Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

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MEMORANDUM

To: Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) Policy Board
From: Taylor Lowery, Director of Transportation
Date: October 28, 2026
Subject: CA-MPO Agenda Overview and Staff Updates

Purpose: To review current agenda items under consideration and inform Policy Board members of CA-MPO programs and activities.

1. **Call to Order**
   a. Call to Order, Roll Call – *Chair, Ned Gallaway & Gorjan Gjorgjievski*
   b. *Remote participation of voting members – *Chair, Ned Gallaway*

2. **Matters from the Public** – *Chair, Ned Gallaway*
   a. Comments by the public are limited to three minutes per speaker.

3. ***General Administration** – *Chair, Ned Gallaway*
   a. *Review and Acceptance of the Agenda
   b. *Approval of the Draft August 26, 2026, Meeting Minutes

4. **New Business**
   a. FY27 Benchmarking Activity – *Taylor Lowery*
   CA-MPO staff will provide an overview of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in Virginia and defining characteristics of MPOs.

   b. SMART SCALE and Planning Studies Update – *Sandy Shackelford*
   VDOT staff will provide an overview of a cost estimate analysis completed for pre- and full applications submitted for SMART SCALE funding in the Culpeper District. VDOT staff will also provide an update on ongoing and upcoming planning studies in the CA-MPO region.

   c. *FY24-27 TIP Adjustment and Amendment – *Gorjan Gjorgjievski*
   CA-MPO staff will present a TIP adjustment and amendment request received from VDOT. The TIP adjustment is presented as informational, and the TIP amendment requires Policy Board action.

   d. BUILD Update for the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing – *Taylor Lowery*
   CA-MPO staff will provide an update on the BUILD application submitted for the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing preliminary engineering.

5. **Staff Updates**
   a. Staff Updates – *Taylor Lowery*

   - **STARS Studies: US 29 Corridor and US 29/250 Bypass at Emmet Street Interchange**
     Public surveys are scheduled for October 13th – October 27th. Once the surveys go live, links will be posted on the project webpage: https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/culpeper-district/stars-study-us-29-corridor-and-us-29250-bypass-at-emmet-street-interchange/. CA-MPO staff will share direct links to the surveys once available.

- **Avon Street Multimodal Improvements – Design Public Hearing**
  VDOT, in partnership with the City of Charlottesville, will hold a Design Public Hearing for the Avon Street Multimodal Improvements project on Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 5-7pm at Monticello High School. The project proposes construction of a shared use path along the east side of Avon Street between Avon Court and Druid Avenue, including a new pedestrian bridge over Moores Creek, upgrades to existing bus stops, and new crosswalks at key locations. Community members will be able to review proposed plans and environmental documentation, speak with VDOT representatives, ask questions, and provide comments. Comments may be submitted in-person at the public hearing, by email to john.rose1@vdot.virginia.gov (please reference "Avon Street multimodal improvements" in the subject line), or by mail to Mr. John Rose, P.E., VDOT project manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701. Comments must be emailed or postmarked by November 2, 2026.

  This project was submitted by the CA-MPO and funded in Round 5 of SMART SCALE. Public hearing display boards and detour plans can be found at https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/culpeper-district/avon-street-multimodal-improvements/.

- **Three Notched Trail Public Meeting**
  Albemarle County will be sharing the preferred alignment of the Three Notched Trail Shared-Use Path. There will be a presentation for meeting attendees to learn how the route was selected. Large maps of the proposed trail route will be on display, and there will be opportunities for public feedback. Albemarle County is mailing letters to landowners potentially affected by the final trail alignment, inviting them to attend the public meeting.

  Date: Monday, October 26th
  Time: 6:30 to 8:30pm
  Location: Henley Middle School
  5880 Rockfish Gap Turnpike
  Crozet, VA 22932

- **Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Fall Transportation Meeting**
  The CTB will conduct a public meeting in our area to give citizens the opportunity to provide comments on multimodal initiatives, projects, and programs across the Commonwealth. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), VDOT, and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will be in attendance. The Culpeper District Meeting will start at 2:00 p.m. on November 10, 2026, at the Culpeper District Auditorium, located at 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, Virginia. If you cannot attend the meeting, you may send your comments to the Infrastructure Investment Director at 1221 E. Broad Street, 2nd Floor, West, Richmond, VA 23219, or email to Six-YearProgram@vdot.virginia.gov. For transit and public transportation, you may send your comments to the Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA, 23219 or email to DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov. For more information, please visit https://ctb.virginia.gov/planning-funding/2026-fall-transportation-meetings/.

- **Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)**
  At the September 24, 2026, meeting, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) received two informational presentations: an overview of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and an annual update for the Afton Express commuter service. The Board also reviewed key policy questions. Materials from the meeting can be accessed at https://ca-mpo.org/carta/.

- **Commonwealth Transportation Board**
  At the September 15th workshop meeting of the CTB, the Board received presentations on the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP) and "Project Pipeline 101". At the October 13th workshop meeting, the Board received a SMART SCALE update that includes a screening and validation summary of all

applications submitted. The CTB also approved Project Pipeline study locations. Materials can be accessed at https://ctb.virginia.gov/meetings-news/agendas-and-meeting-minutes/2026/.

- **Freight Generator Site Mapping**
  Planning District Commissions were asked to help update VDOT's statewide freight generator database. TJPDC staff conducted an initial review of freight generator sites using locations pre-identified in the database and satellite imagery and have begun local staff outreach for validation. This data will inform scoring for the current round of SMART SCALE under the Economic Development factor.

- **Partnership for Accessible Transportation Help (PATH) Mobility Management Program**
  PATH is working to close out federal fiscal year 2025 grants and will prepare a year-end report on activities and impact of the program. Staff continue to hold transportation workshops and are working on a marketing campaign to advertise the Transportation Assistance Fund (TAF). PATH staff are also working to begin outreach to start new volunteer driver programs in the region with DRPT-supported grant funds.

- **DRPT October Agency Update**

6. **Other Business** – *Chair, Ned Gallaway*
   a. Policy Board Members Roundtable Updates

7. **Additional Matters From the Public** – *Chair, Ned Gallaway*
   a. Comments by the public are limited to three minutes per speaker.

8. **Adjourn** – *Chair, Ned Gallaway*
   a. **Next Regular Meeting** – December 16, 2026, at 4pm (All Virtual)

Virginia Department of Transportation

vdot.virginia.gov

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Route 742 (Avon Street) Multimodal Improvements, City of Charlottesville

Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026, 5-7 p.m.*
Monticello High School
1400 Independence Way, Charlottesville, VA 22902

**If postponed, the public hearing will be held on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026, at the same time and location.*

Public meeting

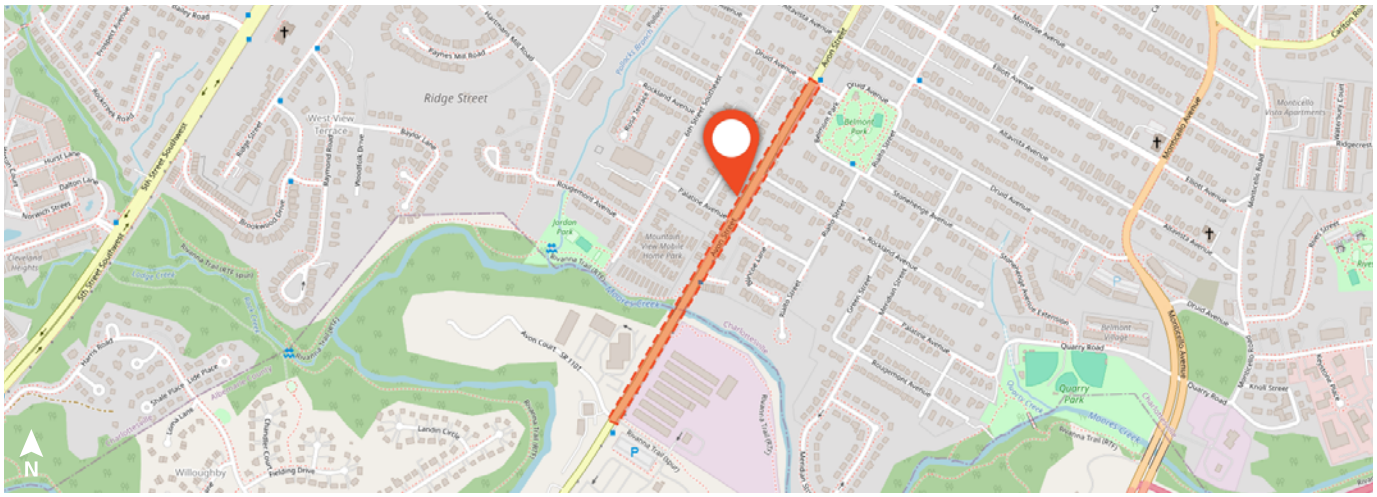
Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's design public hearing for a proposed project to construct multimodal transportation improvements along Avon Street between Druid Avenue and Route 1101 (Avon Court) in the City of Charlottesville.

This public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing agency, 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 public decisions on 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 handout for this meeting, and your input is encouraged. All oral and written comments received on the project will be included in a transcript for review by VDOT personnel, residents, and other interested parties.

Project location and overview



Estimated total cost: $18.3 million

Improvements: Construct multimodal transportation improvements along a segment of Avon Street.

Purpose: To make the Avon Street corridor safer, easier to travel, and more accessible for everyone, while supporting land use that works well with the transportation system.

Length and limits: Approximately 0.4 miles on Avon Street; From Druid Avenue to Avon Court.

Project description

VDOT proposes to construct transportation improvements with this project that enhance safety, mobility and access for all road users along a 0.4-mile-long segment of Avon Street. A shared-use path will be constructed along the east side of Avon Street, between Avon Court and Druid Avenue, to enhance connections with the Rivanna Trail.

A new pedestrian bridge will also be constructed over Moores Creek, parallel to Avon Street along the east side of the roadway. The shared-use path and pedestrian bridge will be owned by the City of Charlottesville.

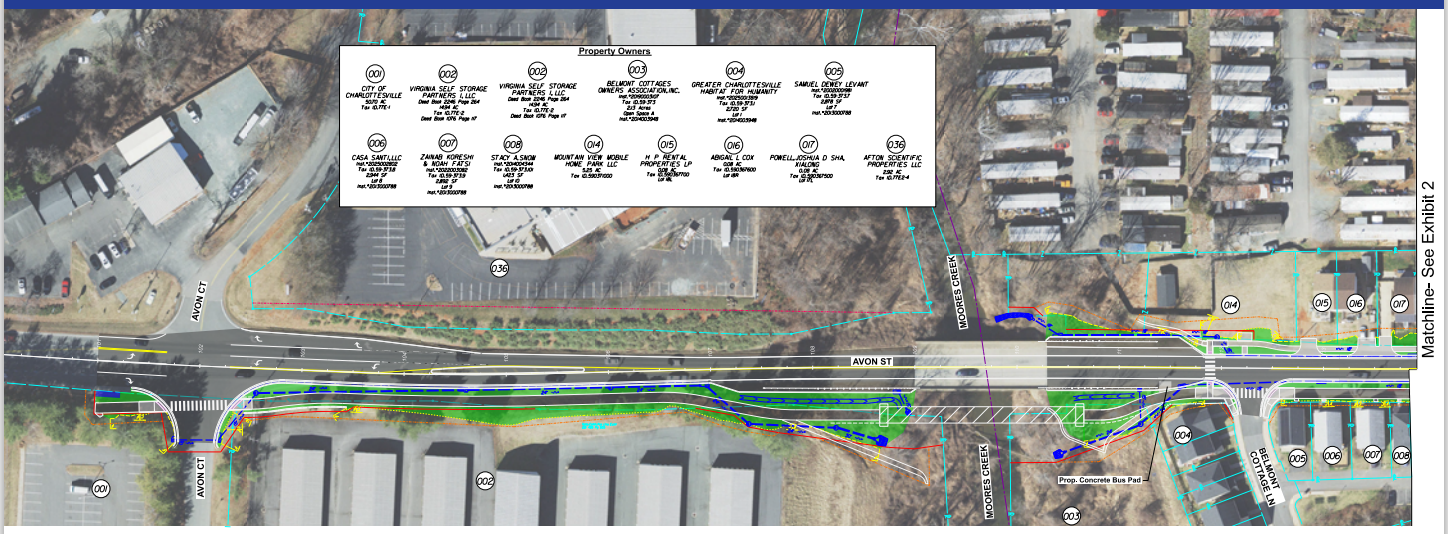
Existing bus stops will be upgraded and new crosswalks will be installed at key locations as part of this project.

This project proposes vehicular and pedestrian detours to maintain resident access, enhance safety, and accelerate construction. Avon Street will be temporarily closed between Palatine Avenue and Druid Avenue, with northbound traffic routed east and southbound traffic routed west via side streets.

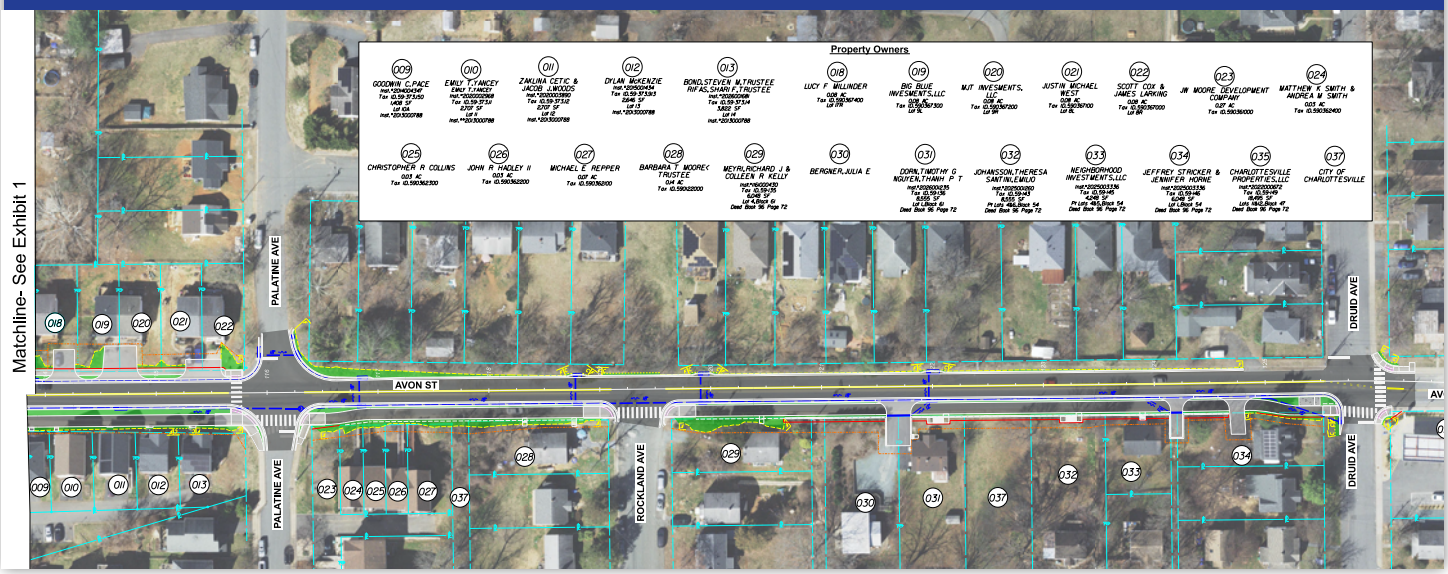
During Phase 2B of construction, the sidewalk on the east side of Avon Street will be closed from Belmont Cottage Lane to Palatine Avenue. The detour route will direct pedestrians to the sidewalk on the west side of Avon Street. During Phase 2C of construction, the sidewalk on the east side of Avon Street will be closed from Palatine Avenue to Druid Avenue. The detour route will direct pedestrians along Palatine Avenue and Druid Avenue to the sidewalk on the east side of Early Street. A temporary sidewalk will be installed to provide continuous pedestrian access.

The project was submitted by the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization and funded through SMART SCALE in Fiscal Year 2024. VDOT is assisting with project administration in partnership with the city.

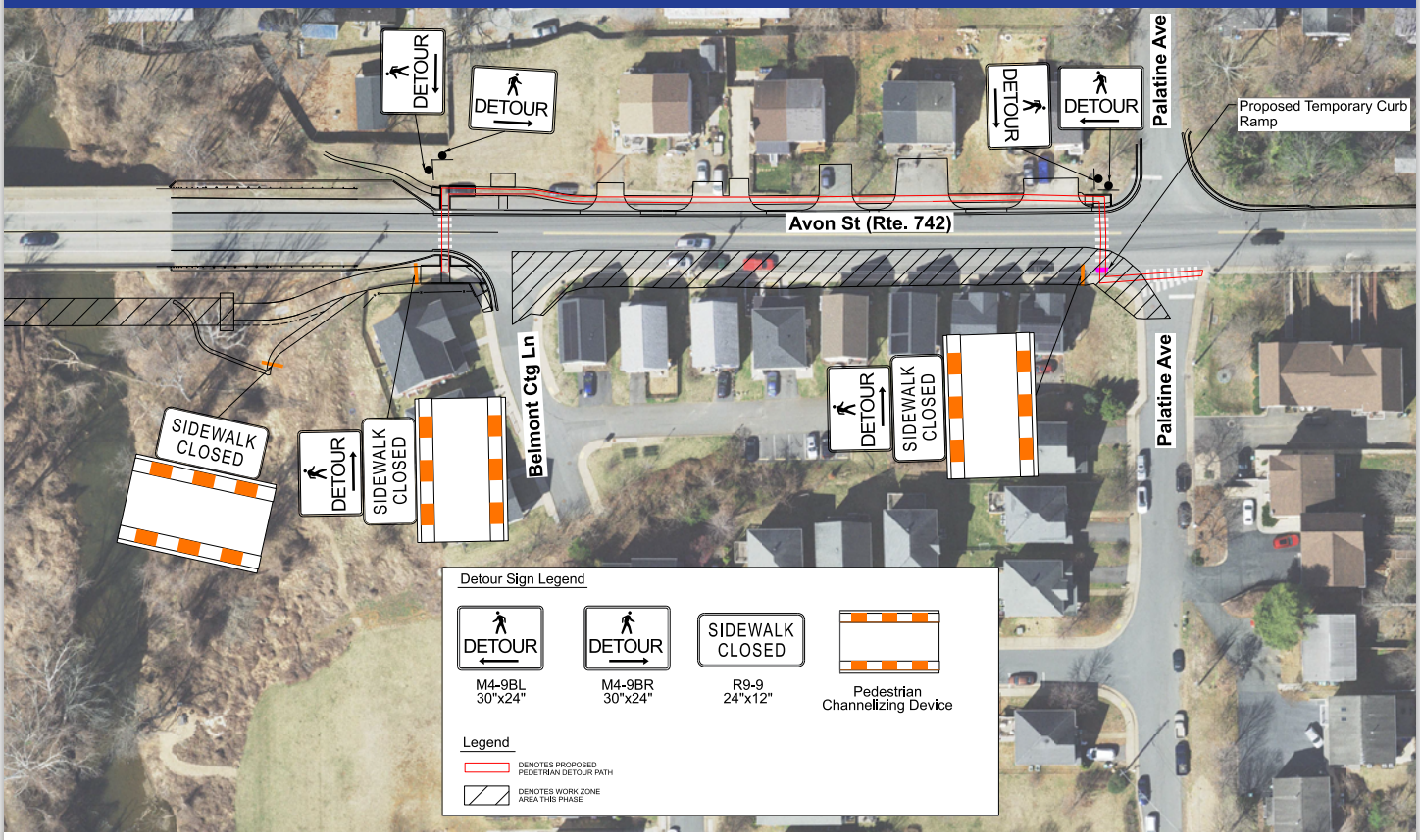
Aerial overview – Exhibit 1



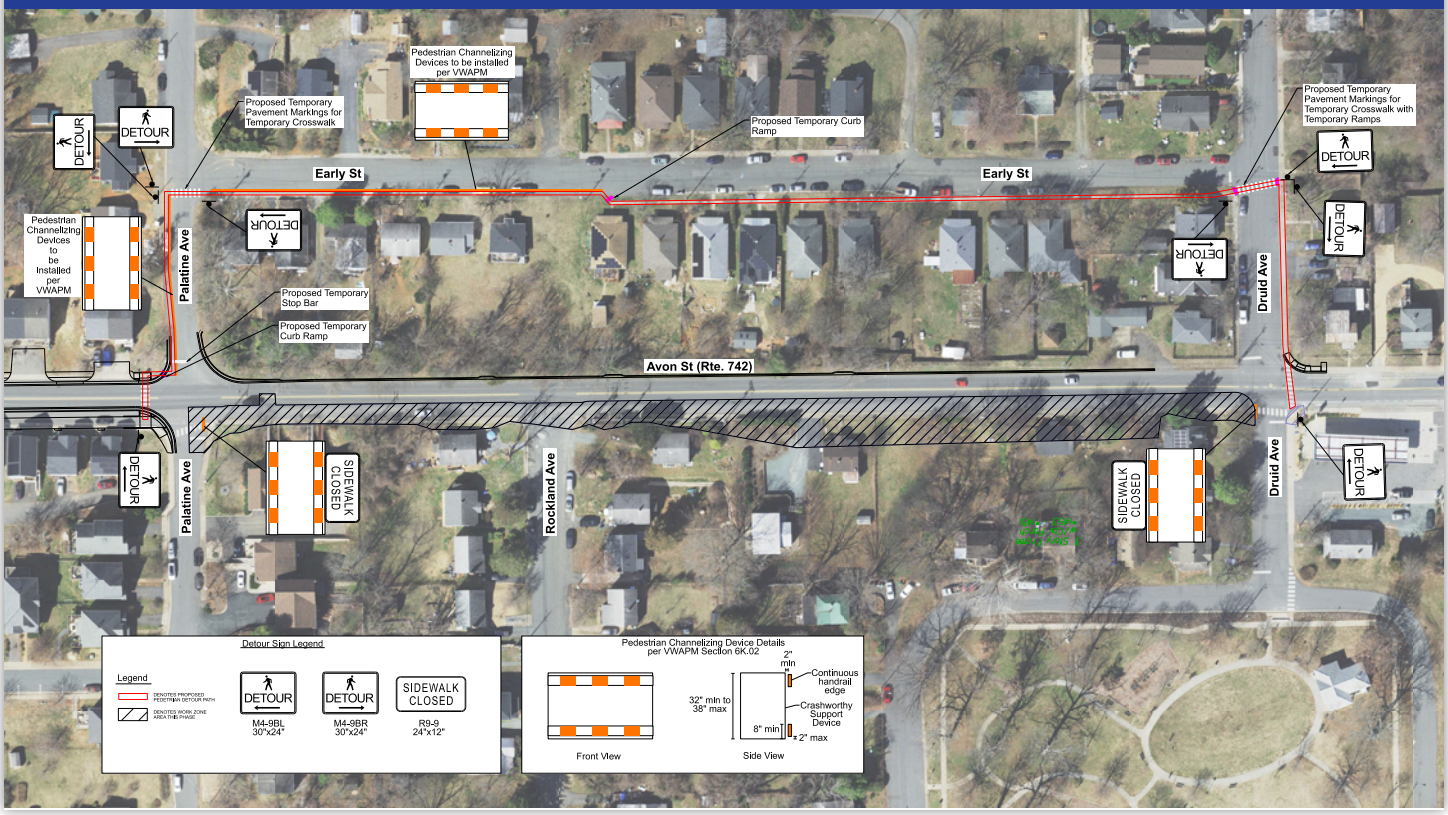
Aerial overview – Exhibit 2



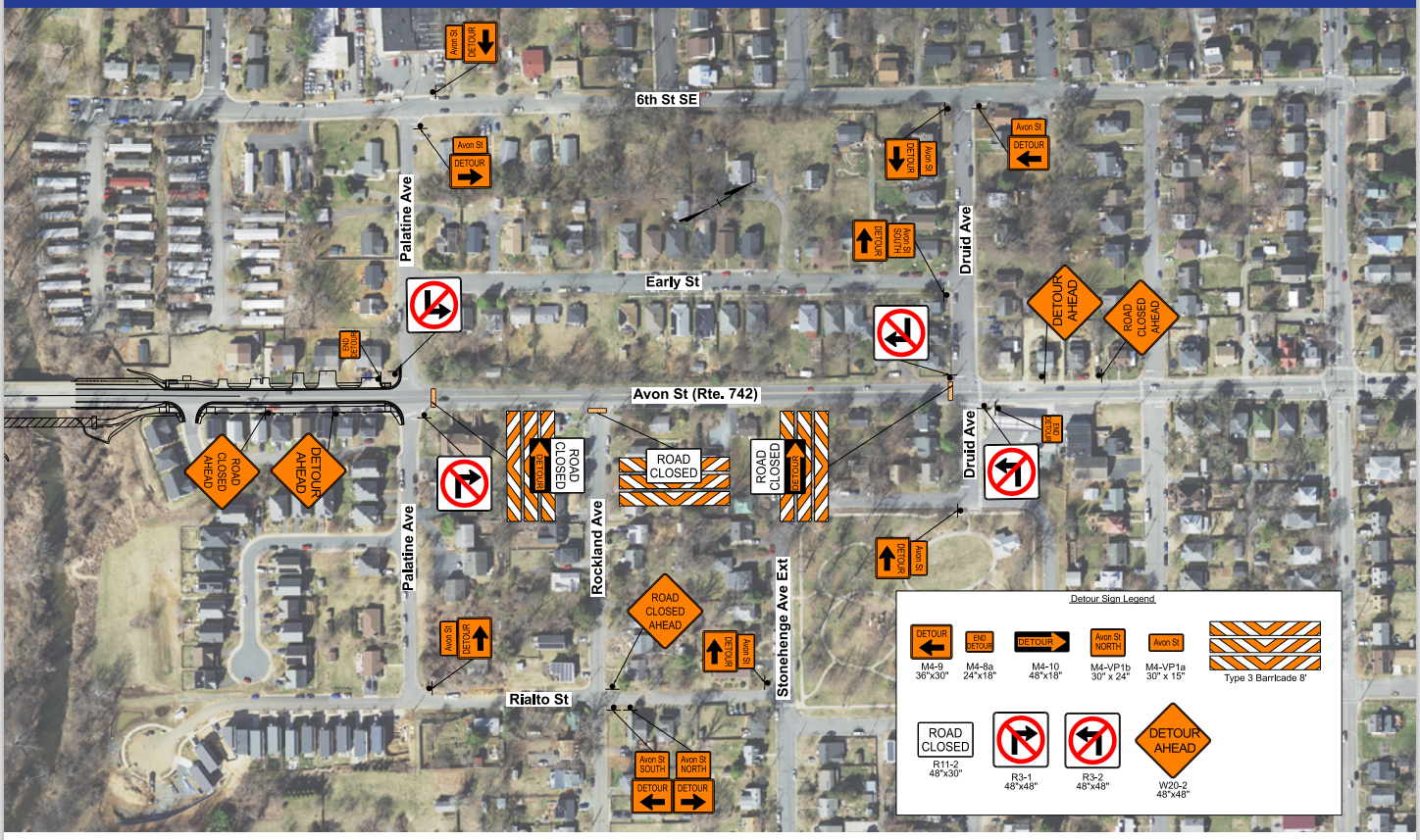
Pedestrian detour during phase 2B of construction



Pedestrian detour during phase 2C of construction

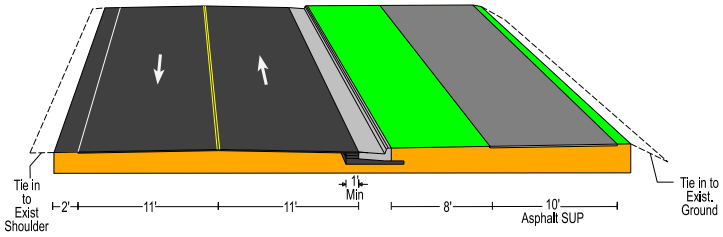


Vehicular detour

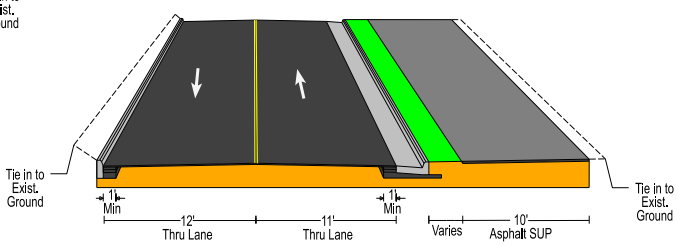


Typical sections

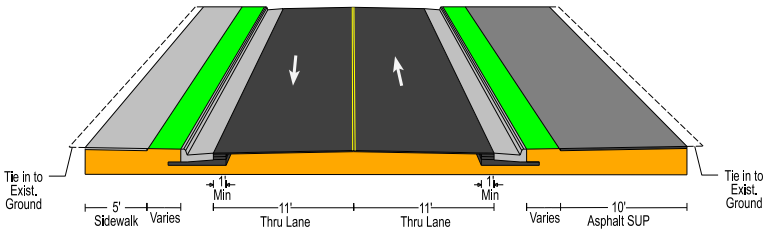
Avon Court to Belmont Cottage Lane



Palatine Avenue to Druid Avenue



Belmont Cottage Lane to Palatine Avenue



Estimated project cost

Estimated total cost:
$18,300,000

Engineering of roadway plans:
$2,100,000

Right of way acquisition and utility relocation:
$3,650,000

Construction:
$12,550,000

Cost is subject to change as the design is developed.

Environmental review

VDOT's Culpeper District Environmental office has performed environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity; to provide natural and historic resource agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development; and to identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project, and a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation.

The project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as part of the environmental review and approval processes required throughout project development and construction. All required environmental clearances and permits will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT's specifications and standard best management practices will protect the environment during construction.

Representatives are available to discuss this information and to answer questions.

Anticipated schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:

Public hearing: Oct. 22, 2026

Public comment period ends: Nov. 2, 2026

Right of way acquisition/utility relocation: Winter 2026

Project advertisement: Winter 2027

Construction start: Spring 2029

Construction completion: Spring 2030

Project schedule is subject to change.

Civil rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

If you need more information with regard to your civil rights on this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed on the back of this brochure.

TTY/TDD users can make a relay call by dialing 711.

Right of way

The construction of this project in the City of Charlottesville will not require the displacement of families, businesses, or non-profit organizations.

As the project is further developed, additional right of way for utility relocation or construction may be required beyond the proposed limits shown on the public hearing plans. The property owners will be informed of the exact location of the easements during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's Right of Way and Utilities brochure, "A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants," which is available on the **VDOT website** and from any VDOT Right of Way agent.

After the public hearing, information regarding right of way may be obtained from the Right of Way contact listed on the back of this brochure.

Get involved

Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing; by mail to Mr. John Rose, P.E., project manager, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701 or by email to **john.rose1@vdot.virginia.gov**. Please reference "Avon Street Multimodal Improvements" in the subject line.

Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT **by Monday, Nov. 2, 2026,** in order to be included in the public hearing record. After the public comment period closes, VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of this hearing.

This information, including the hearing summary, will be available for review at the VDOT Culpeper District office.

After all comments have been addressed, the information received as a result of the hearing will be presented to VDOT Culpeper District's project development engineer for consideration. If approval of the major design features is received for the project, it will move forward to the final design phase.

The public will be notified about traffic impacts and changes through **media reports**, Culpeper District's **Facebook group** and **X feed (@VaDOTCULP)**, and the **511 Virginia** website and mobile app.

More information about this project is available on VDOT's website by visiting **vdot.virginia.gov/avon-st**.

Contact information

Primary Contact: **John Rose, P.E.** *Project manager*	Culpeper District Location and Design	1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	540-618-4589 800-367-7623	**john.rose1@vdot.virginia.gov**
Scott Strickland *Right of way manager*	Culpeper District Right of Way	1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	540-829-7606 800-367-7623	**scott.strickland@vdot.virginia.gov**
Judy Page *Civil rights manager*	Culpeper District Office of Civil Rights	1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	540-829-7391 800-367-7623	**judy.page@vdot.virginia.gov**
Alexis Mehretab *Communications manager*	Culpeper District Office of Communications	1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	540-750-9045 800-367-7623	**alexis1.mehretab@vdot.virginia.gov**

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

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Virginia Department of Transportation

Avon Street Multimodal Improvements
City of Charlottesville
Design Public Hearing

***Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026, 5–7 p.m.**
Inclement weather date: Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026

Monticello High School
1400 Independence Way
Charlottesville, VA 22902
http://vdot.virginia.gov/avon-st

Find out about a project, in partnership with the City of Charlottesville, to construct a shared-use path along the east side of Route 742 (Avon Street) between Route 1101 (Avon Court) and Druid Avenue. A new pedestrian bridge will also be constructed over Moores Creek, parallel to Avon Street along the east side of the roadway. Existing bus stops will be upgraded, and new crosswalks will be installed at key locations.

Stop by between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to review proposed project plans and materials, ask questions, and offer comments. VDOT representatives will be present to answer questions about the project in an open-house format.

Review the proposed project plans and the environmental documentation in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion at the public hearing or at two VDOT office locations: VDOT's Culpeper District Office, located at 1601 Orange Road in Culpeper, VA 22701, 540-829-7500, or VDOT's Charlottesville Residency, located at 701 VDOT Way, Charlottesville, VA, 22911, 434-293-0011. Please call ahead to ensure the appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is provided in the project's environmental documentation.

Property impact information, relocation assistance policies, and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at the above addresses and will be available at the public hearing.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by **Nov. 2, 2026**, to Mr. John Rose, P.E., assistant district location and design engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701. You may also email comments to John.Rose1@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference "Avon Street multimodal improvements".

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact John Rose at the phone numbers listed above or TTY/DD 711.

State Project: 3407-M03-001
Federal Project: STP-5104(348)
UPC: 124020

DRPT Agency Update – October 2026

5303 Updates

FTA/FHWA has approved our 5303 TrAMS application.

There will be no updates to the Master Agreements this year; new contracts will be sent out in the coming months to MPOs for execution for 5303 funding and grants by October.

Governors Transportation Conference

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation is pleased to invite you to join us at the 2026 Governor's Transportation Conference (GTC), taking place Tuesday, October 13 through Thursday, October 15 in Richmond. We are excited to welcome Secretary of Transportation Nick Donohue as we host our first conference under this administration. GTC is an annual opportunity for leaders across Virginia's transportation community to reconnect, share new ideas, and engage in conversations shaping the future of mobility in the Commonwealth. You can learn more about the conference, including viewing the agenda as well as general and one-day admission costs, at **Home | Virginia Governor's Transportation Conference | virginiagtc.org**.

There are several sessions that will be of interest to the transit community. On Tuesday, Secretary Donohue will moderate an agency head panel, which will include DRPT Director Mariia Zimmerman as well as DJ Stadtler, the executive director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority. Afterward, Director Zimmerman will moderate a panel of national experts on transit-oriented development. On Wednesday, Director Zimmerman will moderate a breakout session with transit CEOs throughout the Commonwealth to share their success stories and issues impacting them.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to **Andy Wright, DPRT's Chief of External Affairs**.

Statewide TOD Study

The General Assembly has directed DRPT and DHCD to conduct a statewide review to plan, promote, and identify barriers and opportunities for transit-oriented development around existing and proposed transit and rail stations
The review will also investigate barriers to housing production and the potential for economic development.

The study will be complete by Dec. 15, 2026, with Phase 2 scheduled to begin in the 2027 calendar year.

Round one engagement – August 2026 – Complete ✓
Round two engagement – October 2026 – On Track

Ongoing Data Requests:

- Census/ACS data at tract level:

- Population (race, ethnic demo.)
- Economics (income, poverty rates)
- Housing Units (type, year built, vacancy, etc.)
- Transportation (mode of commute, vehicles per household, commute time, etc.)
- Land use coverage data, existing zoning
- Housing supply, subsidized housing unit availability

***Relevant reports, guidance, studies, and policies related to TOD. ***

State Rail Plan Update

DRPT's ongoing update to the State Rail Plan has held the following public engagement activities to date:

- Public and Stakeholder Surveys – March
- First round of stakeholder workgroups – May
- First public meeting – virtual on June 1st
- Second round of stakeholder meetings – July

Upcoming engagement will include:

- Second (2nd) virtual public meeting on **September 8th**
- Second (2nd) Public and Stakeholder survey in **September**
- Third (3rd) virtual public meeting – **November**
- Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) presentation of final plan – **December**

Project information and meeting registration can be found here: Virginia Statewide Rail Plan - DRPT

Send all public comments to DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov

Group TAM Plan

The draft TAM plan was released **July 1st** and accepted comments until **July 31st**. The final plan was released in mid-August with communication from DRPT to relevant MPOs for incorporation into TIPs/CLRPs. DRPT hosted a webinar on August 25th, and you can watch the recording **here.**

We are on track for an October 1st plan adoption, which will have an 180-day deadline for MPO performance target language.

Comments, Questions, and concerns can be directed to your DRPT planner or Grace Stankus – **Grace.Stankus@drpt.virginia.gov**