



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Agenda item # 11

RESOLUTION **OF THE** **COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

September 21, 2016

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Fralin, Seconded By: Mr. Rosen
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Limited Access Break and Control Changes
(LACC) Interstate 81 and Route 311 (Exit 140)
Interchange County of Roanoke

WHEREAS, on October 4, 1956, the State Highway Commission, predecessor to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), designated the Interstate Highway System to be Limited Access Highways in accordance with then Article 3, Chapter 1, Title 33 of the *Code of Virginia* of 1950, as amended, and established the limited access line locations and limits as “the final locations of said routes, including all necessary grade separations, interchanges, ramps, etc.”; and

WHEREAS, the 1983 interchange modification for I-81, State Highway Project 0081-080-105, C-501, PE-101, RW-201, changed the final location of Interstate 81 and its interchange, thus establishing new limited access control and right of way lines in accordance with the resolution of October 4, 1956; and

WHEREAS, the Board approved Limited Access Control Changes (LACC) in conjunction with State Highway Project 0081-080-S04, P101, M501, the expansion of a Park and Ride Facility adjacent to Route 311 (Thompson Memorial Drive) at the Exit 140 interchange along Interstate 81 (I-81) (Park and Ride Extension Project), by resolution dated January 14, 2015 following a Public Hearing on October 16, 2014 and due consideration of the comments received and in accord with §33.2-401 of the *Code of Virginia* and Title 24, Agency 30, Chapter 401 of the *Virginia Administrative Code*; and

WHEREAS, following approval of the LACC for the Park and Ride Extension Project, it was realized that a break in the limited access line had not been requested for the pedestrian access shown along south bound Route 311 to provide commuters access to and from the bus stop and bus shelters to be constructed as part of the Park and Ride improvements; and

WHEREAS, construction of the sidewalk connecting the bus shelters to the sidewalk along Route 311 will require a break in Limited Access beginning along the west side at Station 77+45.55 and 68.95' off the baseline for Route 311 and continuing north ending at Station 78+18.19 and 55.64' right of the baseline for Route 311; and

WHEREAS, State Highway Project 0311-080-874, P101, N501 (a Highway Safety Improvement Project) provides for the construction of new sidewalk and curb and gutter, along with the installation of marked crosswalks and additional signing and lighting to enhance pedestrian accommodations (HSIP Sidewalk Project), inside the limited access control area along Route 311 under I-81 from the North Corporate Limits of the City of Salem to the Exit 140 Park and Ride Improvement Project to complete interconnections between the Park and Ride lot and sidewalks in the City of Salem; and

WHEREAS, this expansion of pedestrian access and facilities is inconsistent with the designation of a limited access control area and requires the CTB to authorize the construction and maintenance of the sidewalks, crosswalks and other improvements inside the limited access control area and to authorize pedestrian access through the limited access control area on the sidewalks and other pedestrian improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Salem District posted a Notice of Willingness to Hold a Design Public Hearing regarding the location of the sidewalk as proposed and presented in the plans for 0311-080-874, P101, N501, the HSIP Sidewalk Project, as required and no request for a public hearing was received; and

WHEREAS, the HSIP Sidewalk Project is in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the economic, social, and environmental effects of the proposed HSIP Sidewalk Project have been duly examined and given proper consideration, and this evidence, along with all other, has been carefully reviewed; and

WHEREAS, Roanoke County endorsed the HSIP Sidewalk Project in a letter dated August 24, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, by its resolution dated January 14, 2015, the CTB changed the limited access control and right of way lines in accordance with the design plans for State Highway Project 0081-080-S04, P101, M501, the Park and Ride Extension Project, to accommodate changes made to the Park and Ride, but not the construction of the sidewalk needed for pedestrian access to the bus stop and bus shelters nor the sidewalk improvements contemplated by State Highway Project 0311-080-874, P101, N501, the HSIP Sidewalk Project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed LACC is needed to accommodate the sidewalk improvements that will allow pedestrian access between the bus stops and bus shelters and the sidewalk along Route 311 and interconnectedness through the limited access area with other City of Salem sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the portions of the projects and the proposed LACC contemplated hereunder will have no impact on vehicular traffic, therefore no traffic study was required; and

WHEREAS, the projects and proposed LACC will not adversely affect the safety or operation of the highway and are recommended by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT); and

WHEREAS the proposed LACC is in compliance with Title 24, Section 30, Chapter 401 of the *Virginia Administrative Code*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with §33.2-401 of the *Code of Virginia* and Title 24, Agency 30, Chapter 401 of the *Virginia Administrative Code*, that the CTB hereby finds and concurs in the determinations and recommendations of VDOT made herein, and directs that the I-81 and Route 311 (Exit 140) interchange continue to be designated as a Limited Access Highway, with an amendment to the previously approved line to add a break in the Limited Access Control in conjunction with State Highway Project 0081-080-S04, P101, M501, the Park and Ride Extension Project, as follows:

Beginning along the west side at Station 77+45.55 and 68.95' off the baseline for Route 311 and continuing north ending at Station 78+18.19 and 55.64' right of the baseline for Route 311.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the location of the sidewalk within the limited access area be approved as proposed and presented in the plans for State Highway Project 0311-080-874, P101, N501, the HSIP Sidewalk Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pedestrians are authorized to use the proposed sidewalk from the North Corporate Limits of the City of Salem for a length of 490 feet, more or less, within the limited access area.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Highways is authorized to take all actions and execute any and all documents necessary to implement such changes.

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Proposed Limited Access Control Changes
Interstate 81 and Route 311 (Exit 140) Interchange
Project 0081-080-S04, P101, M501
And
Project 0311-080-874, P101, N501
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Issue: The limited access control area previously approved for the Interstate 81 and Route 311 (Exit 140) interchange (Interchange) needs to be modified to provide pedestrian access through the area and other accommodations for pedestrians within the area as a result of new sidewalks that will be placed in the limited access area and through the existing limited access control line.

The Board previously approved Limited Access Control Changes (LACC) at this location in conjunction with State Highway Project 0081-080-S04, P101, M501, the expansion of a Park and Ride Facility adjacent to Route 311 (Thompson Memorial Drive) at the Exit 140 interchange along Interstate 81 (I-81) (Park and Ride Extension Project), by resolution dated January 14, 2015. Since approval of the LACC, it has been realized that approval of a break in the limited access line had not been requested for the pedestrian access shown along south bound Route 311 to provide commuters access to and from the bus stop and bus shelters to be constructed as part of the Park and Ride improvements. Construction of the sidewalk connecting the bus shelters to the sidewalk along Route 311 will require a break in Limited Access beginning along the west side at Station 77+45.55 and 68.95' off the baseline for Route 311 and continuing north ending at Station 78+18.19 and 55.64' right of the baseline for Route 311.

State Highway Project 0311-080-874, P101, N501 (a Highway Safety Improvement Project) provides for the construction of new sidewalk and curb and gutter along Route 311 under I-81 from the North Corporate Limits of the City of Salem to the Exit 140 Park and Ride Improvement Project to complete interconnections between the Park and Ride lot and sidewalks in the City of Salem (HSIP Sidewalk Project). The Project will also include the installation of marked crosswalks and additional signing and lighting to enhance pedestrian accommodations. This expansion of pedestrian access and facilities is inconsistent with the designation of a limited access control area and requires the CTB to authorize the construction and maintenance of the sidewalks, crosswalks and other improvements inside the limited access control area and to authorize pedestrian access through the limited access control area on the sidewalks and other pedestrian improvements.

The proposed resolution will authorize the proposed break in the limited access control line to accommodate pedestrian access to the sidewalk along Route 311. It will also authorize building and maintaining new sidewalk within the limited access control area under and adjacent to I-81 from the North Corporate Limit of the City of Salem as proposed and will authorize pedestrian access across the sidewalk in the limited access control area. The Virginia Department of Transportation seeks approval from the Commonwealth Transportation Board for the proposed LACC and location and access of pedestrian facilities within the limited access control area.

Facts:

- Limited Access Control Changes (LACC) at the I-81 (Exit 140) Interchange were

previously approved by the CTB on January 14, 2015 in conjunction with State Highway Project 0081-080-S04, P101, M501 (Park and Ride Extension Project) following a Public Hearing on October 16, 2014, after due consideration of the comments received, and in accord with §33.2-401 of the *Code of Virginia* and Title 24, Agency 30, Chapter 401 of the *Virginia Administrative Code*.

- Construction of sidewalk facilities connecting the bus shelters to the sidewalk along Route 311 as part of the Park and Ride Extension Project (Park and Ride Sidewalks) will require a break in Limited Access beginning along the west side at Station 77+45.55 and 68.95' off the baseline for Route 311 and continuing north ending at Station 78+18.19 and 55.64' right of the baseline for Route 311.
- Since the CTB's approval of the LACC for the Park and Ride Extension Project, it was realized that approval of a break in the limited access line that is needed for the Park and Ride Sidewalks had not been requested.
- A Notice of Willingness to Hold a Design Public Hearing regarding the location of the additional sidewalks, as proposed and presented in the plans for State Highway Project 0311-080-874, the HSIP Sidewalk Project, to be located in and through the limited access control was posted as required by Salem District and no request for a public hearing was received.
- The economic, social, and environmental effects of the HSIP Sidewalk Project have been duly examined and given proper consideration, and this evidence, along with all other, has been carefully reviewed.
- These projects are in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines.
- Roanoke County endorsed the New HSIP Sidewalk Project by letter dated August 24, 2016.
- The projects contemplated hereunder will have no impact on vehicular traffic and, therefore, no traffic study was required.
- These projects and the proposed LACC will not adversely affect the safety or operation of the highway.
- The proposed LACC is in compliance with the policies and requirements of the CTB contained in Title 24, Agency 30, Chapter 401 of the *Virginia Administrative Code*.

Recommendations: It is recommended that, pursuant to §33.2-401 of the *Code of Virginia* and Title 24, Agency 30, Chapter 401 of the *Virginia Administrative Code*, the CTB find and concur in the determinations and recommendations of VDOT made herein, and direct that the I-81 and Route 311 (Exit 140) interchange continue to be designated as a Limited Access Highway, with an amendment to the previously approved line to add a break in the Limited Access Control to accommodate the Park and Ride Sidewalks and to permit access to pedestrian facilities in the HSIP Sidewalk Project as proposed herein.

This action will modify the limited access line and right of way previously approved by the State Highway Commission, the CTB's predecessor, on October 4, 1956, as modified by the 1983

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interchange modification for I-81, State Highway Project 0081-080-105, C-501, PE-101, RW-201, and by resolution of the CTB on January 14, 2015, which changed the limited access control and right of way lines in accordance with the design plans for State Highway Project 0081-080-S04, P101, M501, the Park and Ride Extension Project, to accommodate changes made to the Park and Ride, but not the construction of the sidewalk needed for bus shelter access nor the sidewalk improvements needed to provide commuter access to and from buses traveling on Route 311 contemplated by State Highway Project 0311-080-874, P101, N501, the HSIP Sidewalk Project.

Action Required by CTB: The *Code of Virginia* requires a majority vote of the CTB to approve the recommended LACC. The CTB will be presented with a resolution for a formal vote to approve the break in the limited access line that is needed for the Park and Ride Sidewalks,, to approve location and access to the New HSIP Sidewalk Project facilities within the limited access control area of the Interchange, and to provide the Commissioner of Highways the requisite authority to execute all documents necessary to implement the LACC.

Result, if Approved: The Commissioner of Highways will be authorized to execute any and all documents needed to comply with the resolution, and the Park and Ride improvements in State Highway Project 0081-080-S04, P101, M501 and the sidewalk improvements in State Highway Project 0311-080-874, P101, N501 will move forward.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: None.