

Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors meeting of July 9, 2019

Virginia Central Railway Bridge project

Summary

The City of Fredericksburg has developed a trail along the Virginia Central Railway (VCR), from downtown to Spotsylvania County. It is a ten-foot wide, asphalt surfaced facility that is open to bicycles and pedestrians. The overall project required three bridges, but only two could be built within the available budget. The paved multi-use trail terminated on the east side of Hazel Run. Since then, the City obtained additional funding through the Smart Scale program to construct the third bridge, which is near the Kingswood subdivision.

This third bridge will provide access across Hazel Run to an additional 0.65 miles of the historic railway. The intent is not to pave that additional section, but to leave the historic rail bed intact and allow citizens to enjoy that natural and historic area. Spotsylvania County recently used that railway to install a sewer line and that project has been completed, allowing the cleared rail bed to become available for recreational use. The Kingswood neighborhood agreed to allow access across their HOA property to facilitate installation of the bridge.

The Project

The bridge design is a 12-foot wide steel frame, spanning approximately 84 feet.

The City obtained \$160,000 to install the new bridge. That estimate was substantially more than the cost of the other bridges recently constructed, and thought to be realistic. In the meantime, steel prices rose and mobilization and access across the HOA property has been revealed to be more difficult than the route used by the original builder, who came in to the site through Fredericksburg Academy. As a consequence, five years later, the best bid is \$285,000. The bidder has reduced his price to \$280,000, but the City has also incurred costs and the available funds have been reduced to \$155,000. The gap is \$135,000.

Options

The City seeks help in closing this gap, suggesting that the project has regional implications. It will certainly benefit the citizens of both jurisdictions. It is also an important link for the larger VCR Trail project that has the potential to extend to the Town of Orange. The overall project is admittedly a long range undertaking, but each step is important.


















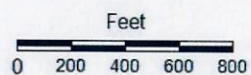
Figure 1. One of the existing 12-foot wide steel bridges over Hazel Run.



Figure 2. The bridge design is slightly arched, to span the waterway without touching the historic bridge abutments.

Legend

-  City Boundary
-  WVS Centerlines Back (12,000)
-  Interstate
-  US Highway
-  VA Primary
-  Others
-  WVS Centerlines Back (12,000)
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Title: VCR Bridge site, adjacent to Kingswood

Date: 6/25/2019

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