Responses to Questions and Comments for Which the I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension (495 NEXT) Project Team Indicated Complementary Responses Would be Provided 495 NEXT June 7, 2022 Virtual Project Update Meeting

1. Live Oak Drive is not a local road. There are so many hikers walking on that road to access Scotts Run trail etc. If you narrow Live Oak Drive, how would you ensure the safety of these walkers/bikers?

Response:

Currently, the pavement on Live Oak Drive is approximately 24' wide and unpaved. The proposed Live Oak Drive provides 22' wide pavement, plus level graded areas, 5' minimum in width, behind the curb and gutter on each side, which would be available to pedestrians. Live Oak Drive is classified as a local road with posted speeds of 25 mph serving 52 residential units with an average daily traffic volume of 440 vehicles per trips a day.

2. With your current design, are any of the flyover ramps visible from Live Oak Drive neighborhood?

Response:

Please refer to Attachment 1: Line of Sight for Proposed Ramps at George Washington Memorial Parkway Ramp Exhibit. This exhibit is based on design information shared at the June 7th Project Update Meeting. Even though the exhibit is not inclusive of every line of sight along Live Oak Drive, it suggests that the ramps will not be visible from most perspectives along Live Oak Drive, but may be visible from some locations depending on elevation and viewpoint.

3. The ramp from Georgetown Pike to 495 North is shared with traffic that wants to get on the parkway and it is the same in the new configuration. The traffic that wants to get on the Parkway is frequently backed up because of traffic that wants to get on 495. Is it possible to add an additional lane to the right side of the ramp dedicated to parkway traffic so that it isn't backed up by traffic trying to get onto the beltway?

Response:

The issue with providing an additional auxiliary lane along northbound I-495 between the Georgetown Pike on-ramp and the exit to the GW Parkway is the increase in the project footprint. The change in footprint would impact the parking lot and internal circulation driveways at Holy Trinity Church, and would require a shift in the intersections of Live Oak Drive at Balls Hill Road and Live Oak Drive, which could impact driveways and properties in the vicinity. And most critically, the suggested additional auxiliary lane would adversely impact the stream and wetland system located between I-495 and River Oaks Drive cul-de-sac.

4. What is being done to minimize impact of vibrations [from construction]?

Response:

At this time, VDOT does not have information on the contractor's construction method. However, the contract requirements limit vibration levels and require monitoring of these types of activities.

Attachment 1 Line of Sight for Proposed Ramps at George Washington Memorial Parkway Ramp Exhibit















