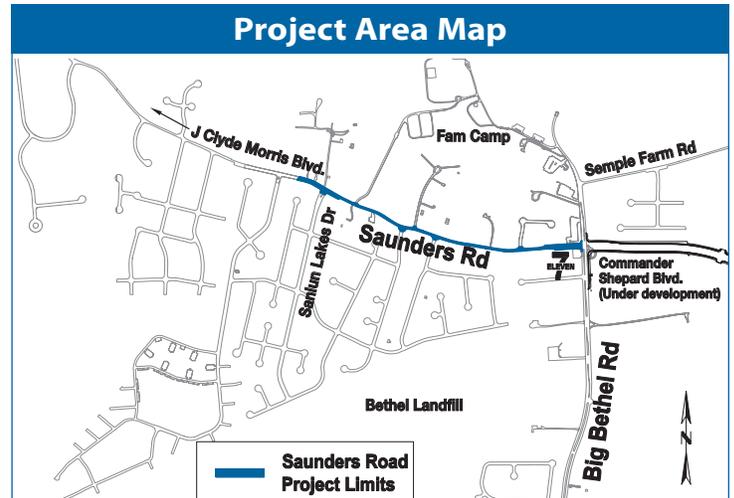
Thursday, June 17, 2010

Sandy Bottom Nature Park
Nature Center Conference Room
1255 Big Bethel Road
Hampton, VA 23666

Open house discussion with the project team **4 - 7 p.m.**

Why Improve Saunders Road?

With the scheduled completion of Commander Shepard Boulevard in 2014, the City is studying Saunders Road



improvements to meet the Comprehensive Plan vision of an east-west connection. Saunders Road is a two-lane roadway with side road ditches and above-ground utilities. The surrounding land use is 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.

The features of the alternatives shown are designed to provide additional traffic capacity that will be needed to reduce the proportion of traffic accidents as well as provide a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Project Goals

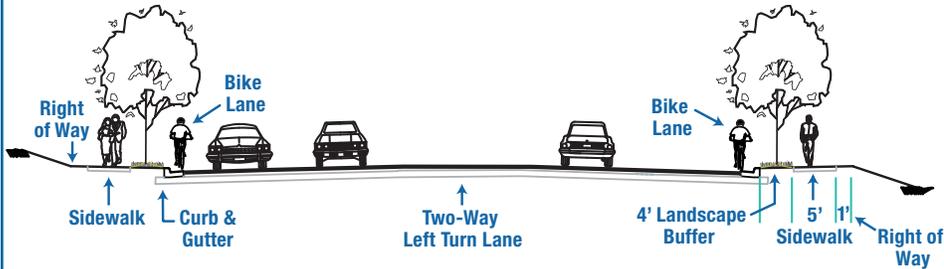
The project goals include working with residents, property owners, businesses, commuters and government agencies to develop solutions to provide additional roadway capacity, improve traffic safety and flow, improve pedestrian and bike safety and increase the aesthetic appeal of the corridor.

Project Schedule for Conceptual Study

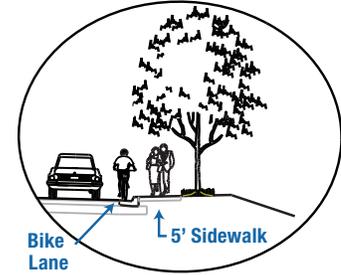
- Project initiation – May 2008
- Data Collection and Identification of Alternatives/Solutions
- Evaluate Alternatives
- First Citizen Information Meeting – **June 17, 2010 (WE ARE HERE)**
- Refine Alternatives/Solutions
- Begin Design Phase/Environmental Coordination
- Public Hearings
- Land Acquisition
- Begin Construction Summer 2014

Saunders Road Cross Section Options

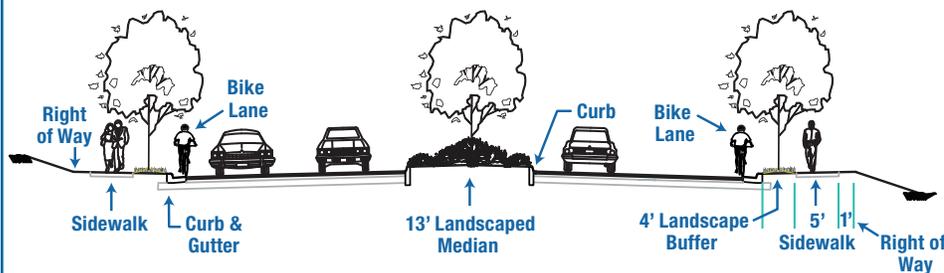
Alternative 1a: Four-lane roadway with a two-way left turn lane in the center, with one bike lane in each direction, landscaped buffer zone, and a five-foot wide concrete sidewalk on each side. Because the two-way left turn lane requires greater sight distance along its length, the alignment of Alternative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



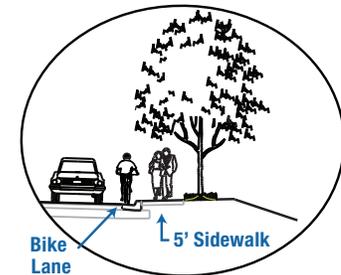
Alternative 1b: The same roadway configuration as Alternative 1a, except that the sidewalks will be adjacent to the back of the curb and the area behind the sidewalk will be landscaped.



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.



Get Involved

Public input is an important aspect of the planning process. We hope you will attend the citizen information meeting and contribute your ideas either during meetings or by using the comment form provided at the meeting. If you would like to stay informed about the project please join our mailing list by calling the the project manager at 757-727-6346.

What to Expect at the Citizen Information Meeting

At this meeting you will have a chance to review the project exhibits on display and visit with the study team. Written questions or comments should be placed in the comment box or mailed to the address provided in this newsletter. Following the meeting, a public comment period will allow everyone an opportunity to share their thoughts.

It is the responsibility of the City to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in the public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them. The City of Hampton ensures nondiscrimination

in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. All public meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance to attend the meetings, such as an interpreter, call 757-727-6490 or TTY/TDD 711, E-mail: wadams@hampton.gov

How to Comment on the Project

The design team encourages you to share your ideas for improving this roadway in our community. Comments are due by **July 9, 2010**. For your convenience, you may complete a comment form at the meeting or mail your comments to Selena D. Griffett, Project Manager, City of Hampton, Public Works Office of Administration, Engineering and Architectural Services, 22 Lincoln Street, Hampton, VA 23669.

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

Hampton
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