



Office of the Town Manager
Judson Rex

Warrenton Town Council

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STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date:	August 11, 2026
Agenda Title:	Transportation Update
Requested Action:	Provide an update on active transportation projects and feedback from Town Council
Department / Agency Lead:	Capital Asset Management
Staff Lead:	Michael Wharton

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Town Council with an update on current and upcoming transportation projects that support the Town's adopted transportation goals and long-term vision.

BACKGROUND

To address current and future mobility needs, the Town is working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), regional transportation partners, developers, and the public to identify and implement roadway improvements that enhance safety, improve traffic operations, and expand transportation choices.

The Town's transportation objectives are guided by the **Plan Warrenton 2040**, which emphasizes developing a transportation network that is safe, efficient, and accessible for all users. Plan 2040 promotes the principles of **Complete Streets** by designing and operating roadways to accommodate motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and individuals of all ages and abilities. The **Walkability Plan** encourages connecting neighborhoods, improved pedestrian access, and transportation investments that support the Town's historic character, economic vitality, and quality of life.

These guiding principles serve as the foundation for evaluating transportation projects and establishing priorities for future infrastructure investments.

Intersection Safety and Efficiency

As part of implementing the transportation goals identified in the 2040 Plan, Town staff continue to evaluate intersections where modern roundabouts may provide operational and safety improvements.

Modern roundabouts support several Town transportation objectives by:

- Improving intersection safety through reduced vehicle speeds and fewer severe conflict points.

- Increasing traffic efficiency while reducing delays and vehicle idling.
- Providing safer pedestrian crossings through shorter crossing distances and pedestrian refuge islands.
- Supporting Complete Streets principles by creating transportation facilities that safely accommodate multiple modes of travel.
- Enhancing walkability by improving pedestrian comfort and reducing vehicle speeds in developed areas.

The decision to construct a roundabout is based on engineering analysis, projected traffic volumes, crash history, available right-of-way, environmental considerations, construction costs, and compatibility with surrounding land uses. Roundabouts are considered where they represent the most effective long-term solution for improving safety and mobility.

Public engagement will remain an important component of the planning and design process to ensure residents, businesses, and stakeholders have opportunities to provide input.

➤ **Transportation Projects**

- Transportation projects currently under development or planned are intended to implement the goals and recommendations of the Town's 2040 Plan and improve mobility throughout the community.

❖ **Roadway Improvements**

- Intersection capacity and operational improvements.
- Corridor improvements to accommodate future growth.
- Roadway resurfacing and rehabilitation.
- Drainage and roadway infrastructure upgrades.

❖ **Multimodal Improvements**

- Construction of new sidewalks and completion of missing sidewalk connections.
- Improved pedestrian crossings and intersection accessibility.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance improvements.
- Bicycle accommodation where appropriate.
- Enhanced connectivity between neighborhoods, schools, parks, and business areas.

❖ **Traffic Signal Operations and Safety**

- Traffic calming initiatives.
- Signal timing and operational improvements.
- Updated pavement markings and signage.
- Safety improvements identified through transportation studies.

❖ **Transportation Planning**

- Transportation investments to prioritize safety, multimodal accessibility, connectivity, and long-term sustainability.
- Coordinate with VDOT and regional transportation partners.
- Pursue state and federal funding opportunities.
- Engage residents and stakeholders throughout project development.
- Implement transportation improvements that support the Town's walkability, Complete Streets, and Comprehensive Plan objectives.
- Study Frost Avenue Corridor for impact of development outside of Town Limits
- Conduct traffic signal coordination study to sync and improve efficiency
- Return to the Town Council with project-specific updates and recommendations as projects advance.

➤ Project Updates

❖ Main Street Improvements

- **Status:** Construction Phase
- **Progress:** Approximately 75% complete.
- **Current Activities:** Installation of crosswalks and brick sidewalk
- **Estimated Completion:** September 2026

❖ Traffic Signal Modernization

- **Status:** Construction Phase
- **Progress:** Installed new card and remote system
- **Next Steps:** Installation of detection cameras
- **Estimated Completion:** October 2026

❖ Gay Road Sidewalk

- **Status:** Design
- **Progress:** Survey and concept design phase
- **Estimated Completion:** FY-2028

❖ Walker Drive/ East Lee Street Improvements

- **Status:** Traffic Study Phase
- **Objective:** Create solutions to improvement safety along this corridor.
- **Estimated Completion:** June 2027

❖ Lee Highway Roundabout and Intersection Improvements

- **Status:** Design
- **Current Status:** Establishment of the alignment

- **Public Engagement:** Public Hearing Early 2027
- **Estimated Start Construction:** Spring 2030

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational update and presentation only, therefore there is no staff recommendation. Town Council is encouraged to review the materials, ask questions, and otherwise engage on this matter.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

Staff will continue to monitor project performance and provide periodic updates as major milestones are achieved.

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

The selected projects are listed and guided by the Plan Warrenton 2040, which promotes the principles stated in the Complete Streets and Walkability Plan

Fiscal Impact

Transportation improvements are funded through a combination of Town capital improvement funds, state and federal transportation programs, developer contributions, grants, and other available funding sources. If necessary and required by policy, individual projects will be presented to the Town Council with detailed cost estimates and funding recommendations as they advance through design and construction.

Legal Impact

The Town Attorney will review all agreements and contracts pertaining to the future transportation projects

ATTACHMENTS

1. Lee Highway Concept Plan
2. Dimensions of Roundabout
3. Roundabout comparison to Falmouth/ Shirley and Lee Highway/ Winchester Street
4. Multimodal Plan
5. Town of Warrenton- Transportation 2040 Plan
6. Culpeper Street Roundabout Concept Plan
7. Shirley Avenue Pipeline Study