

BELMONT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT STATUS REPORT – July 2020

The Belmont Bridge project has made considerable progress over the last year with a focus on coordination with our various, institutional stakeholders – the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), CSX and Buckingham Branch Railroads, private utility companies and departments across the City. The project team has been drafting various documents and agreements to ensure the direction we have received from the public, City Council and the Board of Architecture will be accomplished during construction. The status and additional details of these coordination efforts are listed below. We anticipate finalization of these documents for a Fall 2020 bid advertisement with construction beginning early Spring 2021.

Coordination details and status:

- City Council – An appropriation memo to apply the remaining federal and state transportation dollars allocated to this project will be presented during a Public Hearing at the August 3rd City Council meeting.
- Board of Architectural Review – An update will be provided regarding the lighting plan and the special provision for the concrete panels for the retaining wall system for advisory review; as requested in the Certificate of Appropriateness issued on August 20, 2019.
- FHWA / VDOT / City Staff Review – Another round of comments was recently issued with the last remaining items to be addressed over the next month. These comment further refine the final design – in regards to ensuring proper cross slopes, location of handholes in light fixtures, construction signage, et cetera.
- Right of Way – Acquisition of property rights is complete with the three, impacted property owners. An offer has been presented to the railroad for their consideration for an adjusted, aerial easement and temporary construction easements.
- Railroad – The Construction Agreement has been readied for signature granting an exception to remove the railroad protective/pedestrian fencing on bridge with only the camera locations still under review.
- Private Utility Companies – Plans with Dominion Energy (3 phases) and CenturyLink, the two utilities relocating or establishing utility poles with the project, have been conceptualized and are being readied for agreements and cost estimates. Utility relocation will occur during construction in a staged approach to maintain vehicular and pedestrian access through the project area.

One plan detail we are also finalizing is the construction of a temporary parking lot consisting of 60 spaces that will be open to the public to replace some of the on-street parking and parking lot spaces being removed during construction. Signage directing the public to the lot and its entrance off of South Street are still under development. Final design will be displayed at the next Community Meeting to review schedule and phases of construction once a contractor is in place.



Project Work Activities

Work in Process

- Preparing for BAR update
- Finalizing plans and supporting documents

Upcoming Work (now-October 2020)

- Executing agreements with Railroad and Private Utility Companies
- Finalizing construction specifications and certifications for advertisement
- Requesting authorization to advertise for construction from the VDOT

Project Overview

The bridge replacement project is striving to address four specific needs:

- 1) to improve safety for the traveling public;
- 2) to provide pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations;
- 3) to maintain connectivity with the surrounding community, neighborhoods and business activity centers; and
- 4) to accommodate vehicular traffic volumes.

The preferred concept proposes to address these needs with the following approved major design features:

- A replacement bridge that is shortened to approximately 236 LF in length and maintains the existing 62' width
- Roadway Section on Avon/9th Street between Levy Avenue and East Market Street intersections will consist of one travel lane in each direction, a protected 7' wide bike lane in each direction and a 10' wide pedestrian sidewalk in each direction. Turning lanes will be added/lengthened at each intersection to maximize efficiency of each signal while maintaining traffic flow.
- "Old" Avon Street will be closed to vehicular traffic between Levy Avenue and East South Street to improve the function and safety of the Levy Avenue/9th Street intersection for all modes of travel while creating a pedestrian plaza within the former roadway.
- Enhanced pedestrian lighting and landscaping will be provided along 9th Street between Levy Avenue and East Market Street.
- New sidewalk will be constructed along neighboring streets to the project corridor and landscaping will be installed – on East South Street, Avon Street, Graves Street and Water Street.
- Additional new proposed pedestrian features include:
 - a pedestrian passageway under 9th Street south of the railroad,
 - a reconstructed staircase connecting "Old" Avon Street to 9th Street,
 - new staircases from 9th Street to Water Street on either side of the bridge north of the railroad and a mezzanine to cross 9th Street under the bridge

Website

For more information about the Belmont Bridge Replacement project, please visit the [project website](#).