

Community Developments and Plantation Road Project Update



Upcoming Meetings

[Planning Commission](#)

Sept. 16 @ 6 p.m.
Oct. 7 @ 4 p.m.*
Oct. 21 @ 6 p.m.

[Board of Supervisors](#)

Sept. 9 @ 3 p.m.
Sept. 23 @ 3 p.m.*
Oct. 14 @ 3 p.m.
Oct. 28 @ 3 p.m.*

* Indicates a meeting
with public hearings
beginning at 7 p.m.

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Like *Roanoke County Planning Services* on Facebook for current updates on community meetings, development projects, traffic notices and more!

Enjoy this special edition of Community Developments coupled with an update on the Plantation Road Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project!

Plantation Road Project Update

June 24th Board of Supervisors Work Session

County Staff updated the Board of Supervisors on the progress of the Plantation Road Project. Topics reviewed included the January 30th Citizen Information Meeting, changes to the proposed sidewalks and shared use paths, phasing, related future projects, potential funding sources for the future projects and alternative design scenarios. It was the consensus of the Board to continue with the original project scope and to continue to seek funding for related future projects.

Williamson Road and Plantation Road Intersection Pedestrian Signals Complete

Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Program funds were awarded in Fiscal Year 2011 to construct pedestrian signals at the intersection of Williamson Road and Plantation Road. The signalization project began in May and was completed in August. The intersection now features four, push-button, count-down signals and crosswalks.



Williamson Road/Plantation Road Pedestrian Signals

Project Phasing

The project has been broken into construction phases with the first phase including a shared use path from Williamson Road to Walrond Drive (west side), sidewalks from Walrond Drive to Gander Way (west side), sidewalks from Williamson Road to Friendship Lane (east side) with curb, gutter, street trees and pedestrian lights alongside the sidewalks and shared use path. Phase One will be advertised for construction in October, 2015, with construction anticipated to begin in early 2016.

Additional funding is needed to construct the remaining improvements. It is anticipated that Roanoke County will apply for Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding for these improvements (see below for additional information.)

August 26th Wells Fargo Team Member Network Diversity Fair

Roanoke County Planning and Economic Development Staff attended the Wells Fargo Team Member Network Diversity Fair at the Plantation Road facility on August 26th to share information about the Plantation Road Project with Wells Fargo employees. The map and Lila Drive rendering on display generated a lot of comments and interest! Thank you to Wells Fargo for the opportunity to spread the word about the Plantation Road Project.



Melinda Cox, Existing Business Manager, Discussing the Plantation Project with a Wells Fargo Employee

September 26th Regional Surface Transportation Program Application Deadline

Roanoke County anticipates applying for Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding for the following Plantation Road projects:

- Lila Drive traffic signal including pedestrian signals, crosswalks, entrance relocations and reconstruction of a portion of Lila Drive;
- Reconstruction of Friendship Lane with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations;
- Replacement of the Friendship Lane/Carvin's Creek bridge; and
- Remaining Plantation Road Project improvements to include sidewalks, curb and gutter, street trees and pedestrian lights to Days Inn and McDonald's; side street bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and pedestrian signals at the Friendship Lane/Gander Way/Plantation Road intersection.

The RSTP funding source requires no local match. Awards will be announced next Spring.

Roanoke County also intends to apply for MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program funds by November 1st. This program requires a 20 percent local match and awards will also be announced next Spring.

Fall Design Public Hearing

The Design Public Hearing for the project will be scheduled for late October or early November. This meeting will be similar to the Citizen Information Meeting held in January, 2014, and will include 60 percent plans for the project. More details will follow soon.

Questions

Please contact [Megan Cronise](#), Principal Planner, at (540) 772-2068 x 282 or [David Holladay](#), Planning Administrator, at (540) 772-2068 x 227 with any questions about the Plantation Road Project.

Planning Commission Update

August 5th

The Planning Commission toured properties keeping residential chickens.

August 19th

The Planning Commission reviewed the completed Richfield Retirement Community Commercial Matching Grant project and the first two chapters of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

August 26th, Board of Supervisors

The petition of [Corporate Property Services, Inc.](#) to obtain a special use permit for a restaurant, drive-in or fast food in a C-1, Low Intensity Commercial, District, on approximately 1.3825 acres located at 3814 Challenger Avenue, Hollins Magisterial District, was reconsidered and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

September 2nd

Two public hearings were held:

1. The petition of [Ibnsina Karkenny](#) to obtain a special use permit to expand the square footage of an existing convenience store by 10 percent or greater in a AV, Agricultural/Village Center, District, on approximately 1.15 acres, located at 2938 Jae Valley Road, Vinton Magisterial District. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application to the Board of Supervisors.*
2. The petition of [Tracy Bryant](#) to amend special use permit conditions to operate a garden center in a AVS, Agricultural/Village Center, District with a special use permit on a 0.763-acre portion of an approximately 1.94-acre parcel, located at 7796 Bent Mountain Road, Windsor Hills Magisterial District. The amended conditions would allow for the addition of a propane filling station to the existing garden center. *The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application to the Board of Supervisors.*

September 16th

A presentation will be given on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Dark Sky in relation to site lighting. Residential Chicken Keeping will also be discussed.

October 7th

No applications have been submitted for this meeting date. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) applications submitted to the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for grant funding will be reviewed.

West Main Street Sidewalk Construction Underway in Glenvar



West Main Street Sidewalk at Richfield Retirement Community

Virginia Department of Transportation contractors are constructing sidewalks on a portion of West Main Street. As part of the [Route 11/460 Widening Project](#), the new sidewalk along the north side of the highway will connect to existing sidewalk in the [City of Salem](#), near [Fort Lewis Elementary School](#). The new sidewalk will continue past [Richfield Retirement Community](#), and end at Daugherty Road, in front of the new [Glenvar Library](#).

As originally designed, the 11/460 Widening Project did not include sidewalks. However, the project did include curb ramps at intersections, and right of way space behind the curb for sidewalks. Funds from the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) supported the addition of the new sidewalk. Virginia Department of Transportation engineers designed the new sidewalk, and added the construction to the existing project.

Roanoke County plans to seek additional RSTP funds to continue the sidewalk construction. Additional sidewalk would extend along the north side, from Daugherty Road to Fort Lewis Church Road, and along the south side from Salem to Technology Drive. Pedestrian signals would be added to existing signalized intersections.

October 4th: Fall Waterways Cleanup

Please join the [Clean Valley Council](#) for the 14th Annual [Fall Waterways Cleanup](#) on **Saturday, October 4th, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**



Pick your favorite spot to clean and we will provide the supplies! Afterwards, enjoy a celebratory picnic at Wasena Park from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This is a "Surf and Turf" event so you may choose to work in your neighborhood, park or special site if you can't clean up a stream or river. Thanks in advance for being part of the team that keeps our Valley, streams and rivers clean!

Individuals and groups welcome! [Register today](#) or call (540) 345-5523. [Email us](#) with questions.

October 6th - 12th: Williamson Road Restaurant Week

Restaurant Week October 6 - 12



Save the Dates for Williamson Road's second Restaurant Week!

Enjoy Restaurant Week specials at your favorite Williamson Road restaurants starting on Monday, October 6th, and ending on Sunday, October 12th, with a Wine and Art Festival at Hollins Plaza, 8201 Williamson Road. Contact the [Williamson Road Area Business Association](#) at (540) 362-3293 for more information.

What is a Zoning Permit and Do I Need One?

Are you aware that a Zoning Permit is required for the erection, construction, reconstruction, moving, adding to, or alteration of any structure, or the establishment of any land use (except patios and fences)?



Here are some helpful links to get you started:

[Plot Plan Template link](#)
[Residential Building Permit Application](#)
[Setback Compliance Certification](#)

All Zoning Permits issued shall be valid for six (6) months, unless the structure, use or activity for which the permit was issued has commenced.

Please call 540-772-2065 x 221 for additional information.

Get Started with Carpooling

Anyone who thinks back to their earliest science classes will recall the astounding fact that most matter is empty space, because the atoms that form everything in the universe are themselves mostly empty - comprised of a few particles in their nucleus, some electrons zipping in orbit around that nucleus, and that's pretty much it. Various forces hold atoms together and to each other, but between those nuclei and electron orbits is nothing but space.

Now, imagine a tractor-trailer accident on I-81 causing a 5-mile traffic jam. Flying over the scene in a helicopter, you'd see a solid ocean of idling cars and trucks, bumper to bumper from exit 143 in Roanoke all the way past Salem filling two travel lanes. In fact, you'd be looking at over 7,000 cars taking up 20% of the interstate between Roanoke and Christiansburg.



Interstate 81

And you'd mostly be looking at empty space.

In Roanoke, the vast majority of commuters drive alone. Each driver - the nucleus of the car, if you will - is only taking up 1/4 of total seat capacity at best, even less in the case of large SUVs or

minivans. If you look at that same traffic jam in terms of people rather than cars, a backup that might take hours to clear and fills a fifth of the interstate, actually involves so few people they could all fit in the Roanoke Civic Center with plenty of room to spare.

All those empty seats present an enormous opportunity to improve the capacity, efficiency, and lifespan of our roads, and can be realized without investing in any new technologies or transportation systems. In fact, the best, easiest solution is an old-fashioned one: carpooling.

Through [RIDE Solutions](#) regional carpool matching database, commuters have access to a free, simple way to find others who share their work hours and basic route. Commuters simply provide a few pieces of information about their commute through the website, and RIDE Solutions does the work of finding likely matches - including using regional park-and-rides and other meeting points to find potential carpool partners through a process called "corridor matching." Employees control how their data is shared with others, and there's no requirement to form a carpool with anyone on a given match list. Plus, their Guaranteed Ride Home program ensures that commuters are never stuck without a ride if something unexpected happens.

Though anyone can access the carpool matching system at ridesolutions.org, employers contribute significantly to the success of the program. Employees are more likely to take advantage of carpooling if supported by their bosses and HR departments, and businesses can implement simple incentives such as preferred parking spaces and parking buy out that can be a win-win for your employees and your organization.

The [RIDE Solutions Workplace](#) program can help your business implement a carpool program - and more - absolutely free of charge. For information on becoming a Workplace partner, visit ridesolutions.org/employers or contact Program Director [Jeremy Holmes](#) or 540-342-9393.

Have another great month!

Sincerely,

Megan Cronise, AICP
Principal Planner