



**Public Hearing Scheduled for the Churchland Bridge (Northbound Lanes)  
Replacement Project - City of Portsmouth, UPC 102715**

The City of Portsmouth invites the public to attend a hearing on the proposed replacement of the northbound lanes of the Churchland Bridge on –

**Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.  
Bide-A-Wee Pavilion, 1 Bide-A-Wee Lane**

During the open-house-style hearing, the project team will be available to discuss the project and answer questions from citizens.

The purpose of the project is to replace the existing northbound section of the Churchland Bridge carrying High Street (Route 17) over the Western Branch Elizabeth River. The existing northbound section of the bridge has been found to be structurally deficient and uses an obsolete pin-and-hanger design element. AASHTO and FHWA have recommended the removal of bridges with this design element. A primary justification for the project is to improve the safety of the travelling public by reducing the risk of catastrophic bridge failure

In addition to improving the safety of the river crossing, the new bridge will add new mobility options for residents, as it will include a protected 14' multiuse path. Route 17, including the Churchland Bridge, has been designated by the City as a multi-modal corridor, and the City plans to complete a number of bike and walkway improvements along this corridor concurrently with the bridge replacement project.

The Churchland Bridge is an important transportation asset for residents of the region, and for the state government and the U.S. military. Carrying over 30,000 vehicles a day, it provides primary access to many regional employment, school, retail, health care centers, and for emergency service responders. Route 17, including the Churchland Bridge, is part of the Virginia Department of Transportation's Hurricane Evacuation Route system for the region. The bridge is also an important infrastructure asset in terms of military mobility, as Route 17 is part of the Department of Defense's Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET). About 30,000 vehicles use the Churchland Bridge each day.

The project's estimated cost is \$35 million and will be funded through VDOT Revenue Sharing, which is a 50-50 match of state and local funds and state funding dedicated in the Commonwealth's FY 2016 Six-Year Improvement Program. Construction is anticipated to commence near the beginning of 2017 and will take approximately two years to complete.

Project plans and environmental documents, as well as right-of-way and easement information, will be available for review at the public hearing, and is available in the City of Portsmouth Department of Engineering and Technical Services. Please call the office in advance at 757-393-8592 to ensure that personnel are available to answer your questions during your visit.

Written and oral comments will be taken at the hearing. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration on or before 30 days after publication of this notice to Mr. James Wright, City Engineer, 801 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704, or email to: [wrightj@portsmouthva.gov](mailto:wrightj@portsmouthva.gov).

The City of Portsmouth ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

# # #