



Memorandum

To: TJPDC Commission
From: Sandy Shackelford, Director of Planning & Transportation
Date: August 28, 2023
Reference: Request to Re-route US Bike Route 76 through Palmyra

Background:

In 2015, the TJPDC completed a study of US Bike Route 76 that assessed the conditions of the bike route through the region. Hazardous conditions for bicyclists along the route through Palmyra were identified as part of that study. In March of 2021, VDOT received a request from a Fluvanna County Citizen participating in the Fluvanna Leadership Development Program (FLDP) to determine the feasibility of re-routing the portion of U.S. Bike Route 76 through Palmyra.

In August of 2021, TJPDC staff requested that the Commission approve a resolution of support for re-routing the section of US Bike Route 76 through Palmyra. While this resolution was approved by the Commission at the time, a transition in staff at VDOT left the requested routing change uncompleted. As the VDOT staffing position was filled and the request to change the route was moved forward, additional improvements needed to be considered to facilitate the re-routing. The revised route will accommodate the original request to route traffic through the Village of Palmyra and enhance the safety of bicyclists traveling US Bike Route 76.

Route Change Description:

The proposed realignment of US Bike Route 76 off of RTE 15 and through Palmyra, Virginia will add approximately 325 feet for bicyclists travelling in the westbound US Bike Route 76 direction and 833 feet in the eastbound US Bike Route 76 direction to provide for safer riding conditions and a more scenic bike route for bicyclists than the existing alignment along US Route 15. The current conditions for bicyclists heading in the eastbound direction of US Bike Route 76 is of particular concern with no available shoulder and steep drop to one side with only guardrail for protection as it approaches RTE 601 (Courthouse Road). There are also planned streetscaping and traffic calming efforts along Court Square Stone Jail Street (the proposed alignment would run on these roads in the westbound US Bike Route 76 direction) funded through the Transportation Alternatives Program that will improve riding conditions for bicyclists through Palmyra if the realignment is accepted. Additionally, the town is planning a “bike rest stop” complete with picnic tables and a bike repair station in the historic center of Palmyra along the proposed bike route realignment that will give bicyclists a place to stop, rest, and take in the sites of historic Palmyra.

Actions: Staff is requesting that the Commission approves the resolution of support for the request to re-route US Bike Route 76 in conformance with the attached map.

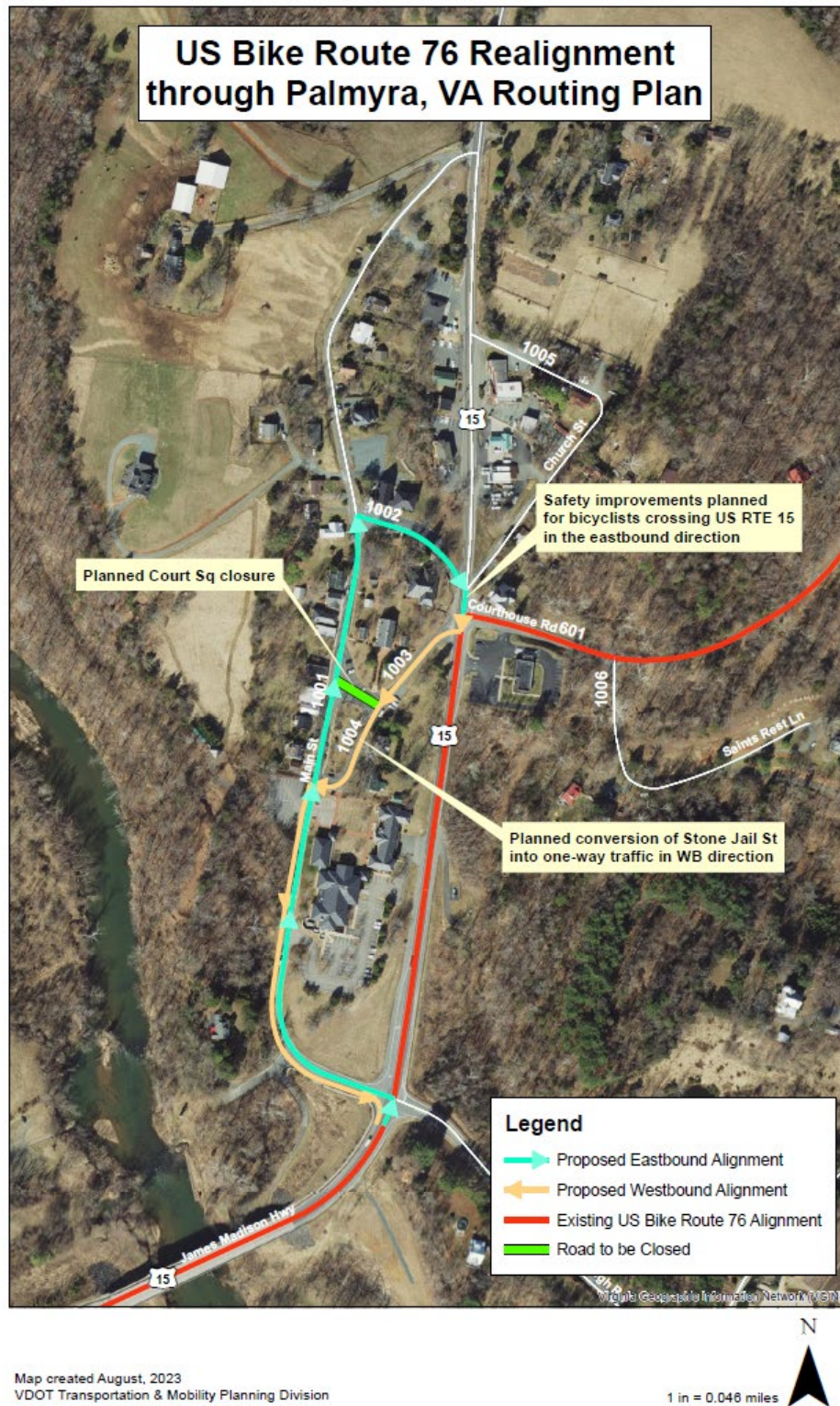


Figure 1. Map of Current and Proposed USBR 76