



# Interchange Improvements at Route 15 Leesburg Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road



## Project Description

The existing intersections between the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road and between the Bypass and Fort Evans Road are two of the most congested and high accident intersections within the Town of Leesburg. The Bypass also acts as a barrier that inhibits east-west movements on Battlefield Parkway by motor vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. Development of an interchange at this location was first included in the Leesburg Town Plan in 1986 and continues to be included in the current Town Plan the Loudoun Countywide Transportation Plan, and the

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Constrained Long-Range Plan. During the past three years, the Virginia Department of Transportation has been preparing an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) (Attachment 2), Preliminary Plans (Attachment 3), and a NEPA Environmental Document for the project. The Leesburg Town Council endorsed the interchange configuration in May 2017. A final Public Hearing for the project is scheduled for April 2018. It is anticipated that by summer 2018, the IJR will be approved, the NEPA document will be approved, and the preliminary design will be completed. At that point, the project will be ready for final design and construction. Depending on the schedule for obtaining funding, the project could be constructed under a design-build contract. If that approach is taken, the process for procuring and Design-Build contractor could begin immediately.

The existing at-grade intersections of the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass with Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road are two of three remaining signalized intersections on the Bypass. Route 15 is part of the National Highway System that serves as a major commuter route between northern Loudoun County, Maryland, and Pennsylvania and employment centers in eastern Loudoun County, Fairfax County, and points further east. Both of the intersections have large retail stores and shopping centers, including Kohls, Target, Costco, Home Depot, Leesburg Premium Outlets, Walmart, and others. There is also very heavy weekend traffic from local residents, shoppers, and travelers along the east coast. Traffic volumes and analyses have been performed as part of the IJR. Congestion at both intersections is severe – traffic studies indicate a forecasted level of service F during specific peak periods (see Figures 6-1 through 6-3 in the IJR).

**Reference Number:** 2018-055-2

**TransAction ID:** 131

**Submitting Jurisdiction/Agency:** Town of Leesburg

**Location:** See map below.

**Requested NVT A Funds:** \$105,700,000

**Previous NVT A Funds Received:** \$2,000,000

**Total Cost to Complete Project:** \$112,000,000

## Project Location



## Project Milestones

	Before FY2018	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	After FY2023
Design, Engineering, Environmental Work							X	X
Right of Way Acquisition							X	X
Construction							X	X

## Project Funding

	Requested NVTA Funds	Other Funding Sources	Total Cost by Phase
Design, Engineering, Environmental Work	\$5,400,000	\$2,000,000 (NVTA 70%)	\$7,400,000
Right of Way Acquisition	\$7,000,000		\$7,000,000
Construction	\$93,300,000	\$4,300,000 (RSTP)	\$97,600,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$105,700,000</b>	<b>\$6,300,000</b>	<b>\$112,000,000</b>

## Project Analysis Highlights

**Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost Ratio (Total Cost in \$1000's):** **1.41**

**Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost Ratio Rank (Total Cost in \$1000's):** **57**

**TransAction Project Rating:** **64.73**

**TransAction Project Rating Rank:** **50**

Note: The project analysis above was completed by NVTA staff using data and information from the project application and analyses of the region's transportation network.

## Regional Impacts

- Reduce congestion and delay experienced by commuters and local residents on a daily basis.
- Improve access to jobs for commuters from northern Loudoun County, Maryland and Pennsylvania traveling to employment in eastern Loudoun County, Fairfax County and points further east.
- Improve travel time reliability by reducing congestion experienced during peak periods.
- Reduce congestion on weekends and during holiday shopping seasons for local and regional drivers going to the various retail centers in the interchange area.
- Improve the multimodal transportation system by eliminating barriers to pedestrians and bicyclists who desire to cross the Route 15 Bypass and travel between residential areas west of the Bypass and shopping /employment area to the east.
- Reduce air pollution by reducing congestion.
- Improve safety by separating high volume, high speed Bypass traffic from the slower speed local traffic.

Note: The regional impacts listed above are a summary of what was submitted in the project application NVTA staff received from the jurisdiction or agency that has applied for funding.