



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Agenda item # 7

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

January 6, 2026

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Davis, **Seconded By:** Ms. Sellers

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Location Approval for the Powhite Parkway Project

WHEREAS, the Powhite Parkway Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) involves the consideration of the construction of a roadway between Woolridge Road and Route 360 (Hull Street Road); and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and federal, state and local agencies, and on behalf of Chesterfield County as the administrator of the Project, is developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and

WHEREAS, VDOT has held two public meetings, two community meetings, and four public comment periods on the Powhite Parkway Project EIS for the purpose of sharing information and soliciting public input on key components of the EIS, including the purpose and need, range of alternatives, and recommended preferred alternative; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2025, the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to endorse Alternative 1A, depicted and attached hereto as Exhibit A, as the locally preferred alternative.

WHEREAS, considering the estimated environmental impacts of the alternatives retained for full analysis in the EIS, cost, and the endorsement taken by the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, VDOT recommends "Alternative 1A" as the preferred alternative, which entails construction of a four-lane road from Woolridge Road to Hull Street Road, and includes reconstruction of a planned two-lane access road to a four-lane road from Hull Street Road to the Westerleigh Parkway Extension; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Va. Code § 33.2-208 and the policies and regulations of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), including 24 VAC 30-380-10, a Location Public Hearing was held in Chesterfield County at Cosby High School on December 9, 2025, for the purpose of soliciting public input on Alternative 1A; and

WHEREAS, proper notice was given in advance, and all those present at the Location Public Hearing were given a full opportunity to express their opinions and recommendations on the alternatives under consideration, and their statements have been duly recorded and considered by the CTB; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the location of this project be approved as presented under Alternative 1A at the Location Public Hearing and depicted in Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, should FHWA and VDOT receive substantive comments on the Draft EIS that require the CTB to reconsider its action, the CTB would be briefed before VDOT requests FHWA conclude the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process with a Record of Decision.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alternative 1A will be designed avoid adverse effects to the Otterdale School, a historic property on Genito Road, and avoid going outside the existing easement for the Weatherbury Mitigation Bank.

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Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Decision Brief

Location Approval for the Powhite Parkway Project

Issue: The Powhite Parkway Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) involves the consideration of the construction of a four-lane road from Woolridge Road to Hull Street Road, to include reconstruction of an existing two-lane road from Hull Street Road to the Westerleigh Parkway Extension (the “Project”), identified as “Alternative 1A” in the presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on December 9, 2025. Pursuant to Va. Code § 33.2-208, the CTB is required to locate and establish the routes to be followed by the highways comprising the systems of state highways.

Facts:

- The purpose of the Project is to relieve congestion and improve regional connectivity between Woolridge Road and Hull Street Road.
- The Powhite Parkway Project is being administered by Chesterfield County (the County). The County has contracted VDOT to lead the EIS to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) efforts on their behalf.
- The Project EIS was initiated to evaluate potential transportation improvements from Woolridge Road to Route 360 (Hull Street Road) in Chesterfield County.
- VDOT held four citizen engagement opportunities for the purpose of sharing information and soliciting public input. In accordance with Va. Code § 33.2-208 and the policies and regulations of the CTB, including 24 VAC-30-380-10, a Location Public Hearing was held at Cosby High School in the County on December 9, 2025, for the purpose of soliciting public input on the recommended preferred alternative, Alternative 1A.
- The CTB was briefed on the alternatives identified in the Draft EIS, including a recommendation on the preferred alternative, at the December 9, 2025, meeting. There have been no changes to Alternative 1A since that meeting.
- Approval of the Draft EIS by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and VDOT is anticipated in late 2026 and will be preceded by opportunities for public input on the Draft EIS and an additional public hearing in accordance with the NEPA process and state and federal law. Comments received on the Draft EIS will be addressed in the Final EIS, which is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2027.

- The County anticipates using a combination of local, regional (Central Virginia Transportation Alliance), state, and federal funds for the Project. Funding is in place to advance with permitting and more detailed design while the County considers phased construction. The County has already demonstrated funding commitments by advancing portions of work as part of a larger package of bonded projects. Full construction is dependent on securing additional funding.

- The recommendation below considers the following factors:
 - Alternative 1A was unanimously endorsed by the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2025;
 - Alternative 1A meets the purpose and need of the Draft EIS and is consistent with local and regional plans;
 - Alternative 1A is the least costly and would impact fewer private properties than the other two Build Alternatives (Alternatives 1B and 4) retained for full analysis in the Draft EIS; and
 - Alternative 1A will be designed to avoid adverse effects to the Otterdale School, a historic property on Genito Road, and avoid going outside the existing easement held by VDOT for the Weatherbury Mitigation Bank.

Recommendations: VDOT recommends approval of the location of the Project as presented at the Location Public Hearing and as shown in the attached Exhibit A.

Action Required by CTB: Va. Code § 33.2-208 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.

Result, if Approved: VDOT will proceed with steps necessary for issuance of the Draft EIS, which will identify a preferred alternative consistent with the CTB's Location Approval. If future permitting or design decisions result in measurable changes to the alternative, VDOT will return to the CTB to confirm the changes are consistent with CTB's approval. Should the Project not advance further in three years after the NEPA process is complete, per CTB policy, VDOT will return to seek a decision from CTB as to whether its action should be reaffirmed, modified, or rescinded.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer

Public Comments/ Reaction: There have been four public comment periods, beginning on December 22, 2023, and continuing through late December 2025. The public has had

the opportunity to provide input on alternative locations, community impacts, resources that should be considered in the EIS, the Project purpose and need, and other considerations. In accordance with Va. Code § 33.2-208 and the policies and regulations of the CTB, including 24 VAC-30-380-10, a location public hearing was held on December 9 at Cosby High School and was attended by 72 members of the public. Three-hundred-and-forty-three (343) comments were received throughout the comment period, which spanned from November 25 to December 19, 2025. The general feedback obtained throughout the comment period expresses support for the Project as a whole, but there is concern from local residents about the proximity of Alternative 1A to properties and/or neighborhoods. Despite the proximity, this alternative is largely confined to right of way previously purchased by the County and dedicated to future transportation use. Concerns associated with the proximity of the alternative to the neighborhoods that abut this right of way include perceived noise, light, and pollution impacts and potential property devaluation, and other projects outside of the Project EIS (Dominion Energy, data centers, etc.). In addition, VDOT received comments on other options that do not meet the criteria for consideration (purpose and need). All comments received have been from individual citizens, except for one letter from an organization: Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC). In their letter, SELC suggested that other alternatives be considered and analyzed before the selection of a preferred alternative. VDOT has completed the necessary analysis and consideration of alternatives; however, that work has not yet been made available for public review. VDOT is confident that its analysis will adequately address SELC's comments and concerns as well as the comments made by individual citizens. That analysis is being prepared and will be documented and made available to the public in the Draft EIS.

Of the 343 comments, VDOT received 81 (24%) from two internet protocol (IP) addresses (i.e., a single network location) frequently between December 5 and December 14, 2025, and again on December 19. Although the wording varied, the general message expressed opposition to Alternative 1A but supportive of Alternative 1B, referencing the high-level information presented at the location public hearing and requesting details that will be available at the public review of the Draft EIS or are not available at this point in the project development process. As such, those 81 comments are being treated as a single comment, resulting in 264 comments.

EXHIBIT A

