

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING - JULY 15, 2025

Dairy Road Bridge Replacement Project

VDOT PROJECT NUMBER: U000-104-365, UPC 118295

FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER: STP-5104(326)

www.dairyroadbridge.org

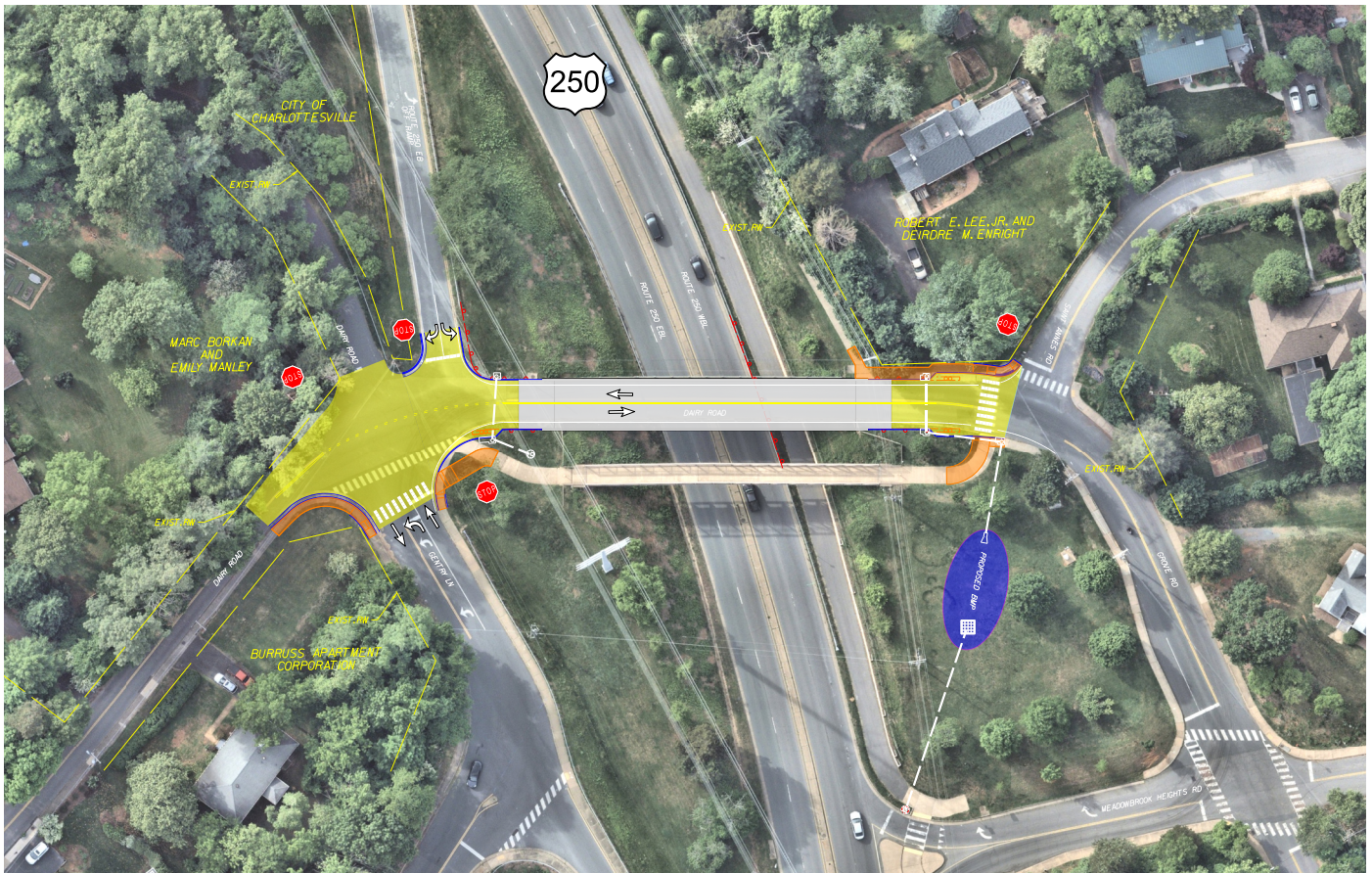


Design Public Hearing

Welcome to the Design Public Hearing for the Dairy Road bridge replacement project. This meeting provides an opportunity for any person, acting on his or her behalf or representing a group or governmental agency, to review the displayed project exhibits and give the City of

Charlottesville comments and/or suggestions on this project. Verbal comments will be accepted during tonight's hearing. Written statements may be submitted via comment forms, in writing to the City on or before July 25, 2025, via email or mail (address included on back page of this brochure).

Project Overview



Project Description

The existing Dairy Road bridge over Route 250 Bypass has reached the end of its useful life. Recent inspection data dated March 6, 2025, shows an overall condition of the bridge as “poor.” A full replacement of the bridge is necessary and has been funded through the State of Good Repair (SGR) program using a combination of state and federal dollars.

An engineering review of the existing bridge substructure has determined that phasing construction of the new bridge while maintaining traffic on half of the existing bridge is not feasible due to the nature of the foundation work required and the structural needs of current bridge design standards. Building a bridge “off alignment” to either the east or west of the existing bridge while maintaining traffic will require considerable permanent impacts to adjacent private properties, significant and costly reconstruction of the approach roadways, and/or removal of the dedicated pedestrian bridge

the City completed in 2017. Therefore, the most cost-effective and least impactful replacement method is to close the bridge entirely, demolish the existing bridge, and build a new bridge in its place. A complete structure replacement presents the most effective solution for extending the bridge’s service life while offering the greatest potential to optimize the bridge’s geometric design and substantially enhance safety.

The pedestrian bridge will remain open during construction, except for short-term closures as bridge construction activities dictate the closure of the bridge for the safety of pedestrians/cyclists.

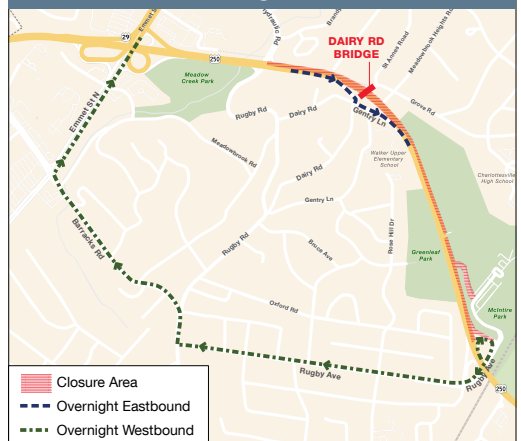
Proposed Detours

The Dairy Road bridge over the Route 250 Bypass is expected to be closed for 12-14 months during construction. The City of Charlottesville has developed official detour routes that will be signed for the duration of construction. The routes were analyzed

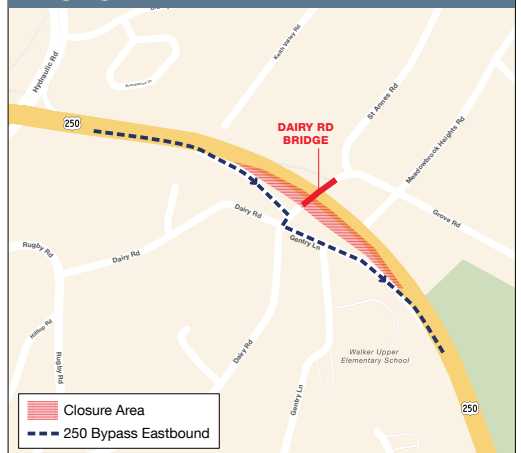
Maintenance of Traffic - Dairy Road Detour



Intermittent Overnight Detour



Staging Detour



and selected to minimize inconvenience to the traveling public. During construction activities, the City will perform the following temporary improvements along the proposed detour routes to help minimize the impacts of traffic:

- Install a temporary traffic signal at the intersection of Rugby Avenue and the US-250 Bypass eastbound off-ramp to help facilitate traffic flow through this intersection
- Review and adjust traffic signal timings along the detour routes while the detour is in place

The City will continue to monitor traffic conditions on the detour route during construction and will consider additional improvements, as needed.

Estimated Project Schedule

Milestone	Planned Date*
Public Hearing	July 15, 2025
Advertisement for Construction	August 2026
Construction Activities Begin	December 2026
Bridge Closed	February 2027
New Bridge Reopened	March 2028
Construction Complete	May 2028

** Future dates are an estimate and subject to change. The City of Charlottesville’s goal is to complete this project as quickly, efficiently, and safely as possible with minimal inconvenience to the public. The safety of the public is paramount to the City of Charlottesville.*

Right-of-Way

Improvements are not expected to require the acquisition of land for right-of-way and easements. However, as the City of Charlottesville further develops the design of the project, should easements or right-of-way be required impacted property owners will be informed of the exact location of right-of-way and easements during the formal right-of-way acquisition process.

Information about right-of-way acquisitions is provided in VDOT’s brochure entitled Right-of-Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants, which is available at the right-of-way table at the public hearing or online at

www.vdot.virginia.gov/media/vdotvirginiagov/doing-business/technical-guidance-and-support/right-of-way-and-utilities/a-guide-for-property-owners-and-tenants_acc-2025-06-04.pdf. After this meeting, information regarding right-of-way acquisition may be obtained from the City of Charlottesville Department of Public Works located at 305 4th Street NW, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Estimated Project Cost and Funding

The City of Charlottesville is a recipient of a “State of Good Repair” program grant from VDOT, which will use a combination of state and federal funds. The current project is estimated to cost \$12,620,000, inclusive of engineering and construction.

The State of Good Repair (SGR) bridge program provides funding for National Bridge Inventory (NBI) bridges in poor condition or in fair condition that are owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation and/or localities. Project scopes for the SGR program are established to preserve, reconstruct, or replace damaged or deteriorated elements in the most practical and cost-effective manner and include measures (materials, technologies or details) to mitigate future deterioration. Costs associated with additional scope elements beyond the recommended bridge repair/replacement are the responsibility of the City of Charlottesville.

Environmental Review

VDOT has prepared environmental reviews and performed coordination efforts to obtain information about environmental resources within the project vicinity. Natural and historic resource agencies have been provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development. Opportunities for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of environmental impacts have been identified. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a NEPA document (Programmatic Categorical Exclusion) has been prepared in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and in accordance with federal guidelines.

The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, water resources, threatened and endangered species,

and other quantifiable impacts. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places also has been evaluated.

The draft environmental document is available for review at this meeting and on the project website. At this time, the project has received a ruling of no adverse effect from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) due to little or no impact on historic resources.

Federal Aid

This is a federal aid project; FHWA must approve the need for the proposed highway improvements as well as the environmental documents, plans, specifications, cost estimates, right-of-way acquisitions, and construction procedures. This process provides additional assurance that federal, state, and local goals and objectives are met and that opportunity for public participation is provided. Federal and state regulations require that a wide range of factors and impacts are considered and that the final decisions are made in the best overall public interest.

Civil Rights

It is the responsibility of the City of Charlottesville to ensure that all members of the community are afforded an opportunity to participate in public decisions about transportation systems and projects affecting them, which is why your input is greatly encouraged.

The City of Charlottesville and VDOT ensures non-discrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. No person shall be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. If you feel you have been denied participation in, or denied benefits of, or been subjected to discrimination, in regard to this project or otherwise discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability, you may contact the Virginia Department of Transportation, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1401 E. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219 or phone (804) 786-2835 or TDD (800) 307-4630, TTY/TDD 711.

Get Involved

The public is encouraged to submit written comments about the design plans at the meeting by mail or email. All comments need to be submitted to the City of Charlottesville, Department of Public Works, Attn: Najeeb

Behnam, 305 4th Street NW, Charlottesville, VA 22903 or to behnamn@charlottesville.gov by July 25, 2025 in order to be included in the official meeting record.

Contact Information

Primary Contact:
Najeeb Behnam

434-459-9763
behnamn@charlottesville.gov

Project Manager, Capital Development Division,
Department of Public Works

305 4th Street NW
Charlottesville, VA 22903



Visit the project website for updates and relevant documents: www.dairyroadbridge.org

Use the QR code or visit the project website to submit your comments:

