Cary Looks at Future Design for Reedy Creek Road

The Town is currently studying future improvements on Reedy Creek Road from NC 54 / NE Maynard Road to N Harrison Avenue. The Town’s Comprehensive Transportation Plan proposes widening the roadway to a 3-lane section with a center left-turn lane, curb & gutter, sidewalks, and bike lanes. Currently, the roadway is a mix of cross-sections. Several segments of the roadway are already widened to a three-lane street section, so design improvements along those segments will be minimal, consisting primarily of small improvements such as missing sidewalks, resurfacing, and pavement markings.

The future widening will not provide additional roadway capacity for Cary commuters, rather:

- widen Reedy Creek Road to a consistent three-lane cross-section,
- provide sidewalks along the corridor to improve pedestrian connectivity in the area, and
- provide bike lanes to accommodate cyclists of all levels.

The future facilities will allow residents, particularly neighborhood school children, to safely walk and bike to shopping, schools, and recreational destinations in the area.

The design of the Reedy Creek Road project is funded through a cost sharing program between the Town and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP). The Town has hired an engineering consultant team to complete the design phase of the project, which is currently underway. The design will include: traffic studies, environmental assessments, and development of alternatives for the widening, final plans, specifications, and cost estimates.

The current efforts are for planning and design only. Designs and cost estimates developed during the study will help inform the Town as we look to fund and budget future capital projects.

More information and project updates are also available on the Town’s website (http://www.townofcary.org) on the Engineering Department’s Street Projects webpage.
WHAT IS NEPA?

Environmental Documentation for Projects

The development of roadway projects with federal funding requires planning be done in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA is a federal law enacted in 1970 that requires governments to consider the environmental impacts of, and alternatives to, major proposed actions in its decision-making processes. The act is the basic national charter for the protection of the environment.

For this project, a categorical exclusion (CE) will be prepared and will be reviewed by NCDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). CEs are a checklist type of document applied to projects that do not induce significant impacts to planned growth, land uses or travel patterns, do not relocate residences/businesses; do not have major impact on any cultural, recreational, historic or other resource; do not involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts; and do not otherwise have any significant environmental impacts.

BUDGET

The Town is funding the current study through a grant received from the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP).

FY 2013 - $200,000 for engineering & design
$160,000 from STP-DA grants, $40,000 from Town funds