



Date of Council Meeting: September 12, 2016

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Information Memo

Subject: Pedestrian/Vehicular Safety at Edwards Ferry Road/Market Street/Church Street related to the Courthouse Expansion.

Staff Contact: Renée M. LaFollette, Director, Public Works and Capital Projects
Calvin K. Grow, Transportation Engineer, Public Works and Capital Projects

Council Action Requested: Information memo only. No action is required by Council at this time.

Staff Recommendation: No staff recommendation at this time

Commission Recommendation: Not applicable.

Fiscal Impact: Not applicable.

Work Plan Impact: None.

Executive Summary: Town Council approved the Courthouse Expansion on February 9, 2016, a project that will add additional vehicles and pedestrians to the Edwards Ferry Road/Market Street/Church Street intersection. As a part of this project, a highly visible brick pattern crosswalk similar to those installed at the King Street and Market Street intersection will be installed along with appropriate signage that will enhance the pedestrian crossing at the intersection.

Background: The approved Courthouse Expansion project will not change the existing five legged intersection. A five-legged intersection is not a standard design and roadway designers and transportation engineers hold that it is desirable for intersecting roadways to meet at an angle of 90 degrees and consist of four legs, for both safety and operational reasons. The current intersection of Edwards Ferry Road/Market Street/Church Street is far from ideal in that it has five legs with two approaches intersecting at angles less than 30 degrees (Attachment 1). However, the intersection works relatively well given that Church Street is one-way to the north of Market Street and one-way to the south away from the intersection. In addition, the intersection has experienced only one reported vehicle accident in the last three years. It is estimated that the Loudoun County Courthouse Expansion will add 151 additional A.M. peak hour trips and 16 additional P.M. peak hour trips to this intersection.

One of the concerns about adding vehicular trips to this area is the potential back-up of traffic to and through this intersection. Currently, the east and west bound left-turns off of Market Street at the King Street intersection cause back-ups during the P.M. peak hours through the Edwards Ferry Road/Market Street/Church Street intersection. The intersection of King Street and Market Street currently has left-turn restrictions from 8:00-9:30 A.M., and 4:00-6:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. Traffic counts

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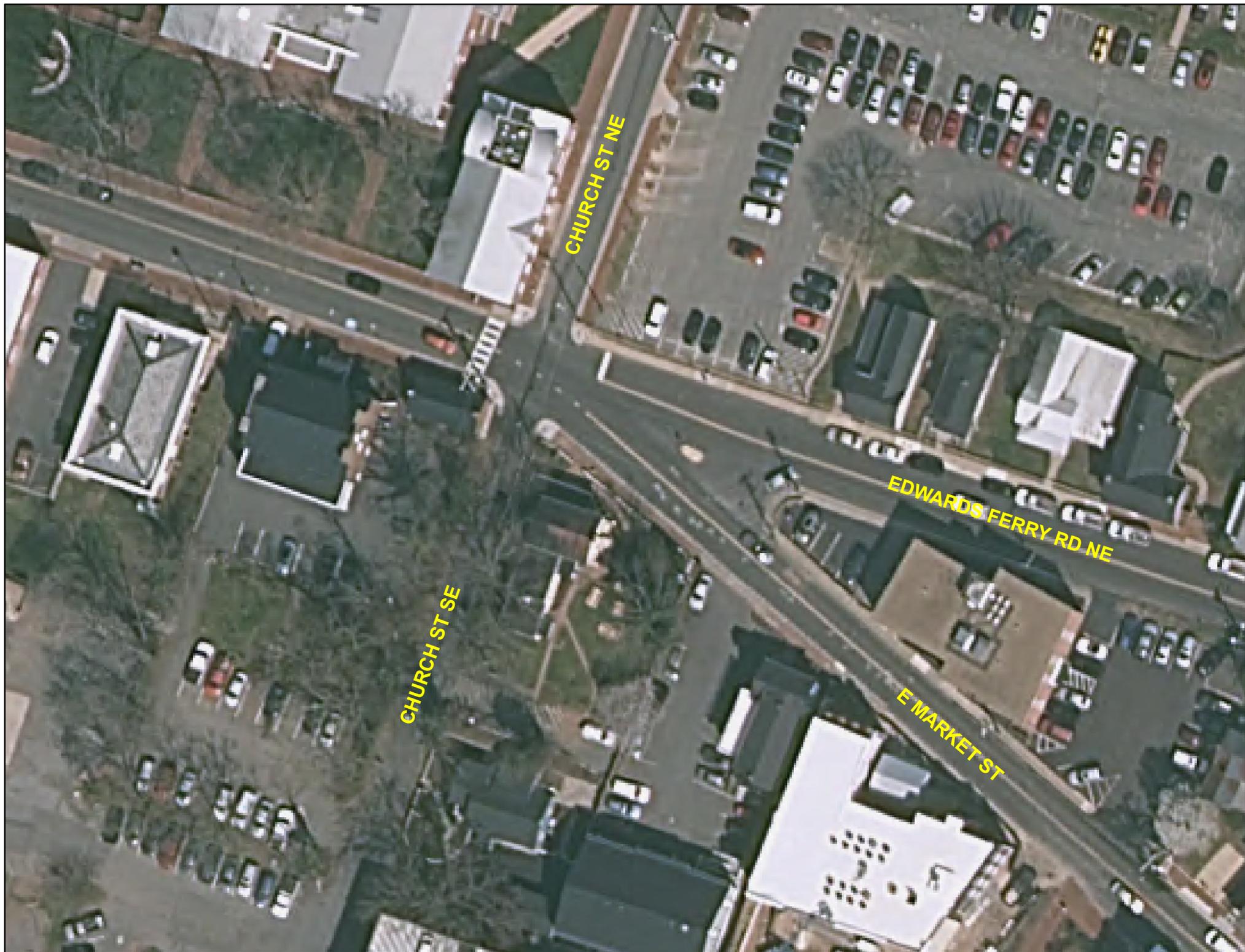
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conducted for the Court House Expansion traffic study revealed that there are vehicles still making left-turns during the peak period restrictions. To limit the left turn movements during the peak hours, additional, targeted enforcement by the police would be required.

Marked crosswalks are one tool used to direct pedestrian safely across a street particularly in the downtown areas of Leesburg. On Monday, August 15, 2016, the Board of Architectural (BAR) reviewed and approved the final Certificate of Appropriateness on the final design for the Courts Complex Expansion Plan. The 92,000 square foot Court Building will be constructed along Church Street at the former site of the Loudoun County Jail, which is currently a parking lot. As part of the BAR approval a pedestrian crosswalk was added across Church Street at the Edwards Ferry Road/ Market Street/Church Street Intersection (Attachment 2). This crosswalk will be standard thermoplastic brick pattern, similar to those recently installed with the Downtown Improvements Project. A highly visible, brick pattern crosswalk along with installation of appropriate signage, will enhance the pedestrian crossing at the intersection and provide approaching vehicles notification of the crossing. However, the new court parking garage will be located in the Pennington lot so the majority of pedestrian traffic for the new Courthouse facility will not come through the Edwards Ferry Road/Market Street/Church Street intersection.

Attachment: Attachment 1 – Photo of existing intersection
Attachment 2 – Loudoun County Phase II Expansion drawing





CORNER OF CHURCH ST AND EDWARDS FERRY RD - PERSPECTIVE