

MEMORANDUM

TO: KELLY HITCHCOCK
 CC: SWG

FROM: JEANIE ALEXANDER, P.E.
 HANNAH MACKNIGHT, EIT

ORGANIZATION: CENTRAL VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION
 PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CVTPO)

DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2023

PHONE NUMBER:

SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:

RE: CVTPO INTERSECTION SAFETY STUDY STEERING
 WORK GROUP MEETING #1 NOTES

YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:

URGENT FOR YOUR USE PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

Attendees

Name	Affiliation	Email
Kelly Hitchcock	CVTPO	kelly.hitchcock@cvpdc.org
Jeremy Bryant	Amherst County	jsbryant@countyofamherst.com
Tyler Creasy	Amherst County	stcreasy@countyofamherst.com
Mariel Fowler	Bedford County	mfowler@bedfordcountyva.gov
Erik Smedley	Bedford County	esmedley@bedfordcountyva.gov
Keith Rider	VDOT Lynchburg District	keith.rider@vdot.virginia.gov
Matthew Conner	VDOT Lynchburg District	matthew.conner@vdot.virginia.gov
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Gerry Harter	VDOT Lynchburg District	gerry.harter@vdot.virginia.gov
Carol MoneyMaker	VDOT Salem District	carol.moneymaker@vdot.virginia.gov
Jeanie Alexander	EPR	j.alexander@epr-pc.com
Bill Wuensch	EPR	w.wuensch@epr-pc.com
Hannah MacKnight	EPR	h.macknight@epr-pc.com

Summary of Discussion

Jeanie Alexander provided an overview of the study, to assess 6 intersections in Amherst and Bedford counties that were identified by VDOT and the localities. After the overview, each intersection was presented, along with recent turning movement counts, crash diagrams, and a selection of photos from the field visit. Concerns identified through field visits or analysis were also summarized.

After each intersection was presented, the group was invited to provide feedback and additional information about the intersections that may inform the analysis. The following comments were the result of this discussion:

1. **US Route 29 Business (Amherst Highway) and Sprouse Drive** – Jeremy Bryant and Tyler Creasy were unsure of the need at this intersection; Kelly Hitchcock indicated that this intersection was previously identified by the county. Jeremy Bryant mentioned that there is noteworthy pedestrian traffic at this intersection. Keith Rider and Matt Conner agreed that this intersection has not been identified as a

crash hot spot, however it is ranked #60 on the 2017-2021 PSI list. VDOT did not know of any traffic studies in this area.

2. **US Route 29 Business (Amherst Highway) and Rothwood Road (657)** – Jeremy Bryant and Tyler Creasy were unsure of the need at this intersection; Kelly Hitchcock indicated that this intersection was previously identified by the county. Jeremy Bryant shared that the county receives frequent complaints that overgrown vegetation in the median hinders the view of oncoming traffic. VDOT agreed that this intersection has not been identified as a crash hot spot, however it is ranked #64 on the 2017-2021 PSI list. VDOT did not know of any traffic studies in this area.
3. **Amherst Highway (163) and Old Town Connector (210)** – Jeremy Bryant shared that there is a 650-unit development planned in the northwest corner of the intersection; the entrance will become the fourth leg of the intersection. Tyler Creasy indicated that there will be one additional right-in/right-out access point north of this intersection. The development is still in the planning stages and has not yet started the TIA process. Tyler Creasy mentioned that a nearby city piping project could have contributed to higher-than-normal heavy vehicle traffic during traffic counts or field observations. Matt Conner indicated that the signal warning signs have been in place for a while and were likely part of a larger effort years ago to install controller actuated warning beacons. The flashers are activated by phases of the signal controller to warn drivers of yellow or red indications as they approach the intersection. Tyler Creasy added that this area is prone to fog, which may have contributed to the need for the warning signs and flashing beacons. Amherst County indicated that they would like to explore improvements that could improve safety and operations at this and the following intersection, considering the impacts of the planned development.
4. **Amherst Highway (163) and Merrymoor Drive (1059)** – Amherst County indicated that the analysis of this intersection, in conjunction with the above intersection, was prompted by the proposed 650-unit development in the northwest corner of the Amherst Highway/Old Town Connector intersection. Jeremy Bryant mentioned that Amherst County considered shifting Merrymoor Drive to the north to tie into the signalized intersection, however that would require taking personal property.
5. **Forest Road (221) and Rustic Village Road/Gumtree Road (609)** – Erik Smedley indicated that there are challenging vertical curves on Gumtree Road which may impact sight distance; he also mentioned that the county has received complaints from pedestrians trying to cross at this intersection. Mariel Fowler mentioned that there is a proposed 165-apartment development approximately ½-mile east of this intersection and that the development proposed on Rustic Village Road was withdrawn, and the lot has been rezoned to agricultural. Bedford County indicated that they submitted a Round 5 Smart Scale application for sidewalks along Route 221 between Thomas Jefferson Road and Gables Drive. Sidewalks are also proposed between Gables Drive and Enterprise Drive. Carol Moneymaker added that although the intersection is not on the PSI list, the east leg of the intersection is a PSI segment.
6. **Perrowville Road (663) and Mays Mill Road (622)** – Erik Smedley indicated that Mays Mill Road previously connected back to Route 221, however the stream crossing was washed out and has not been reconnected. Erik also mentioned that the Bedford County Economic Development Authority owns the warehouse in the northwest corner of the intersection, which is currently vacant. The most common complaints heard from potential warehouse tenants are related to this intersection. Bedford County indicated that they would like to explore improvements that would accommodate

future traffic growth and consider the impacts of additional heavy vehicles when the warehouse is in use.

The steering work group will reconvene later this year to review the draft proposed solutions for each intersection.

Action Items

- **Carol Moneymaker to verify with Jim Keene the installation date for flashing yellow arrows at Forest Road/Rustic Village Road.**
- **Jeanie Alexander to add Daniel Brown and Steven Wright from VDOT Appomattox Residency to SWG list.**
- **SWG to review attached list and add any others that should be included.**
- **Jeanie Alexander to share DoodlePoll for next meeting date.**

END of MEMORANDUM

SWG Contact List

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email
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