

FACT SHEET:

Williamsburg Blvd. & North Kensington St. - NC Project N514

May, 2013



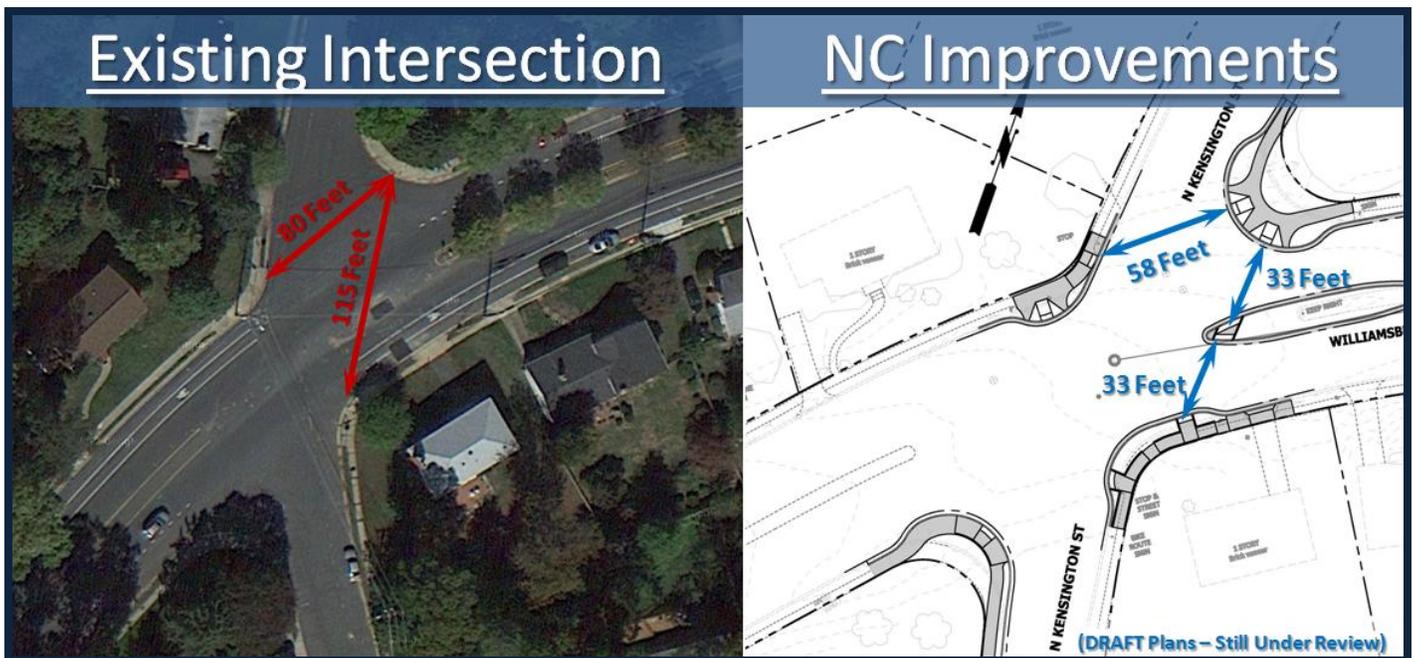
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Summary

The proposed intersection improvements at Williamsburg Boulevard and North Kensington Street are part of a Neighborhood Conservation (NC) project, N 514, approved by the County Board. The project went through a rigorous petitioning process and is supported by the Rock Spring Civic Association. County staff is currently working to advance the project from a conceptual design to a final engineered design in preparation for construction.

The primary goal of the project is to improve pedestrian visibility and safety at the intersection. The improvements will also help to slow traffic down as vehicles approach the intersection and as vehicles make the right-turn from Williamsburg Boulevard onto North Kensington Street (see plan map below).

With completion of a final engineering plan anticipated in spring/summer 2013, the project would be tracking towards construction by spring of 2014. This would allow the project to be completed well in advance of the proposed opening for the new elementary school on the Williamsburg Middle School campus.



Project Details

The project proposes reconstructing the intersection, shortening the crossing distance, making the intersection a safer option for school children and other pedestrians. A new median with a pedestrian refuge will be added on the east side of the intersection and the crosswalks and striping will be repainted to increase the visibility.

While working on a final engineering design for the project, staff has taken into consideration the existing geometry of the intersection; the turning radius for school buses and other large vehicles; the topography along Williamsburg Boulevard and the potential of adding a new elementary school (ES #1) to the Williamsburg Middle School campus.

Project Benefits

- The design adds nubs at the intersection reducing the crossing distance, for pedestrians, across Williamsburg Blvd. from 115 feet to 66 feet.
- Extension of the median on Williamsburg Blvd. allowing for a pedestrian refuge when crossing.
- Reconstruction of the northeast and southwest corners of intersection to slow the speed of right turning vehicles as they enter neighborhood streets.
- The design narrows Williamsburg Blvd. providing visual cues to drivers encouraging slower speeds, in line with the posted 30 mph speed limit.
- Installation of a traffic signal, if warranted in the future, would not require reconstruction of the intersection.

Project Coordination with Proposed Williamsburg ES #1

This intersection was also studied as part of the traffic analysis for the proposed new elementary school (ES #1) on the Williamsburg Middle School campus. Existing conditions at the intersection and projected traffic scenarios with expansion of the middle school and the addition of ES #1 were analyzed. The analysis of the elementary school assumed that the majority of morning arrivals would use the intersection of Williamsburg Blvd. and North Kensington Street to access the school's drop-off loop off of 36th Street North. With the projected added school traffic the study showed:

- Traffic at the intersection related to the addition of ES #1 would mostly be isolated to the morning arrival and afternoon departure periods. These peaks would normally last 15 to 30 minutes, just before school starts around 9:00 am and around dismissal at 3:40 pm.
- The intersection would continue to operate with acceptable levels of service (LOS), as proposed as part of the NC project
- The intersection does not meet warrants for installation of a traffic signal and one was not recommended. The NC project improvements have been reviewed to ensure they would not preclude future signalization, should conditions change warranting a signal.
- A Rapid Flash Beacon approaching the intersection was also recommended to promote safe pedestrian crossing in the Toole report.
- A crossing guard during the elementary arrival and departure periods was recommended in the Toole Report. If one can't be provided, DES staff would recommend that APS provide safe routes to schools materials to parents and students that direct them to cross at Williamsburg Blvd. and North Harrison Street intersection using the crossing guard and existing signal.

Current Status, Timeline, and Public Participation

- This project is currently in the engineering design phase, which will continue through spring/summer 2013. The final design will then move to construction in the spring of 2014.
- Prior to completing the final engineering design, outreach will occur to inform the community, including adjacent property owners, about the overall project.
- The active NC Project at the intersection of Williamsburg Boulevard and North Kensington Street was proposed by the Rock Spring neighborhood in the summer of 2010, a concept design was presented to the neighborhood in October of 2010, the project was recommended for funding by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee's (NCAC) in December of 2010, and was then approved by the County Board in February of 2011.

Project updates and information

- For additional information about the NC project, contact Tim McIntosh, Neighborhood Conservation Project Manager at TMcIntosh@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-3829.
- For information about Williamsburg ES #1 please visit the Arlington Public Schools' project website at <http://www.apsva.us/Page/18930>.