

# University Boulevard Extension Project Design Public Hearing Comment Responses

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VDOT Project Number:	0840-076-R68, PE101, RW201, C501
Route:	Route 840, University Blvd.
UPC:	113198
From:	Sudley Manor Dr. (Route 1566)
To:	Edmonston Dr. (Route 3297)
Public Hearing Date:	Monday, November 18, 2019 (6:30pm – 8:30pm)
Venue:	Chris Yung Elementary School (12612 Fog Light Way, Bristow VA 20136)
Project Length:	2,640 linear feet or 0.5 miles

*Below are comment responses for the University Boulevard Extension Project Design Public Hearing held at Chris Yung Elementary School on Monday, November 18, 2019 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.*

# Summary of Comments

## Comment 1

Additional pedestrian and bicyclist safety measures should be implemented given the amount of pedestrian activity along the corridor. There are concerns that vehicles will speed through the facility and fail to yield to pedestrians attempting to navigate the crosswalks. Speed tables similar to the ones on Edmonston Dr. and traffic signals were suggested for consideration here. Concerns were also raised that vehicles are not forced to stop at the roundabouts. (13 comments)

**Response:** *Mitigation measures (such as signage, pavement markings etc.) for pedestrians and bicyclists will be further evaluated as the design progresses for the University Boulevard Extension project. The proposed roundabouts at two intersections will encourage vehicles to slow down as they navigate the roundabouts. At all locations, crosswalks and other measures will be further evaluated for installation in accordance with County and VDOT policies and standards.*

## Comment 2

This portion of the roadway should remain two lanes in order to maintain a safe neighborhood and limit noise and pollution. (2 comments)

**Response:** *The four-lane section is not part of the plans for the current improvement project. The current project only proposes to construct the two-lane section. Further improvements and/or alternatives for sound barriers and/or noise mitigation measures will be evaluated during the design process of the future four-lane widening project. The four-lane widening of University Blvd. is included in the Prince William County Transportation Comprehensive Plan, but is currently unfunded with no schedule for design or construction.*

## Comment 3

The shared use path should be installed during this project instead of with the expansion to 4 lanes to better protect bicyclists during the 2-lane construction. (2 comments)

**Response:** *The current plan to construct the two travel lanes with a sidewalk is consistent with the existing section west of Edmonston Drive. Bicyclists will be able to use the two-lane roadway and can use the sidewalk as well if desired.*

## Comment 4

The design does not adequately address noise and privacy concerns during construction. (1 comment)

**Response:** *All local noise ordinances will be followed to minimize disturbance to residents during construction. Further community outreach will be performed prior to construction.*

## Comment 5

More information should be provided regarding the final plan for extending University Blvd. beyond Devlin Rd. (2 comments).

**Response:** *The County's Transportation Comprehensive Plan includes extending University Blvd. west to connect to US Route 29 in the future.*

## Comment 6

Wellington Rd. should be expanded to four lanes. (1 comment)

**Response:** Comment noted. The widening of Wellington Rd. is beyond the scope of the University Boulevard Extension project.

#### Comment 7

Concern about additional traffic on Edmonston Dr. (1 comment)

**Response:** Vehicular traffic on Edmonston Dr. is projected to decrease based on preliminary traffic study results. This is largely due to the elimination of the need to utilize Edmonston Dr. as a cut-through to continue along University Blvd. or access Sudley Manor Dr.

#### Comment 8

The proposed development on the west side of Devlin Rd. may cause traffic along the roadway to increase beyond what traffic is currently being designed for. (1 comment)

**Response:** Approved developments were considered in the development of the projected traffic volumes for the preliminary traffic report, consistent with the County's overall traffic forecasting model.

#### Comment 9

The existing roadway along University Blvd. needs repair and should be resurfaced. Additional construction traffic will likely increase the need for repairs. (1 comment)

**Response:** No maintenance improvements are planned on the existing portions of University Blvd. Please see the VDOT Maintenance and Road Problem website for more information on requesting maintenance on existing roads (<https://my.vdot.virginia.gov/>).

#### Comment 10

Concerns that construction will extend beyond the allowed time periods. (1 comment)

**Response:** Construction impacting traffic along existing roadways will be strictly limited to hours permitted by VDOT. Construction outside normal working hours will be required to adhere to County noise ordinances.

#### Comment 11

Concern that the additional traffic along University Blvd. will make turns from side streets (specifically Hackney Dr.) very difficult. (1 comment)

**Response:** At this time, no additional improvements at these intersections are planned.

#### Comment 12

Concern about the impact of heavy trucks utilizing the roadway. Signage should be implemented to limit what vehicles may use the roadway. (1 comment)

**Response:** Currently there are no plans to restrict truck traffic on University Blvd. VDOT has a specific process and requirements that must be met to implement a truck restriction. Given its roadway classification, University Blvd would most likely not qualify for a truck restriction.

#### Comment 13

Entry and exit into the Abberly Avera apartment complex could be impacted if the entryway is used as a construction staging area. (1 comment)

**Response:** Prior to construction, the County will review all staging areas and truck routes with the Contractor to ensure impacts to local neighborhoods is minimized.

#### Comment 14

Will there be any funding given to the Independence community to install new signage for the new entrances into the community? (1 comment)

**Response:** *Additional signage for adjacent communities is not planned as part of this project, and is the responsibility of the private owner/community.*

#### Comment 15

There needs to be lighting along the length of the new addition. (1 comment)

**Response:** *Lighting for the project is currently being evaluated.*

#### Comment 16

Sound barriers and/or wall should be placed between the road and homes. (1 comment)

**Response:** *The current design for a two-lane University Blvd. does not include a sound barrier or noise wall. With the future four-lane roadway, the possibility of building a sound barrier along University Boulevard to alleviate noise from traffic will be considered.*

#### Comment 17

Citizen had concerns with noise during construction and if there will be any proposed natural barrier following construction.

**Response:** *As stated previously in Comment Response #4, all local noise ordinances will be followed to minimize disturbance to residents during construction. Additionally, the current design is not proposing any natural barriers for the two-lane University Blvd. With the future four-lane roadway, the possibility of proposing a natural barrier along University Blvd. to alleviate noise from traffic will be considered.*

#### Comment 18

Citizen asked if a surface water study had been completed and incorporated in the design and would like to see the traffic study for University Blvd. two-lane design upon project completion.

**Response:** *Drainage was considered as a part of our design process for University Blvd., which includes the analysis of stormwater quality and quantity. For any document requests, please contact Prince William County Department of Transportation.*

#### Comment 19

Citizen asked about trees that would be impacted by the University Boulevard Extension Project behind their property (8801 Worsley Ct., Bristow VA) and their neighbor's (8800 Worsley Ct., Bristow VA). In addition, citizen asked if the County will be considering a private fence for these properties. Finally, the citizen would like to know how much of their property will be acquired for right-of-way and how much they would be compensated.

**Response:** *As a part of this project, trees will be removed as necessary to construct the project. The current design for a two-lane University Boulevard does not propose fences for properties along University Boulevard. During the Right of Way Acquisition Phase, affected properties will be notified by Prince William County about right-of-way and easement needs and proposed compensation.*