



Supervisor Tony Buffington
Blue Ridge District
NewsFlash

Additional Safety Improvements To Be Constructed Along Evergreen Mills Road & Watson Road

Construction to Begin this Month!

Sent: October 7, 2021

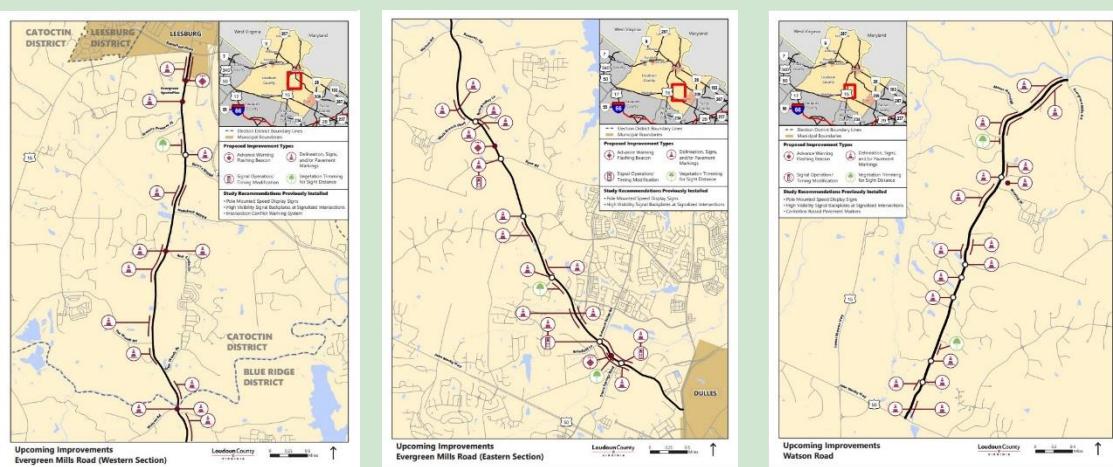
My office has worked since 2016 to make Evergreen Mills and Watson Roads safer. That effort has resulted in numerous existing improvements, along with several soon to come and still to come improvements.

As a follow up to my previous update on these roadways, I'm happy to report that **additional road safety improvements** will soon be installed. The work is expected to begin this month (October 2021) and continue over the next 12 months.

[Evergreen Mills Improvements 1](#)

[Evergreen Mills Improvements 2](#)

[Watson Road Improvements](#)



The above graphics ([click here to enlarge](#)) depict approximate locations of the various soon to be constructed safety improvements.

These safety improvements along Evergreen Mills Road and Watson Road will be at locations that have higher risk for potential crashes, and at crash "hot spots" that were identified along both corridors as part of my 2017 Board Member Initiative, which resulted in the Board approved [**Safety and Operational Study of Evergreen Mills Road and Watson Road.**](#)

Throughout the next year, construction crews will construct numerous improvements along both roads, to include:

- **Signs and pavement markings.**
- **Advance warning flashing beacons.**
- **Traffic signal operations and timing improvements.**
- **Delineators (above-ground retroreflective devices along the outside roadway edge, to better delineate the edge of travel way).**
- **Vegetation trimming to improve sight distance.**

Construction is expected to begin during daytime hours this month. During construction, travelers should expect temporary and short term traffic stoppages, along with lane closures and flagging operations. Drivers should use caution and plan ahead when traveling the area and follow all direction from posted signs and road crews.

Pole Mounted Speed Display Signs

In October of 2020 I shared that six new Pole Mounted Speed Display signs were installed along Evergreen Mills and Watson Roads. These improvements, along with several others, were also the result of recommendations from the Safety and Operations Study.



Evergreen Mills Road and Watson Road Improvement Status

The [Evergreen Mills Road and Watson Road Safety and Operational Study](#) was conducted in 2017 and 2018 and identified numerous short-term improvements and countermeasures. It also identified mid-term projects, anticipated to take 1-5 years to implement, and long-term projects, anticipated to take 5 or more years to implement.

Maps indicating the locations of these short-term, mid-term and long-term improvements can be found in Attachment Two of the [Board Item linked here](#).

On March 5, 2019, the Board forwarded the following mid-term projects to a future fiscal year of the Capital Improvement Program budget for further discussion, evaluation and prioritization:

- The [Evergreen Mills Road Realignment Project](#) to realign Watson Road with Reservoir Road is currently in design phase. The project team anticipates final design approval in early 2022 following what has been an extensive process for review and incorporation of public input as well as comments from VDOT and the County's Department of Building & Development. Land acquisition and utility relocation is expected to occur throughout 2022 and 2023, with Construction Advertisement anticipated around Spring of 2024.
- A left-turn lane near Evergreen SportsPlex.

- Mumble strips at roadway departure locations north of Fleetwood Road/Creighton Road.
- A study of possible traffic signals or roundabouts at Evergreen Mills Road intersections with Crimson Place/Red Cedar Drive and Shreve Mill Road.
- Design of law enforcement areas corridor-wide.

Additional background information regarding the Road Safety Audit can be found [here](#).

All our best!



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