

Forest Hill Avenue Improvement Project

December 2009



Thank you for your participation in this important road improvement project. This fact sheet contains general information about the project, the public meeting schedule and public comment opportunities. We invite you to learn more about the project and get involved in the planning process. Visit the project website for updates: www.ForestHillProject.com

About the Project

This project is being conducted by the City of Richmond to consider improvements along a one-mile section of Forest Hill Avenue from west of Powhite Parkway to east of Hathaway Road. The City is examining ways to improve neighborhood access, reduce accidents, add landscaping, lighting and pedestrian facilities, improve drainage and promote pedestrian and bike use. Currently in the preliminary design and study phase, this phase will take approximately one year to complete.

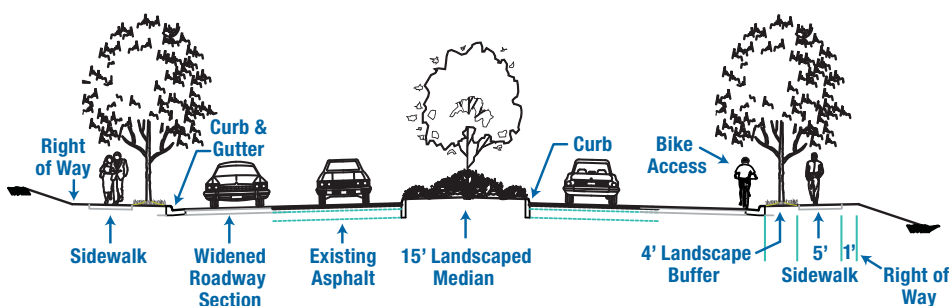
Why Improve Forest Hill Avenue?

Forest Hill Avenue is considered an urban minor arterial road that serves regional traffic and the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses. It connects two major limited access highways, the Powhite Parkway and Chippenham Parkway and includes a significant business corridor. This busy roadway carries an average daily traffic volume in excess of 26,000 vehicles. Traffic projections over the next few years indicate that the traffic volumes will continue to increase along the roadway severely impacting travel if no improvements are made. With the recommended enhancements, the new roadway could accommodate significantly more traffic with a 22% reduction in accidents.

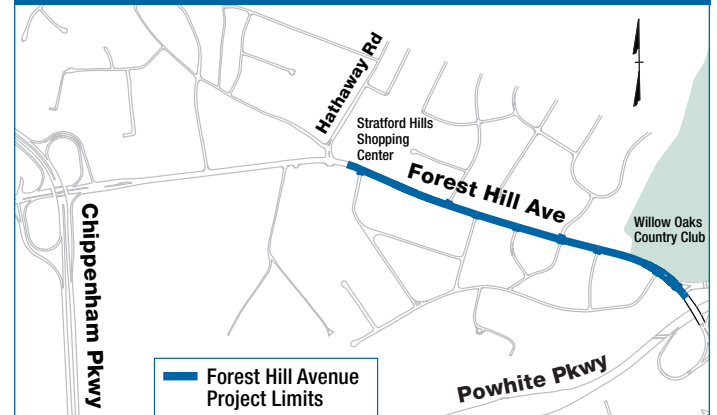
Forest Hill Avenue Cross Section Options

Two cross section options are being considered to improve the roadway. These proposed options include landscape and pedestrian walkway improvements. The options are similar, the main difference is that Option A includes a landscape buffer between the roadway and the sidewalk while Option B does not.

Option A: Includes a four foot (4') landscape buffer between the roadway and the sidewalk, a five foot (5') sidewalk and one foot (1') to the right-of-way line.



Project Area Map



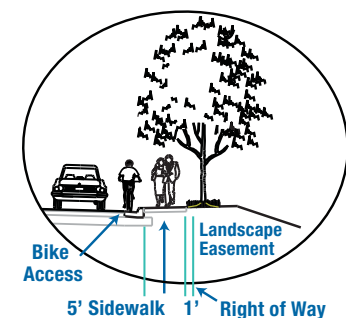
Potential Improvements for Forest Hill Avenue

- Widening from four lanes to five lanes
- Adding a center turn lane
- New or improved curb and gutter
- Sidewalks
- Bike lanes
- Storm sewer system for improved drainage
- Traffic signal improvements
- GRTC bus stop enhancements
- Landscape enhancements and street lighting

Funding

- Federal funds will pay for the total design and land acquisition costs estimated at \$12 million.
- The current design phase is estimated to cost about \$1.5 million.
- Utility relocation and right of way is estimated at \$1.7 million.
- Construction phase will not begin until further federal funds are made available.

Option B: Places a five foot (5') sidewalk beside the roadway and one foot (1') to the right-of-way followed by a landscape easement.



Forest Hill Avenue Improvement Project

Project Schedule

Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Studies:
2009 - 2010

Final Design and Land Acquisition:
2010 - 2011

Construction
(pending funding)

Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Studies

- Project initiation public information meeting– May 2008
- Data Collection and Identification of Alternatives
- Evaluate Alternatives
- Public Information Meeting – **December 17, 2009**
- Refine Alternatives
- Public Information Meeting – Spring 2010 (pending)
- Select Preferred Alternative
- Public Hearings

Get Involved

The project team wants to hear your ideas about improving traffic flow and safety along Forest Hill Avenue.

At the meeting, you will have an opportunity to review the project exhibits, ask questions, and share your thoughts with the project team. To receive planning updates, please send us your mailing address and email address.

How to Comment on the Project

Please review project information online and share your insight with the team. Comments must be received by **January 7, 2010**. For your convenience, you may comment in several ways.

At the public meeting: Complete comment form.

Online: Visit www.ForestHillProject.com for an electronic form that you can submit online or download, print and mail the hardcopy form.

By mail: Send written comments to:
Mr. Kevin Newcomb, Project Manager,
City of Richmond, Department of Public Works
900 East Broad Street, Room 600
Richmond, VA 23219



Thank you for your interest in improving Forest Hill Avenue.

www.ForestHillProject.com

Project Update

Since the last meeting in May 2008 the project team has completed:

- Stakeholders meeting with government agencies
- Field surveys
- Preliminary findings on Hathaway intersection
- Traffic studies
- Drainage computation for the proposed storm sewer
- Developed typical cross section
- Preliminary alignment review

