

Project Information

Project Name:	Rockland Road - Virginia Inland Port BUILD Grant	Federal Project#:	STP/F-0938(045)
Project Number:	0658-093-R13, M501, P101, R201	Project Type:	Construction
UPC:	112945	Charge Number:	UPC 112945, ACT 68X
Route Number:	658	Route Type:	Secondary
Project Limit--From:	0.268 miles west of Rte. 705	To:	0.053 mile east of Rte. 705
Additional Project Description:	This project would construct a bridge crossing/overpass over the Norfolk & Southern Railroad on Rockland Road (Route 658). The alignment would be shifted slightly north of the existing at-grade crossing. Fishnet Boulevard (Route 705) would also be realigned. This project is funded by a Maritime Administration (MARAD) BUILD grant received by the Virginia Inland Port and would be delivered as a Regular Advertisement and Award (RAAP) contract.		
Purpose And Need:	The purpose of this project is to improve safety, traffic flow, and access along Rockland Road by providing a grade separated crossing over the Norfolk and Southern Railroad. Currently, traffic stops for an indefinite period of time whenever train cars are loading or unloading at the Virginia Inland Port. The bridge/overpass would allow traffic along Rockland Road to flow freely at all times.		
District:	City/County:	Residency:	
Staunton	Warren	Edinburg	

Date CE level document approved by VA Division FHWA:

FHWA Contact:

Project in STIP: Yes **In Long Range Plan?** N/A-Outside MPO Area

CE Category 23 CFR 771.117: d13

Description of Category: Actions described in paragraphs (c) (26), (c)(27), and (c)(28) of this section that do not meet the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section. (e) Actions described in (c) (26), (c)(27), and (c)(28) of this section may not be processed as CEs under paragraph (c) if they involve: (1) An acquisition of more than a minor amount of right-of-way or that would result in any residential or non-residential displacements; (2) An action that needs a bridge permit from the U.S. Coast Guard, or an action that does not meet the terms and conditions of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nationwide or general permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; (3) A finding of “adverse effect” to historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act, the use of a resource protected under 23 U.S.C. §138 or 49 U.S.C. §303 (Section 4(f)) except for actions resulting in de minimis impacts, or a finding of “may affect, likely to adversely affect” threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act; (4) Construction of temporary access, or the closure of existing road, bridge, or ramps, that would result in major traffic disruptions; (5) Changes in access control; (6) A floodplain encroachment other than functionally dependent uses (e.g., bridges, wetlands) or actions that facilitate open space use (e.g., recreational trails, bicycle and pedestrian paths); or construction activities in, across or adjacent to a river component designated or proposed for inclusion in the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Logical Termini and Independent Utility: Yes

Next Phase of Funding Available? Yes

Comments: The complete project realignment would consist of a bridge/overpass that will span the railroad tracks; new connection tie ins; and full relocation of all utilities. Construction activities to complete the grade separation and intersection realignment would include full site preparation and a temporary detour that would be utilized for a large portion of the construction activities. Complete grading, drainage improvements, final paving and project seeding would also be implemented within the acquired right-of-way limits.

Typical Section: The project's typical section consists of two 12-foot lanes; 8-foot shoulders (4-foot paved); a variable 6 to 9-foot ditch; and 2:1 cut and fill slopes.

Structures: The proposed two-lane 220-foot long bridge would have a 3-span, 42-foot wide steel girder superstructure. The abutments and piers would be supported by steel piles driven into the ground to competent subsurface material.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Minority/Low Income Populations: Not Present **Disproportionate Impacts to Minority/Low Income Populations:** No

Source: VDOT Staunton District Environmental Staff; Environmental Justice Report dated 6/16/20; Google Earth; VDOT GIS

Existing or Planned Public Recreational Facilities: Present with impacts

Community Services: Not Present

Consistent with Local Land Use: Yes

Source: Scoping Responses provided by the Warren County Deputy County Administrator 03/06/20; 2009 Master Plan for the Fishnet Property

Existing or Planned Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Not Present

Source: 2009 Master Plan for the Fishnet Property

Socio-Economic Comments: VDOT has coordinated extensively with Warren County regarding proposed impacts to the Rockland Recreational Park, which would include the relocation of its entrance and the partial realignment of Fishnet Boulevard within it. These improvements are consistent with the 2009 Master Plan for the Fishnet Property; would not affect any of the park's recreational amenities; and would enhance both access and safety. As such, the impacts are not considered significant.

SECTION 4(f) and SECTION 6(f)

Use of 4(f) Property: Yes

4(f) Evaluations:

Selected Evaluation(1):

Acres of Use: 1.52

Type of Use: Permanent

Type of Resource: Public Park

Name of Resource: Rockland Recreational Park

Comments:

De Minimis: Yes

- The officials with jurisdiction have concurred that the transportation use of the Section 4(f) resource, together with any impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation or enhancement measures incorporated into the project, does not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the resource for protection under Section 4(f).
- Based on this FHWA intends to make a De minimis impact finding.

Source: VDOT Staunton District Environmental Staff; Google Earth; 2009 Master Plan for the Fishnet Property; Scoping Responses provided by Warren County Deputy County Administrator 03/06/20; Section 4(f) Concurrence Form signed by Warren County Administrator 07/02/20

6(f) Conversion: No **Acres of Conversion:**

4(f) Comments: This project would use 1.522 acres of the Rockland Recreational Park in order to accommodate the bridge/overpass, relocate the park entrance, and realign Fishnet Boulevard within it. No recreational amenities would be impacted. On June 17, 2020, a public notice for the proposed Section 4(f) impacts was posted in four local/regional newspapers. No comments were received during the 15-day public comment period. On July 2, 2020, the Official with Jurisdiction concurred that the impacts to Rockland Recreational Park would not adversely affect it and on July 2, 2020, FHWA made a de minimis impact finding for it.

6(f) Comments: No Section 6(f) resources are affected by this project.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Section 106 Effect Determination: NO EFFECT

Name of Historic Property: There are no historic properties present in the project area. **DHR Concurrence date:** 03/04/2020

MOA/PA Execution Date: None

Cultural Resource Comments: Phase I archaeological and architectural surveys were conducted in support of this project and no historic properties were identified. On March 4, 2020, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources concurred that the project would have no effect on historic properties.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Are Waters of the U.S. present? No

Linear Feet of Impact:

Federal Threatened or Endangered Species:

Virginia Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*)-Federal:FE-No Effect
Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*)-Federal:FE-May affect, Not Likely to adversely Effect
Madison Cave Isopod (*Antrolana lira*)-Federal:FT-May affect, Not Likely to adversely Effect
Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)-Federal:FT-May affect, Not Likely to adversely Effect
Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)-Federal:SOC-No Effect
Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus lucifugus*)-Federal:SOC-No Effect

100 Year Floodplain: Not Present

Regulatory Floodway Zone: Not Present

Public Water Supplies: Not Present

Are any tidal waters/wetlands present? No

Wetlands: Not Present

Tidal Acres of Impact:

Tidal Wetland Type:

Are any Non-Tidal Wetlands Present? No

Non Tidal Acres of Impact:

Non Tidal Wetland Type:

Total Wetland Acres of Impacts:

Are water quality permits required? No

Natural Resource Comments: On April 7, 2020, Section 7 coordination was completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determining that the project May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect the Madison Cave Isopod, Indiana Bat, and Northern Long-Eared Bat. No water quality permits would be required for this project.

AGRICULTURAL/OPEN SPACE

Open Space Easements: Not Present

Agricultural/Forestal Districts: Present with no impact

Source: Project Definition Form

Agricultural/Open Space Comments: No Agricultural/Forestal Districts or Open Space Easements would be affected by this project.

FARMLAND

NRCS Form CPA-106 Attached? Yes

Rating: 125

Alternatives Analysis Required? No

Source: VDOT Staunton District Environmental Staff

Farmland Comments: The project area is located within areas designated as having potential for prime farmland, however, none of the land to be converted is actively farmed and much of it is greenspace preserved by Warren County as Rockland Recreational Park.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive Species in the project area? Unknown

There is potential for invasive species to become established along the limits of disturbance of the project during and following construction. Section 244.02(c) of VDOT's Road and Bridge Specifications (2016) includes provisions intended to control noxious weeds (which includes non-native and invasive species).

While rights-of-ways are at risk from invasive species colonization from adjacent properties, implementing the above provisions would reduce or minimize potential for introduction, proliferation, and spread of invasive species. Additionally, the implementation of best management practices for erosion/sediment control and abatement of pollutant loading would minimize indirect impacts to adjoining communities and habitat by reducing excess nutrient loads that could encourage invasive species proliferation.

Invasive Species Comments: Standard VDOT seed mixes would be used.

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Status and Regional Conformity

Jurisdiction Description: This project lies in an area that is currently in attainment with all of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In accordance with 40 CFR Part 93, transportation conformity requirements are not applicable to the project since the project is not located in a nonattainment or maintenance area for any transportation-related criteria pollutant (i.e., ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide). The following VDEQ air pollution regulations must be adhered to during the construction of this project: 9 VAC 5-130, Open Burning restrictions; and 9 VAC 5-50, Article 1, Fugitive Dust precautions.

Exempt Status

The project is of the type that would be exempt from conformity, as outlined in section 93.126 of the transportation conformity regulation. Therefore, CO, PM, and MSAT analyses are not required for either conformity purposes (per EPA regulation) or NEPA (per FHWA guidance, and VDOT programmatic agreements with FHWA and corresponding protocols specified in the VDOT Resource Document.)

This safety project is exempt under 40 CFR 93.126- Railroad/Highway Crossing

NOISE

Noise Scoping Decision: Type I - Noise study required

Barriers Under Consideration? No

Noise Comments: Since the realignment of Fishnet Boulevard halves the distance to the nearest noise sensitive receptor it is a Type I project requiring a noise study. VDOT Environmental Division Noise Staff completed the noise study concluding that noise impacts are not predicted within the project corridor and noise mitigation is not warranted. See Memo to File dated February 20, 2020.

RIGHT OF WAY AND RELOCATIONS

Residential Relocations: No

Commercial Relocations: No

Non-Profit Relocations: No

Right of Way required? Yes

Fee Simple: 7.105

Temporary Easement: 1.684

Permanent Easement: 0.0941

Utility Easement:

Amount of Right of Way Acreage: 7.1991

Septic Systems or Wells: Not Present

Hazardous Materials: Not Present

Source: VDOT Staunton District Hazardous Materials Manager; VDOT Location and Design Division Staff; Warren County Scoping Responses 04/07/20; Google Earth; Project Plans

ROW and Relocations Comments: Additional easements for utility relocations may be required beyond the proposed right-of-way shown on the plans and considered in this CE. However, any additional right-of-way for utility relocations would not be significant. The project would require an approximately 7-mile detour of Rockland Road for the construction of the bridge/overpass and to provide access to Fishnet Boulevard. Additionally, Fishnet Boulevard would require a weekend/overnight closure to allow for tie in work. Under existing conditions trains unloading at the Virginia Inland Port regularly block and stop traffic indefinitely on Rockland Road, so the detour and temporary closures are not considered significant.

CUMULATIVE AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

Present or reasonably foreseeable future projects (highway and non-highway) in the area: No

Impact same resources as the proposed highway project (i.e. cumulative impacts): No

Indirect (Secondary) impacts: Yes

Source: Warren County Comprehensive Plan (Economic and Infrastructure Chapters); VDOT GIS search

Cumulative and Indirect Impacts Comments: This project is a top priority for both Warren County and the Virginia Inland Port. Upon its completion, traffic will freely flow on Rockland Road and it is conceivable that this could induce growth and development in the area. Per EM-NEPA-715, the indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action have been considered as part of this document. The impact causing activities proposed as part of the project are not great enough to result in measurable indirect effects to the surrounding environment. While there are past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects planned in the area, the proposed project would not contribute to the cumulative effects of these projects. See Note to File dated July 1, 2020.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Substantial Controversy on Environmental Grounds: No

Source: Warren County Scoping Response 03/06/20; Staunton District Project Manager

Public Hearing: Yes **Type of Hearing:** Combined Hearing

Other Public Involvement Activities: Yes

Type of Public Involvement: A public notice for the proposed Section 4(f) impacts to the Rockland Recreational Park was posted in four local/regional newspapers on June 17, 2020. No comments were received during the 15-day public comment period.

Public Involvement Comments: A combined Location and Design Public Hearing is planned for the winter of 2020. This project was Warren County's number one Smart Scale priority until it received the Build Grant funding from MARAD. The project is endorsed by the Board of Supervisors; is specified in the County's Transportation Plan which is the County's approved Comprehensive Plan; and it is also shown on the County's 2035 Small Urban Transportation Study which is mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan and has been adopted by the County. No public controversy is anticipated.

COORDINATION

State Agencies:

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Department of Historic Resources

Federal Agencies:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Local Entity:

Warren County Administrator

Other Coordination Entities:

National Maritime Administration (MARAD)
Virginia Inland Port (VIP)

This project meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.4 and 23 CFR 771.117 and will not result in significant impacts to the human or natural environment.