

# SKIFFES CREEK CONNECTOR (SCC) LOCATION STUDY

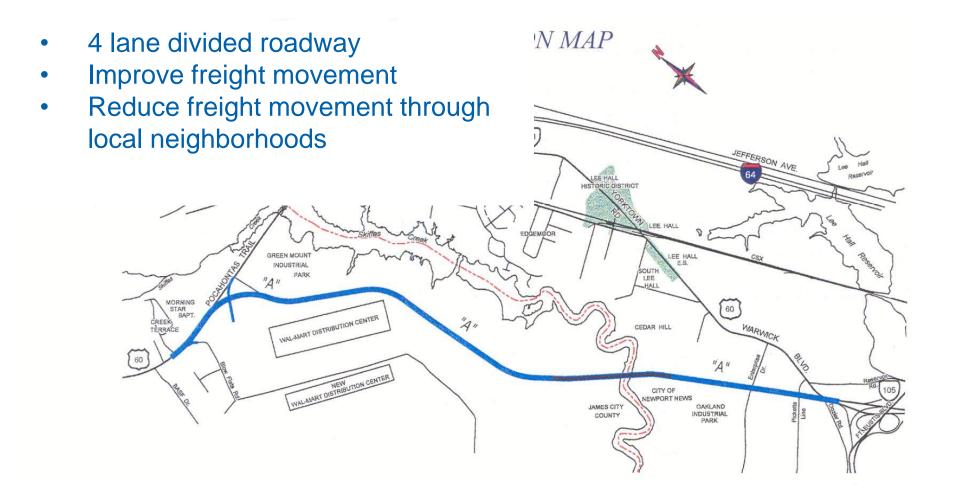
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# **Project History**

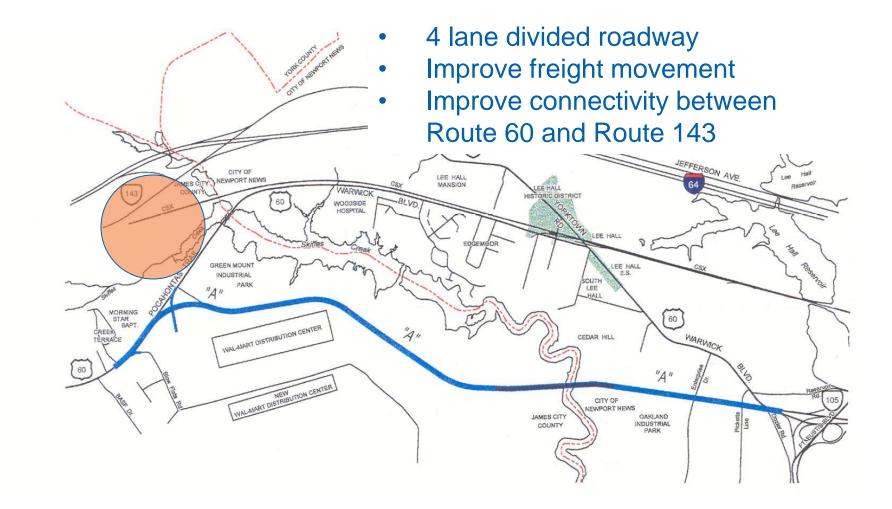
- Location study/Environmental Assessment (EA) initiated in 2012
- In early 2013, FHWA determined that the SCC and the Route 60 Relocated projects did not have independent utility
- Both projects were put on-hold until they were funded, combined, or prioritized
- In 2017 James City County was awarded Smart Scale funding to advance the SCC and the Route 60 Relocated project was closed
- The project is not a regional priority project; however, it is included in the LRTP, TIP, and STIP

### **Route 60 Relocated**





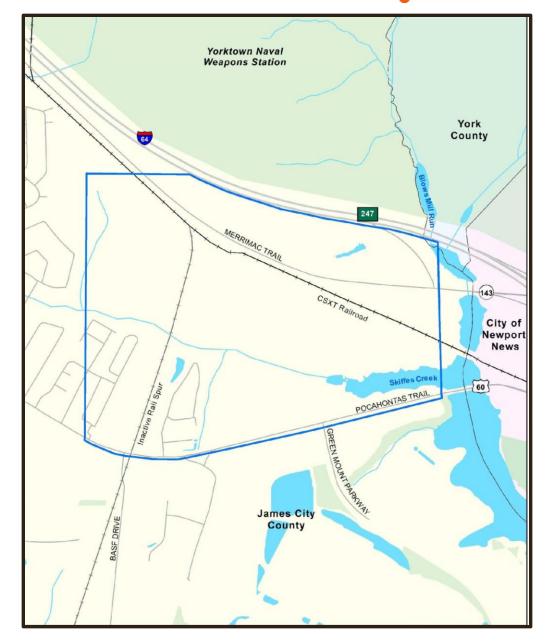
# **Skiffes Creek (2013)**





### **PROJECT LOCATION**





#### VDOT

# **Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the SCC is to create efficient local connectivity between US 60 and VA 143, in the area between VA 199 and VA 238, in a manner that improves safety, emergency evacuation, and the movement of goods along the two primary roadways. The SCC would address the following needs:

- Improved local connectivity there is inadequate and or inefficient connectivity points between these two primary routes;
- Provide efficient connectivity for local truck movement – there are known truck destinations along the corridors; and
- <u>Emergency evacuation capability</u> connectivity between identified evacuation routes should be enhanced to support connectivity and efficiency.

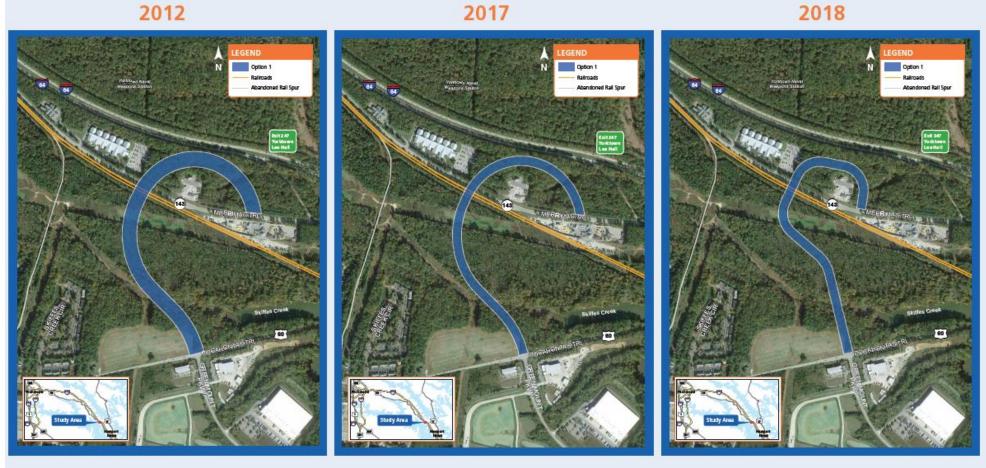


### **Range of Alternatives**

- Under the merged process, the study considered 14 options to meet the purpose and need
- The options were developed through coordination with the merged process agencies and presented to the public for input
- 12 of the 14 options were found to be duplicative and/or not meet the Purpose and Need
- 2 alternatives were retained for analysis



## **Alternatives Refinement**



Four-lane divided freeway facility that was anticipated to tie into other projects (225 - foot Limit of Disturbance)

Two-lane divided facility that maintains freeway design speed (140 - foot Limit of Disturbance)

Two-lane divided facility with a reduced design speed (140 - foot Limit of Disturbance)

# **Results of Alternatives Refinement**

|               |               | 2012:<br>4-Lane LOD at 50<br>mph | 2017:<br>2-Lane LOD at 50<br>mph | 2018:<br>2-Lane LOD at 35 mph |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alternative 1 | Wetlands      | 2.69                             | 1.73*                            | 0.85*                         |
| Alternative 2 | (acres)       | 1.62                             | 1.07*                            | 0.95*                         |
| Alternative 1 | Streams       | 1,542                            | 1,214*                           | 673*                          |
| Alternative 2 | (linear feet) | 318                              | 188*                             | 365*                          |
| Alternative 1 |               | \$80,332,240^                    | \$50,453,145^^                   | \$41,716,243^^                |
| Alternative 2 | Cost          | \$61,292,606^                    | \$52,787,100^^                   | \$49,459,732^^                |

\* - Does not assume bridging in impact calculations

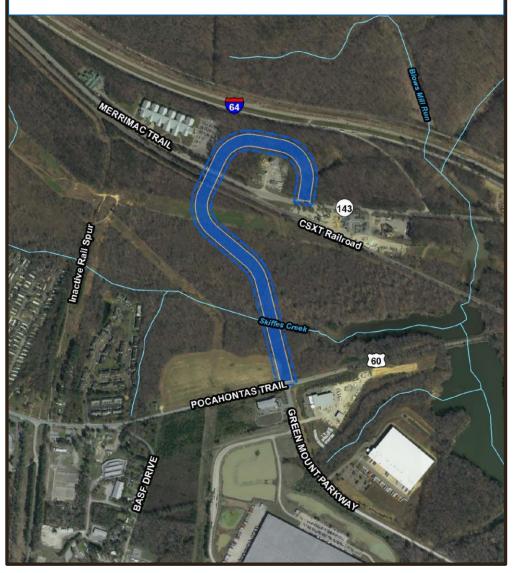
^ - Costs calculated using VDOT's Planning Level Cost Estimate Worksheet

^ - Costs calculated using VDOT's Project Cost Estimating System



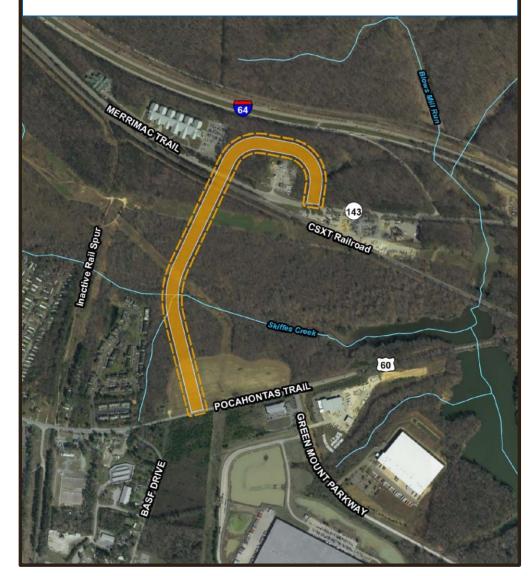
## **ALTERNATIVES RETAINED FOR ANALYSIS**

### **Build Alternative 1**



#### **Build Alternative 2**

VDOT



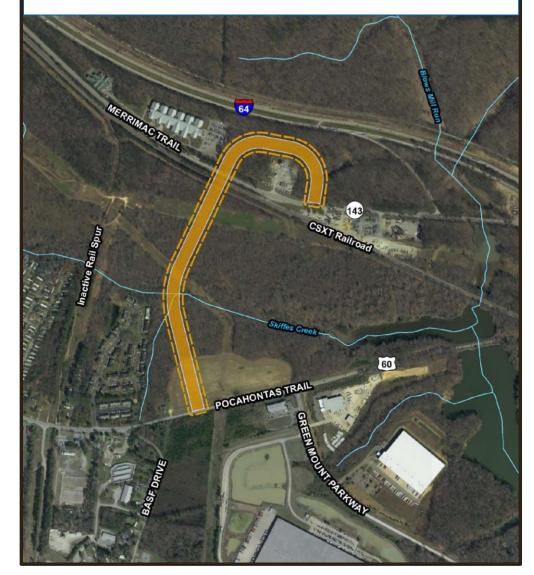
## **RECOMMENDED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

#### **Build Alternative 1**



#### **Build Alternative 2**

VDOT



### **Basis for Recommendation**

- Best meets Purpose and Need
- Provides best operational improvement for freight and local traffic
- Less wetland impacts than Alternative 2
- Consistent with local plans and endorsed by James City County



• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency support the recommendation

# **Impact Estimates**

| Resource                   | Alternative 1   | Alternative 2   |  |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Relocations                | 0               | 0               |  |
| Right of Way Acquisition   | 14.6 acres      | 14.9 acres      |  |
| Archaeological Resources*  | 1 site          | 2 sites         |  |
| Anticipated Sound Barriers | 0               | 0               |  |
| Wetlands                   | 0.85 acres      | 0.95            |  |
| Streams                    | 673 linear feet | 365 linear feet |  |

\* - Ongoing coordination with DHR to plan future excavations



# **Planning Level Impacts to Existing BMP sites**

- Existing Stormwater management practices in the vicinity of the project.
- Impacts to these practices could require mitigation to the VDOT MS4 Program under its pollution reduction requirements.





## **Public Review**

#### Two Citizen Information Meetings (11/9/2017 & 2/15/2018)

- Public supported the needs of the study and did not offer additional need elements not already addressed in the study
- Public support for the two alternatives retained for analysis

#### Location Public Hearing (7/18/2018)

- All respondents supported Alternative 1 at the Location Public Hearing
- James City County supported Alternative 1
- Wal-Mart supportive of Alternative 1 as the best means to address freight movement in the study area without creating greater congestion



### **Next Steps**

- December 2018 CTB action on location decision
- Early 2019 FHWA NEPA decision
- February 2019 Request for Qualifications
- June 2019 Request for Proposals
- April 2020 Notice to Proceed

