



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Shannon Valentine
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 786-2701
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Agenda item # 8

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

September 18, 2019

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Dodson, Seconded By: Mr. Rucker
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Location Approval for the Route 311 Connector

WHEREAS, in accordance with the § 33.2-208 of the Code of Virginia and the policies and regulations of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), including 24 VAC 30-380-10, a Location Public Hearing was held in the City of Danville, on June 6, 2019 at the Brosville Elementary School for the purpose of considering alternative alignments to the preferred alignment of the Route 311 Connector, as shown in Attachment A, and their potential impacts; and

WHEREAS, proper notice of the public hearing and the potential alignments to be considered was given in advance, and all those present were given a full opportunity to express their opinions and recommendations on the alternatives under consideration, and their statements have been duly recorded; and

WHEREAS, the economic, social and environmental effects of the evaluated alternative alignments have been examined and given proper consideration and this evidence, along with all other relevant evidence has been carefully reviewed; and

WHEREAS, Pittsylvania County, the City of Danville and the Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization have all adopted resolutions or sent written support for this project, which are provided as Attachment B; and

Resolution of the Board
Location Approval for the Route 311 Connector
September 18, 2019
Page 2 of 2

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) Environmental Division has completed environmental reviews and coordination to identify environmental resources in the project vicinity, provide natural and historic resource agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the project during development, determine the potential for environmental impacts upon the local community and surrounding area and identifies opportunities for avoidance and minimization of potential and unavoidable environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project is not programmed with any federal funding, therefore the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) does not apply to this Project;

WHEREAS, the 2009 Transportation Plan determined that the Route 311 Connector was the preferred alignment as compared to widening existing Route 311; and

WHEREAS, review of all data resulted in VDOT's recommendation that Option 1 be identified as the Preferred Alternative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CTB hereby approves the Preferred Alternative, Option 1, location of the Route 311 Connector as proposed and presented at the June 6, 2019 public hearing and as shown in Attachment A.

#####

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Decision Brief

Route 311 Connector in Pittsylvania County

Issue: The new Route 311 Connector project shall include grading and the construction of two (2) 12 ft. lanes of Rural Minor Arterial paved roadway with 8 ft. shoulders along a new alignment as Phase 1 of a multi-phased project.

Facts: The purpose of the project is as follows:

- Improve mobility, safety, functionality and connectivity primarily along the US Route 58 Corridor,
- Reduce travel times for both employees and freight associated with the developing Berry Hill Industrial Park. The Berry Hill Industrial Park, currently under development on 3,528 acres in southwestern Pittsylvania County, will be a major regional employment center.
- To boost economic development and streamline access to this facility.

Recommendations: The Virginia Department of Transportation recommends approval of the new Route 311 Connector Corridor in its entirety, as proposed and noted in Attachment A.

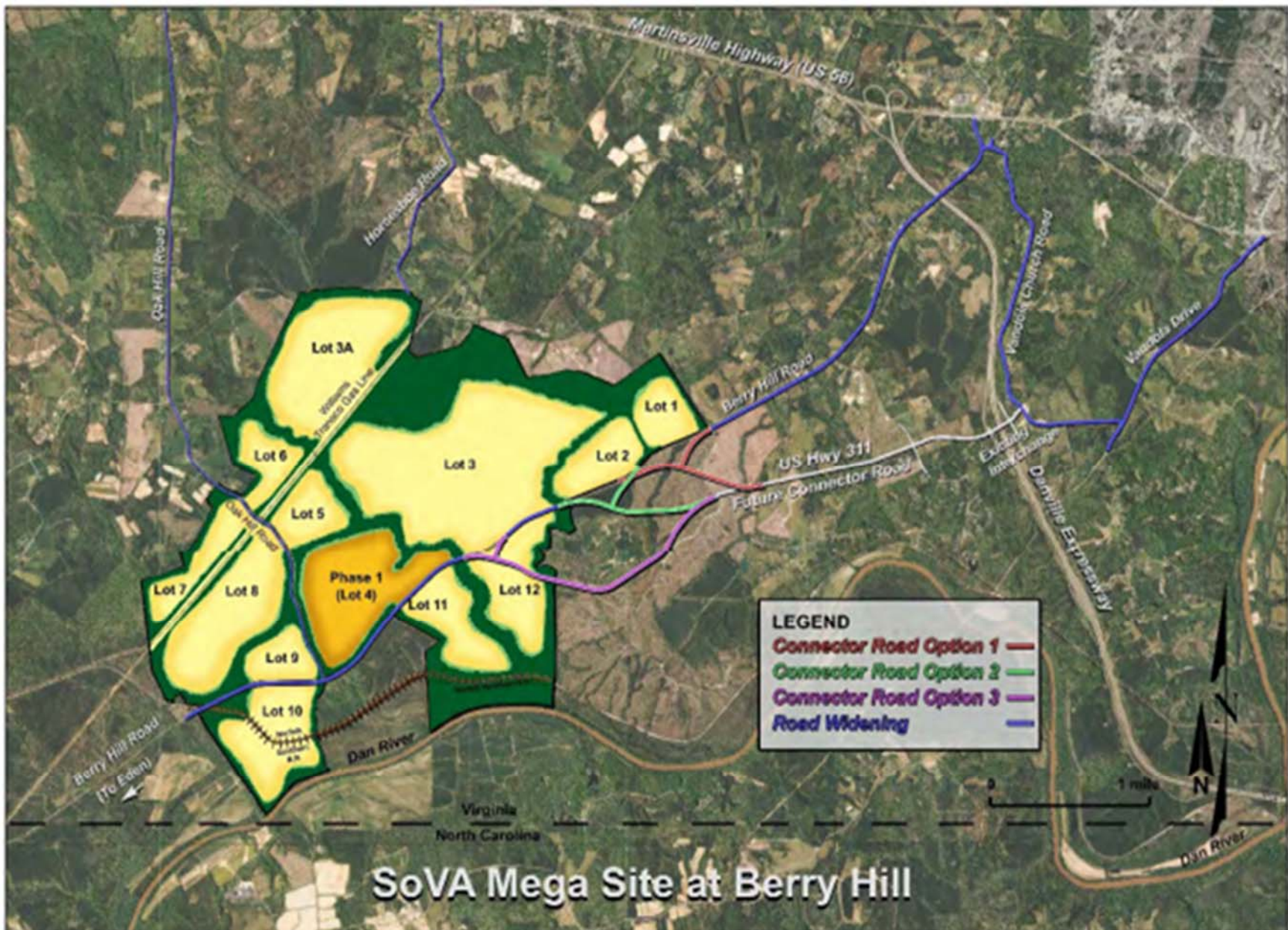
Action Required by CTB: The *Code of Virginia* §33.1-18, requires the majority vote of the CTB to locate and establish the routes to be followed by the roads comprising systems of state highways between points designated in the establishment of such systems. The *Code of Virginia* §33.1-58, requires a majority vote of the CTB to plan, designate, acquire, open, construct, reconstruct, improve, maintain, discontinue, abandon and regulate the use of highways.

Result, if Approved: If approved by the Board, the Route 311 Connector project will move forward to the final design phase.

Options: Approve, Deny or Defer

Public Comments/ Reaction: Fifty-four (54) citizens attended the Location Public Hearing. Most citizens that would be affected by this project supported the project and those citizens that expressed opposition to the project were opposed to the project as a whole. The City of Danville, Pittsylvania County and Danville MPO has voiced strong support for this project (See attached resolutions in Attachment B).

ATTACHMENT A



Option 1 (Preferred Alternative) – consists of the shortest alignment, at approximately 2 mi. of new construction, to connect Berry Hill Road to the existing Oak Ridge Farm Road Interchange.

- Shortest Alignment
- Least number of stream crossings
- Least amount of property impacts
- Based on a cost comparison of the three options, Option 1 most cost effective option.

Option 2 – consists of approximately 2.5 miles of new construction to connect Berry Hill Road to the existing Oak Ridge Farm Interchange. The pros and cons of Option 2 are as follows:

- Connects to Berry Hill Road in the middle of the Mega Site.
- Minimizes remnant parcels.
- The amount of improvements needed on Berry Hill Road for final build out is approximately 1.5 mi.
- This option does have one additional stream crossing when compared to the other two (2) options.

Option 3 – consists of approximately 3.5 miles of new construction to Berry Hill Road to the existing Oak Ridge Farm Road interchange. The pros and cons are as follows:

- Connects to Berry Hill Road at the first pod anticipated to be developed.
- Least amount of reconstruction of Berry Hill Road.
- This option has more greenfield property impacts than the other two options.

ATTACHMENT B

PRESENTED: June 4, 2019

ADOPTED: June 4, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 06 . 24

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROUTE 311 CONNECTOR ROAD IN PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY TO THE SOUTHERN VIRGINIA MEGASITE AT BERRY HILL.

WHEREAS, The Council of the City of Danville, Virginia, on July 17, 2019, previously approved a resolution endorsing the smart scale application for the construction of a connector road to the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill; and

WHEREAS, alternative funding sources have been identified via the US Route 58 Corridor Development Fund Program to cover the anticipated construction costs for the connector road; and

WHEREAS, the connector road project will improve mobility, safety, functionality and connectivity primarily along the US Route 58 Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the project will reduce travel times for both employees and freight associated with the developing the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill; and

WHEREAS, a resolution of support from the Council of the City of Danville will be submitted to VDOT as part of the public hearing open forum;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Danville, Virginia, does hereby endorse and support the construction of the Route 311 Connector Road in Pittsylvania County to the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill using the US Route 58 Corridor Development Funds.

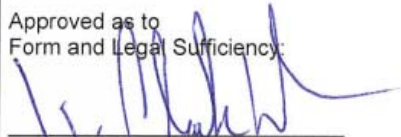
APPROVED:


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CLERK

Approved as to
Form and Legal Sufficiency:


City Attorney

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION

2019-06-02

**ENDORSING A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE
ROUTE 311 CONNECTOR ROAD IN PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY TO THE SOUTHERN
VIRGINIA MEGASITE AT BERRY HILL**

WHEREAS, the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors (the "Board"), on August 21, 2018, previously approved a resolution endorsing the smart scale application for the construction of a connector road to the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill; and

WHEREAS, alternative funding sources have been identified via the US Route 58 Corridor Development Fund Program to cover the anticipated construction costs for the connector road; and

WHEREAS, the connector road project will improve mobility, safety, functionality and connectivity primarily along the US Route 58 Corridor; and

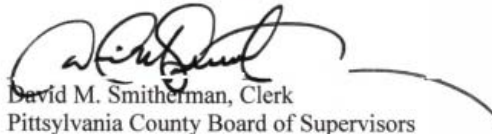
WHEREAS, the project will reduce travel times for both employees and freight associated with the development of the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby endorse and support the construction of the Route 311 Connector Road in Pittsylvania County to the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill using the US Route 58 Corridor Development Funds.

Given under my hand this 18th day of June, 2019.



Joe B. Davis, Chairman
Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors



David M. Smitherman, Clerk
Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors



DANVILLE URBANIZED AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Serving the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County

June 12, 2019

Ms. Raina Rosado, P.E., Project Manager
Virginia Department of Transportation
VDOT Lynchburg District Complex
4219 Campbell Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Re: Route 311 Public Hearing Comments

Dear Ms. Rosado,

On behalf of the Danville-Pittsylvania MPO, I take this opportunity to express support for the Route 311 Connector Road project for which a public hearing was held on June 6th. Please include this letter as a part of the public hearing record.

The mission of the MPO is to advance transportation and by extension support overall economic growth in its footprint which includes the City of Danville and the surrounding urbanized areas of Pittsylvania. Therefore, based on our mission, the MPO is a long standing supporter and advocate for the 311 Connector Road.

In 2018 the MPO contracted with Dewberry Engineering to update the Southern Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill Transportation Study which was originally prepared for Pittsylvania County in 2009. A focal point of the study and its major recommendation was the creation of a new direct access link to the Berry Hill Mega Site from the US 58 bypass to complete the package of infrastructure necessary to support this site.

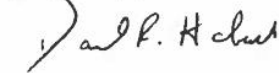
The Southern Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill is the largest industrial development property in the Commonwealth of Virginia and among the top five largest sites on the entire east coast of the United States. The 3,500 acre site features 13 parcels ranging in size from 100 to 1000 acres. At full build out the site is projected to support the creation of 11,500 jobs. It is the position of the MPO that the completion of the 311 connector will serve as the final element of the equation necessary to facilitate a game changing economic impact not only on the Danville-Pittsylvania area but the entire Southern Virginia region.

In 2018 the MPO voted to pursue a Smart Scale application for the 311 Connector Road project. This application received the support of the VDOT/OIPI staff tasked with reviewing Smart Scale applications and furthermore received a recommendation of funding to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). It should be further noted the 311 Connector Road application received the highest economic development score of all project applications received in the 2018 round of Smart Scale.

Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your work to date on this project review and thank you as well for the opportunity to submit these comments on behalf of this critical project for the future of the Danville-Pittsylvania MPO region.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Hoback". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David R. Hoback
MPO Administrator



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 2000

Stephen Brich
Commissioner

September 1, 2019

The Honorable Shannon Valentine
The Honorable Stephen C. Brich, P. E.
The Honorable Jennifer Mitchell
The Honorable Jerry L. Stinson II
The Honorable Mary Hughes Hynes
The Honorable Allison DeTuncq
The Honorable Bert Dodson, Jr.
The Honorable W. Sheppard Miller III
The Honorable Carlos M. Brown
The Honorable Cedric Bernard Rucker
The Honorable Stephen A. Johnsen
The Honorable F. Dixon Whitworth, Jr.
The Honorable E. Scott Kasprovicz
The Honorable Raymond D. Smoot, Jr.
The Honorable Marty Williams
The Honorable John Malbon
The Honorable Greg Yates

Subject: Location Approval of the Route 311 Connector Road in Pittsylvania County.

Dear Commonwealth Transportation Board Members:

The Department has initiated the above request for Location Approval for your consideration. The proposed Location Approval on State Highway Project 6311-071-454 has been recommended for approval by the Department's staff.

I have reviewed the staff's recommendations and have determined that this request should be considered by the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Thrasher".

Bart Thrasher, P.E.
Chief Engineer

CTB PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

Route 311 Connector Road

Pittsylvania County

State Project: 0311-108-454
UPC: 115493
From: Route 58
To: Southern Virginia Mega Site
Project Length: 2.0 mi.

PROJECT HISTORY

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has a need to improve mobility, safety, functionality and connectivity primarily along the US Route 58 Corridor. The Berry Hill Industrial Park, currently under development on 3,528 acres in southwestern Pittsylvania County, will be a major regional employment center. This can be accomplished by providing industrial traffic with a direct access point to the Southern Virginia Mega Site via a new Connector Road extending from the existing interchange of Oak Ridge Farms Road and Danville Expressway (US 58 Bypass) west to Berry Hill Road (US 311).

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the project as presented at the Location Public Hearing is as follows:

- Improve mobility, safety, functionality and connectivity primarily along the US Route 58 Corridor,
- Reduce travel times for both employees and freight associated with the developing Berry Hill Industrial Park. The Berry Hill Industrial Park, currently under development on 3,528 acres in southwestern Pittsylvania County, will be a major regional employment center.
- To boost economic development and streamline access to this facility.

The 2009 Transportation Plan determined that the Connector Road was the preferred alternative for access to the Industrial Park. Based on feedback from the MPO and VDOT, further analysis of this alternative was desired; specifically three (3) options that focus on the alignment's connection with Berry Hill Road. With each option, the Connector Road becomes the major through movements for traffic to and from the Industrial Park. It was recommended that the existing Berry Hill Road be realigned such that the northern section of Berry Hill Road will intersect the Connector Road at a T intersection and the southern section will run onto the Connector Road.

TYPICAL SECTION

This project will consist of a new connector road, approximately 2.0 miles in length, extending from the existing Oak Ridge Farms Road (Route 1260) interchange at the Danville Expressway (U.S. Route 58) west to Berry Hill Road (U.S. Route 311) with a design speed of 45 MPH. The geometry of this new connector road will comprise 12' travel lanes and 8' shoulders. From the west, the connector road will begin at Berry Hill Road, at which point it will supplant the northern portion of Berry Hill Road as Route 311 east to the Oak Ridge Farms Road interchange. Approximately 0.3-mile east of where the new connector road begins at the existing portion of Berry Hill Road adjacent to the Berry Hill

Public Hearing Summary
Route 311 Connector Road
September 18, 2019
Page 2 of 4

Industrial Park, a new intersection to Berry Hill Road, extending north to Martinsville Highway (U.S .Route 58 Business), will be created.

PUBLIC HEARING

Type- Location

Date - June 6, 2019

Time - 4 – 6 pm

Location – Brosville Elementary School Gymnasium, 195 Bulldog Lane Danville, VA 24541

The Public Hearing utilized an open forum with VDOT and consultant staff.

ATTENDANCE –

Fifty-four (54) citizens attended the Location Public Hearing.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Thirty (30) comments were received by letter, comment sheet or via email and no oral comments were given at the Public Hearing. Of the thirty (30) comments returned, nine (9) supported the project, five (5) supported the project with conditions, thirteen (13) were in opposition to the project and three (3) were non-committal.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

VDOT's Environmental Division has completed environmental reviews and coordination to identify environmental resources in the project vicinity; and provided natural and historic resource agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development. Determination of the potential for environmental impacts upon the local community and surrounding area; and identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential and unavoidable environmental impacts shall be performed during the design development of the project.

ESTIMATED COST –

Preliminary Engineering	\$3.7 million
Right of Way and Utilities	\$3.8 million
Construction	\$26.0 million
Total estimated cost	\$33.5 million

ADVERTISEMENT

Construction is currently scheduled for September 2022

RIGHT OF WAY

As currently proposed, seven (7) property owners and parcels will be affected by acquisition of right-of-way and /or easements along the preferred alignment. The project is not expected to require

displacement and relocation of any businesses nor residences along the Connector Road. No non-profit organizations are being impacted with this project.

TRAFFIC DATA

Per the Southern Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill Transportation Update represent the roadway network required to support the Mega Site at 2,500 (Year 2022), 5,000 (Year 2032) and 11,500 (Year 2047) employees respectively. The estimated trips generated by type for the 2,500, 5,000, and 11,500 employees are listed below:

Trips by Type		
Types of Trips	Total Trips	Percentage of Trips
2,500 Employees:		
Employee	5,000	68%
Industrial	2,406	32%
Total	7,406	100%
5,000 Employees:		
Employee	10,000	68%
Industrial	4,781	32%
Total	14,781	100%
11,500 Employees:		
Employee	22,884	67%
Industrial	11,267	33%
Total	34,151	100%

The peak hourly volume was estimated from the ITE Manual. To determine the peak hourly volume, it was assumed the employee traffic would approximate 67 percent of the overall trips in the peak hour. The table below represents the equivalent peak hourly volumes for the 2,500, 5,000, and 11,500 employee levels of the Mega Site.

Peak Hourly Volumes

Types of Trips	Peak Hour Trips			
	AM		PM	
	(IN)	(OUT)	(IN)	(OUT)
2,500 Employees:				
Employee	603	90	187	457
Industrial	302	45	93	229
Total	905	135	280	686
5,000 Employees:				
Employee	1,102	165	361	883
Industrial	552	82	180	442
Total	1,654	247	541	1,325
11,500 Employees:				
Employee	2,265	339	809	1,981
Industrial	1,133	169	405	990
Total	3,398	508	1,214	2,971

STAFF RECOMMENDS

The Virginia Department of Transportation recommends approval of the Route 311 Connector location and modification along Route 311 (Berry Hill Road) in its entirety, shown as Option 1 as proposed and presented at the June 6, 2019 Location Public Hearing.