

**Westover Village Civic Association**  
**Meeting Notes, issued January 14, 2017**

Date: *Wednesday, January 11, 2017*

Location: *Westover Library, Large Meeting Room*

Attendees: *Bob Orttung, Vice President*  
*John Marsh, Treasurer*  
*Lisa Garcia, Secretary*  
*Amanda Baxter, VDOT representative*  
*VDOT representatives*  
*Residents of Westover, Madison Manor, and Bluemont Civic Associations*

1. VDOT Widening 66 Preliminary Study
  - 1.1. VDOT representative Amanda Baxter presented the current preliminary study for widening and sound barrier locations along 66.

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  - 1.2. The website to access the preliminary study and design plans is [www.transform66.org](http://www.transform66.org). The preliminary study shows the locations of proposed sound barriers; the design plan notes the average heights at specific sections of the wall.
  - 1.3. The study and preliminary design plans show the results of computer modeling to determine what areas along 66 would meet the minimum 5db decrease in outside noise from modified or new sound barriers. If an area cannot meet the minimum 5db reduction, it's not financially beneficial for VDOT to construct a wall.
    - 1.3.1. Noise calculation are typically done at sidewalk level, however, if there are decks or balconies on affected properties that are higher than grade, they may make final calculation from those higher areas, which could allow for higher walls to allow for reduced sound on those outside areas. [The WVCA will confirm this information with Ms Baxter, and residents can also contact her to note if they are in the affected area \(shown in the preliminary study\) and whether they have a porch, deck, or balcony that is significantly higher than grade at the street.](#)
    - 1.3.2. The noise calculations used in the study do not reflect the increased noise levels from the newer Metro cars. Ms Baxter to confirm these sound levels will be updated for the final design plans.
  - 1.4. The preliminary study will be used for bid process with selected contractor to participate in the final design and schedule of implementation.
2. Bid Process and Construction Schedule
  - 2.1. Construction is already underway for toll gantries along 66. There is also some work being done to repair/reinforce existing and new retaining walls in the Westover corridor. They are working on these items at night because of traffic flow. Work begins at 9pm - several residents east of Westover Park noted the noise has been loud - this will likely continue.

- 2.2. Tolls will begin prior to the widening and sound abatement projects being completed. Tolls will only be active during rush hours, in the direction of major travel. Ms Baxter noted that they have not shown large changes to traffic flow on Lee Hwy or Washington Blvd.
- 2.3. Once a contractor is selected, work will begin on finalizing the design plans.
  - 2.3.1. Ms Baxter estimated that the final design process would begin in 2017, with outreach to the community to confirm the exact location and height of walls. For example, the wall shown in the plans between Harrison and the pedestrian bridge has been shown in two locations – at the top of the hill along bike path or down the hill closer to the road. Both locations will be studied during the final design phase and if both potential locations meet the 7bd threshold, the community will be able to weigh in on the wall's final location.
  - 2.3.2. The neighborhood will be able to express their opinions on the aesthetics of the concrete sound barrier that face the neighborhood. The side facing the highway will match the Spot 2 upgrades, which are concrete panels with a stacked stone pattern.
  - 2.3.3. The existing walls listed to remain in the preliminary study will be looked to confirm they are in useable condition to meet the design standards; they may be altered with additional sections added to the tops or they may be completely rebuilt.
- 2.4. Ms Baxter estimated that all work would be completed by 2020.
  - 2.4.1. It was discussed that VDOT could potentially note in the preliminary study and design consideration that the contractor prioritize construction of the sound barriers in the earlier phases of construction, especially on the North side of 66 (west bound). Given the limited area on the South side that could be harder to achieve. [WVCA will follow up and recommend sound barrier be prioritized if possible.](#)
  - 2.4.2. Ms Baxter noted that sound barriers are designed to limit traffic noise, and are not designed to limit construction noise, so even if installed in the earlier phase of construction, the construction noise will likely still be noticeable to the neighborhood.
- 3. Sound Barrier Approval Process
  - 3.1. After completion of the final Design Study, the neighborhood maps will be updated to show which properties will be (1) not affected, (2) affected but not benefited, or (3) affected and benefited.
  - 3.2. Those properties – single family homes, townhouses, and apartment buildings – that are “affected and benefited” by the proposed walls will receive a ballot to vote on whether the walls in their area should be built.
    - 3.2.1. Ballots will be sent via certified and non-certified mail.
    - 3.2.2. Only ballots returned to VDOT will be counted – non-responses do not carry any weight.
  - 3.3. Ms Baxter estimated that ballots would likely go out to those affected in early to mid 2018