

## Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE)

### Project Information

<b>Project Name:</b> #SMART18 Route 7/Route 287 Interchange	<b>Federal Project#:</b> FHWA534 42103 (STP-5A01,959)
<b>Project Number:</b> 6007-053-177	<b>Project Type:</b> Highway
<b>UPC:</b> 111664	<b>Charge Number:</b> UPC 111664
<b>Route Number:</b> 0007	<b>Route Type:</b> Primary
<b>Project Limit--From:</b> Route 7	<b>To:</b> Route 287

**Project Description:** Route 7/287 Interchange Improvements

#### Additional Project

**Description:** The proposed 0.19-mile project provides operational improvements at the Route 287 intersections with the Route 7-Bypass on/off ramps and with Hirst Road. The improvement elements include adding and widening of turn lanes as well as installing two modified traffic signals and one new traffic signal with protected crosswalks on Route 287. A 10-foot shared-use path along the west side of Route 287 from the Eastgate Drive intersection to tie into the W&OD Trail and relocation of a segment of the W&OD Trail within the existing right-of-way are also included in the proposed improvements.

**Purpose and Need:** The purpose of this project is to alleviate traffic congestion, reduce travel delays, and improve motorist safety at the Route 7/287 interchange and nearby roadways.

<b>District:</b>	<b>City/County:</b>	<b>Residency:</b>
Northern Virginia	Purcellville / Loudoun County, Virginia	Loudoun Residency

**The subject project meets the criteria for a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion in accordance with:**

23CFR 771.117

#### Description of PCE Category:

**C-26** Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (including parking, weaving, turning, and climbing lanes), if the action meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section.

#### UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES (YES/NO):

**NO** Significant environmental impacts

*Determination: No significant environmental impacts are anticipated based on the limited project scope.*

**NO** Substantial controversy on environmental grounds

*Determination: Based on coordination with the locality Project Manager, no substantial controversy on environmental grounds is anticipated.*

- NO** Significant impact on properties protected by Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act  
*Determination: A segment of the W&OD Trail is within existing right-of-way. Per 23 CFR 774.13(f), if a trail occupies a transportation facility right-of-way without limitation to any specific location within that right-of-way, a Section 4(f) use would not occur so long as the continuity of the trail is maintained. The Virginia Dept of Historic Resources (VDHR) determined on 04/08/2021 that the project would have an effect on historic properties, but the effect would not be adverse.*
- NO** Inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local law, requirement or administrative determination relating to the environmental aspects of the action  
*Determination: All federal, state, and local laws, requirements, or administrative determinations will be adhered to throughout the lifespan of this project to preclude any inconsistencies.*

**IMPACTS (YES/NO):**

- NO** Involves acquisition of more than minor amounts of temporary or permanent right of way acquisition  
*Determination: Based on 60% plans dated November 19, 2021, and coordination with the locality Project Manager, the project will only require a minor amount of right of way, totaling approximately 0.008 acres.*
- NO** Involves acquisitions that result in more than limited residential and non-residential displacements, based on the context and intensity of the impact  
*Determination: There are no displacements associated with this project based on the project scope, 60% plans, and coordination with the locality Project Manager.*
- NO** Results in capacity expansion of a roadway by addition of through lanes  
*Determination: Based on the project scope and 60% plans, the project does not result in capacity expansion of the roadway.*
- NO** Involves the construction of temporary access, or the closure of an existing road, bridge, or ramps, that would result in major traffic disruptions, based on the context and intensity of the impact  
*Determination: Based on the project scope and coordination with the locality Project Manager, construction of temporary access or closure of the existing road, bridge, or ramps is not required.*
- NO** Results in a determination of adverse effect on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. §306108)  
*Determination: On April 8, 2021, VDHR determined that the project would not have an adverse effect on historic properties.*
- NO** Requires the use of properties protected by Section 4(f) (49 U.S.C. § 303/23 U.S.C. § 138) that cannot be documented with an FHWA *de minimis* determination, or a programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation signed by FHWA  
*Determination: A segment of the W&OD Trail is within existing right-of-way. Per 23 CFR 774.13(f), if a trail occupies a transportation facility right-of-way without limitation to any specific location within that right-of-way, a Section 4(f) use would not occur so long as the continuity of the trail is maintained. The VDHR determined on April 8, 2021, that the project would have an effect on historic properties, but the effect would not be adverse.*
- NO** Requires the acquisition of lands under the protection of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (54 U.S.C. § 200305) or other unique areas or special lands that were acquired in fee or easement with federal public-use-money and have deed restrictions or covenants on the property  
*Determination: Based review of available Land and Water Conservation Act databases and the 60% plans, the locality Project Manager determined that no acquisition of lands under the protection of Section 6(f) or other unique areas or special lands is anticipated.*

- NO** Requires a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 (33 U.S.C. § 1344 permit other than a Nationwide or a General Permit  
*Determination: Based on the 60% plans, GIS mapping and field review of the project area, there are potential stream and wetland impacts by the project which the locality Project Manager anticipates would require a Nationwide Permit.*
- NO** Requires a U.S. Coast Guard bridge permit (33 U.S.C. § 401)  
*Determination: Based on the project scope, location, and 60% plans the locality Project Manager determined a U.S. Coast Guard bridge permit is not required.*
- NO** Requires work that will cause an increase of the flood level by more than one foot within a regulatory floodway of water courses or water bodies or work affecting the base floodplain (100-year flood) elevations of a water course or lake, pursuant to 23 CFR §650 subpart A  
*Determination: Based on a review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's online floodplain database the entire project area is located within an "Area of Minimal Flood Hazard." The construction work required for this project will not increase the flood level of a regulatory floodway or a floodplain elevation.*
- NO** Is defined as a "Type I project" per 23 CFR §772.5 and the VDOT noise manual for purposes of a noise analysis  
*Determination: In accordance with 23 CFR §772.5 and VDOT's Updated Air and Noise Scoping Requirements for PCE Agreement guidance dated 06/27/2014, this project is a Type III project; therefore, a noise analysis is not required.*
- NO** Is likely to adversely affect federally listed species or designated critical habitat, with the exception of a "may affect, likely to adversely affect" (MALAA) determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat or Indiana Bat when the project is within the scope of the Section 7 range-wide programmatic consultation for those species  
*Determination: Coordination with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation resulted in a determination that no species would be adversely affected as a result of this project. Coordination with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources was initiated, but no response was received. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was initiated through the IPaC database review self-certification process - no federally listed species or designated critical habitat were identified.*
- NO** Involves any known or potential hazardous materials issues that represent a substantial liability or require substantial regulatory negotiation to resolve. Sites representing substantial liability would not include minor issues such as low-level petroleum impacts or minimal solid waste  
*Determination: A hazardous materials review of the project area was performed using NETR Online, EnviroFacts (RCRA Info (EPA)), and Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) Databases; no sites of concern for substantial liability or potential regulatory negotiation were identified.*
- NO** Does not meet the provisions of the "Planning Documents and NEPA Approvals" document. In accordance with 23 CFR §450 and the FHWA/VDOT/Federal Transit Administration/Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation MOA Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Procedures MOA, actions listed in 23 CFR §771.117(c) and 23 CFR §771.117(d) may be grouped  
*Determination: The project is within a STIP Grouping for Construction: Safety/ITS/Operational Improvements to meet the provisions of the "Planning Documents and NEPA Approvals" document.*
- NO** Causes disproportionately high and adverse effects on any minority or low-income populations  
*Determination: Based on U.S. Census data and 60% plans, no minority or low-income populations would be adversely impacted.*
- NO** Involves consideration of multiple NEPA alternatives  
*Determination: Based on the qualifying actions, the scope of work, and no significant environmental impacts, this project does not require the consideration of multiple NEPA alternatives.*
- NO** Is an action listed in 23 CFR §771.115(a)  
*Determination: The project scope does not include an action listed in 23 CFR §771.115(a).*

**NO** Involves unusual circumstances, pursuant to 23 CFR §771.117(b)  
*Determination: The project does not involve unusual circumstances, pursuant to 23 CFR §771.117(b).*

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Environmental Manager, CE Determination

Date