

Plantation Road Updates

January, 2013

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Greetings!

We have several updates to share with you as 2012 was a busy year for the Plantation Road project and 2013 looks promising as well!

Transportation Enhancement and Transportation Alternatives Programs

Transportation Enhancement Program Award

The Commonwealth Transportation Board awarded Roanoke County \$341,000 in Federal SAFETEA-LU Transportation Enhancement Grant funds for the Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project in June, 2012. When combined with the \$85,260 required local match, \$426,260 is available for Phase 1 of the project. Phase 1 includes the following improvements:

- Landscaped medians and left turn lanes;
- Shared use paths on Walrond Drive, Enon Drive and Hitech Road;
- Entrance landscaping; and
- Hollins community identification sign.



2011 Plantation Application (click to view)

The [project website](#) includes the entire 2011 application, the 2011 presentation and the 2009 application.

Transportation Alternatives Program Application

When Federal MAP-21 legislation effective July, 2012, replaced the previous SAFETEA-LU legislation, the Transportation Enhancement Program became the Transportation Alternatives Program. The programs are similar in their composition and funding is still available from the Commonwealth Transportation Board and is administered through VDOT.

County Staff is working on a new application package for submission by February 1. This request will be for funding of about half of Phase 2 which includes:

- Sidewalks;
- Street trees in landscaped strips;
- Pedestrian-scaled lighting;
- Bicycle facilities;
- Shared use path along Plantation Road; and
- Storm drains, curb and gutter.

The total cost of Phase 2 is \$2,449,946. In 2012, additional balances were transferred to the Plantation Road project from other VDOT/Roanoke County Revenue Sharing projects. \$1,316,841 of this funding will be used for Phase 2, leaving a balance of \$1,133,105. When the 20 percent required local match of \$282,395 is subtracted, \$850,710 will be requested for Transportation

Alternatives funding. The local match is comprised of \$218,171 in potential right-of-way donation, \$32,500 in Roanoke County In-Kind Contributions of staff time and inspections and \$31,724 is the remaining match funding needed.

View a [presentation](#) on the Plantation Road Transportation Alternatives Program Application which summarizes the current request and progress made since the 2011 application submission.



*2013 Plantation Presentation
(click to view)*

Plantation Road Project Support

If you so choose, you may address a letter of support for the Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project to Clay Goodman, County Administrator, by Tuesday, January 22nd, at the following address:

B. Clayton Goodman, III, County Administrator
5204 Bernard Drive
P.O. Box 29800
Roanoke, Virginia 24018

You are encouraged to come speak about the project at the Board of Supervisors public hearing as well:

Tuesday, January 22nd, at 7 p.m.
Roanoke County Administration Center, First Floor Board Meeting Room
5204 Bernard Drive

Contact [Megan Cronise](#) for more details at (540) 772-2068 ext. 282.

New Hollins Greenway



Hollins Greenway Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, October, 2012

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 6, 2012, to open a new 2.5-

mile-long segment of the Tinker Creek Greenway. The trail is located primarily on Hollins University property and stretches from a trailhead parking lot off of Plantation Road north of Interstate 81 to the Carvins Cove Boat Landing and over 40 miles of trails at Carvins Cove Natural Reserve. Representatives from Roanoke County, Hollins University, Roanoke Valley Greenways and several other community organizations participated in the ceremony.

Pictured in the above image are (from left) Gary Jarrell, Roanoke County Planning Commission (Hollins); Steve Buschor, Roanoke City Director of Parks and Recreation; Mark McClain, Greenway Commission Chairman; Richard Flora, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors (Hollins); Nancy Gray, Hollins University President; Bill Tanger (and Juanita Tanger behind Richard Flora), Property Owners who donated right-of-way for the Greenway; Kelsey DeForest, Hollins University Student and SGA President; Sarah Baumgardner, Western Virginia Water Authority; Thomas Barron, Hollins University Board of Trustees Chair; Mim Farmakis, Hollins University Board of Trustees and Building and Grounds Committee Chair; Bill Gordge, Pathfinders for Greenways.



*Tinker Creek Greenway Map
(Click for larger PDF)*

Williamson Road Landscaping Project



June Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, pictured (from left) Megan Cronise, Roanoke County; Russ Barksdale, Friendship; Charlotte Moore, Roanoke County Supervisor; Wendy Jones, WRABA; Tara Pattisall, Roanoke County and Danna Owen, Friendship

The Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project includes enhancing the entrances to the Plantation Road corridor at Williamson Road and at Interstate 81. Friendship Retirement Community and the Williamson Road Area Business Association (WRABA) decided to sponsor the Williamson Road landscaping in 2011 and utilized the VDOT Comprehensive Roadside Management Program to accomplish this goal.

After obtaining approval from VDOT, Friendship and WRABA spruced up the existing landscaping, added new plants and installed two recognition signs to signify their commitment to maintaining these areas for five years. A ribbon cutting was held in June, 2012, to showcase the improvements made.

The two triangles located at the north end of Plantation Road at the Interstate 81 northbound ramps are available for sponsorship as well. Please contact County staff if your business is interested in completing and maintaining a similar landscaping project.

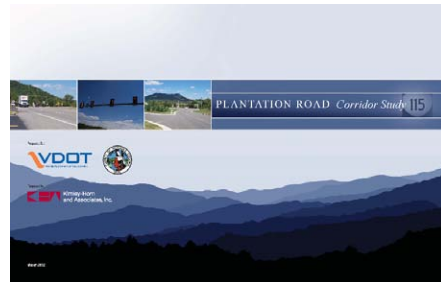


New landscaping, recognition sign and trash can at the Williamson Road/Plantation Road intersection (northeast side)

Plantation Road Corridor Study

The [Plantation Road Corridor Study](#), conducted by Kimley-Horn and Associates for VDOT, was completed in May, 2012. The long-range planning study will also be useful in the design of the corridor as it identified several conditions that need further analysis:

- Crash data indicates two problem areas:
 - McDonald's/Days Inn/Exxon (11 crashes in 30 months)
 - Lila Drive (7 crashes in 30 months)
- Traffic signal warrants:
 - Lila Drive (today)
 - Interstate 81 Southbound On- and Off-Ramps (by 2035)
 - Walrond Drive (by 2035)



*Plantation Road Corridor Study
(click to view)*

Traffic Signals

Pedestrian Signals

As part of a VDOT/Roanoke County Revenue Sharing project, pedestrian accommodations are being added to the Williamson Road and Friendship Lane/Gander Way traffic signals in the next few months.

The Williamson Road/Plantation Road traffic signal is being upgraded with four push-button, count-down walk signals and new crosswalk striping.

The Friendship Lane/Gander Way traffic signal will receive two push-button, count-down walk signals, new crosswalk striping and two flashing, yellow arrow left turn signals for left turns onto Friendship Lane and Gander Way.

Lila Drive Traffic Signal

Several indicators at the Lila Drive intersection including traffic signal warrants, crash data and sight distance issues have led to a change in the project scope. VDOT has agreed that a traffic signal with pedestrian accommodations is needed at Lila Drive and that it can be physically installed. The signal must be privately funded, however, since Lila Drive is a private street. Since this new signal will have pedestrian accommodations, the other mid-block crossings at Hitech Road and at Walrond Drive have been removed from the Plantation Road concept plan.



Plantation Road and Lila Drive Intersection, 2009

Other Updates

Surveying Complete

Initial surveying of Plantation Road was completed last summer and the detailed set of "As-Built" plans is a great foundation for future design work for the Plantation Road project.

Design Consultants

Roanoke County is currently negotiating with a consulting firm to provide design, engineering and outreach services for the Plantation Road project.

Thank you for your interest in the Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner



Visit the Roanoke County website:

www.roanokecountyva.gov

Visit the Roanoke County Economic Development website:

www.yesroanoke.com

Visit the [Plantation Road Project](#) and the [Hollins Area Plan](#) webpages



Try it FREE today.