



Date of Council Work Session: September 9, 2013

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

--INFORMATION MEMO--

Subject: Northbound Right-Turn Lane on Route 15 Bypass at Battlefield Parkway

Staff Contact: Thomas A. Mason, P.E., Director of Public Works
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Recommendation: We recommend that the right-turn lane on the Route 15 Bypass at Battlefield Parkway not be extended.

Issue: What is the cost to lengthen the existing northbound right-turn lane on Route 15 Bypass at Battlefield Parkway and how effective would it be?

Fiscal Analysis: A project to lengthen the existing northbound right-turn lane on Route 15 Bypass at Battlefield Parkway is not currently in the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). The project is estimated to cost \$150,000 to \$200,000 to install an additional 500 feet of turn lane to the existing 400 foot right-turn lane.

Background: Route 15 Bypass is a four-lane, divided highway with right and left-turn lanes at Battlefield Parkway. In the evening peak hours, northbound traffic frequently backs up from north of Leesburg through the intersection. Current traffic counts show that approximately 56 northbound vehicles turn right into Battlefield Parkway from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. If traffic on the Bypass is backed-up due to congestion north of Leesburg, the access into the turn lane is blocked by backed-up traffic. If the turn lane is lengthened along the Bypass south of Battlefield Parkway, vehicles may not have to wait as long to get into the turn lane to make a right turn.

Because Route 15 is a state route on the National Highway System, all design elements must meet VDOT and federal standards. Among things that need to be considered is that a 10-foot shoulder (8-feet paved) is required adjacent to the turn lane. This adds to the construction cost.

The right turn traffic volumes do not warrant the extension of the right-turn lane. When applying the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) guidelines, however, the use of engineering judgment in establishing turn lanes can be considered for conditions not fully addressed in the VDOT guidelines. The extension would not be a good traffic management solution and may cause traffic to use the turn lane to cut in front of backed-up traffic. Right-turn lanes longer than 400 feet are very unusual and drivers may try to use it as a through lane.

The attached vicinity map shows the existing 400 foot right-turn lane and the proposed extension along the Route 15 Bypass. It also shows that Edwards Ferry Road to Battlefield Parkway is a good alternate route for access to the northeast residential areas when the Route 15 Bypass is backed up. Also "DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION" signs were installed for northbound traffic on Route 15 Bypass at Battlefield Parkway and Edwards Ferry Road.

Attachments: 1 (one) vicinity map and 3 (three) photos

Existing 400'
Right Turn Lane

Proposed 500'
Right Turn Lane

Approx.
4,730 Feet

Approx.
6,200 Feet



Approx.
3,230 Feet





50

LEFT ON GREEN ARROW ONLY

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