

Traffic Statement

James City County Citizens' Coalition

In 2006, the James City County Citizens' Coalition selected traffic as one of its major areas of concern. The coalition feels that not enough emphasis is given by the county to traffic matters. For example:

- New development is creating traffic nightmares at various locations in the county. Anyone driving on Monticello Avenue through the New Town area knows this all too well.
- Cumulative impact of traffic does not seem to be considered when applications for rezoning reach the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.
- Traffic counts and estimates are not well understood by the citizenry; analyses are complicated and not well explained.
- Citizens' input is not encouraged early in the decision process on major roads, i.e., Ironbound closure for Rte. 199. Equally important, citizens are not involved in discussions of problems that may arise later, i.e., News Road to Monticello.
- Both VDOT and the county use 3% as an estimate of annual traffic increases. The county's own traffic data suggest that this number is too low. Traffic on News Road from Springhill to Powhatan Secondary has increased 11.7 % annually since 2003. (13.5% annually since 1992).
- Additionally, vehicle registration in the county has shown an average yearly increase of 3.8% since 2000.

J4C Recommendations

- All new development proposals would require a traffic study to determine impact on current traffic in the area of the development. Unacceptable traffic impacts would need a mitigation plan before any development could go forward.
- County staff to hire a traffic engineer to perform the following:
 - Perform ongoing review of major community corridors in order to allow VDOT to address issues before they become serious
 - Review traffic studies submitted with new development proposals
 - Develop criteria for publishing traffic data which is easily understandable by the citizenry

- Request VDOT hold public hearings to reopen Ironbound Road
- Request VDOT conduct a special study of News Road addressing the road's design problems, potential for flooding and volume of traffic
- Conduct reviews of heavily traveled roads such as Ironbound, Monticello and Richmond Road at Lightfoot to identify potential changes which could relieve congestion, e.g., widening, increased number of lanes, redesign of intersections etc.