

Documentation of FHWA Review

Project Name: Sycolin Road

State Project Number: U000-253-312

UPC: 102895

Based on the preliminary environmental impact information compiled by VDOT, FHWA approved this project as a Categorical Exclusion on April 14, 2015. Based on my review of the Categorical Exclusion documentation submitted by VDOT, I find this information acceptable and sufficient as supporting documentation to support the original Categorical Exclusion determination.

John Ainskins 10/28/15

TO: FHWA
FROM: John Muse
DATE:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CE)

Date CE level document approved by VA FHWA Division:

FHWA Contact: John Simkins
Route: 643
Route Type: Urban
Project Type: Construction
State Project Number: U000-253-312
Federal Project Number: STP-5A01(547)
UPC: 102895

From: Claudia Drive
To: Tolbert Lane
County/City: Leesburg
District / Residency: Leesburg

Project in STIP: Yes No
Project in Long Range Plan: Yes No N/A Project Outside of MPO Area
Next Phase of Funding Available: Yes No (Funds currently designated for construction are in the process of being redesignated for ROW.)

Project Description: Sycolin Road will be widened from two lanes to a four-lane divided roadway with a raised median, curb and gutter, a 10-foot wide shared use path, and a 5-foot wide sidewalk, from approximately 1,500 feet north of Claudia Drive to approximately 500 feet south of Tolbert Lane. Turn lanes will be provided at all intersections where appropriate. Traffic signals at the Tavistock Drive and Loudoun Center Place intersections will be modified. Sycolin Road will be resurfaced and restriped from approximately 100 feet south of Claudia Drive to Tolbert Lane to transition to the existing 2-lane typical section.

CE Category 23 CFR 771.117: (d)
Description of CE Category: Additional actions which meet the criteria for a CE in the CEQ regulation (40 CFR 1508.4) and paragraph (a) of this section may be designated as CEs only after the FHWA approval.

USGS Map Attached Yes

Logical Termini and Independent Utility:
Yes N/A (For Non-highway construction only, explain in comments below)

Purpose and Need Statement:
The primary purposes of this project are to:

- Provide adequate roadway capacity and reduce congestion.
- Improve traffic safety.

- Provide facilities to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Traffic volumes have more than doubled since 2010 (VDOT Historic Traffic Data cited in Town scoping documents), and are projected to continue to increase in the future. Construction of residential developments; construction of the Battlefield Parkway; and the paving of Sycolin Road south of Leesburg have all contributed to a rapid rise in traffic on this road. Other factors contributing to the congestion include: the construction of the Leesburg Park and Ride commuter lot immediately south of the project; construction of the Philip Bolen Memorial Park immediately south of the project; and the growth of the Leesburg Executive Airport.

Currently there are no pedestrian or bicycle facilities serving the Sycolin Road corridor between the Leesburg south corporate limits and Tolbert Lane. This area has several large residential subdivisions, a public school, a Loudoun County Park, a community church, and other community facilities. With the completion of the sidewalk and shared use path planned for this project, a continuous pedestrian and bicycle route will be available from Claudia Drive to Gatehouse Drive (approximately 2 miles). These facilities will connect with other sidewalks, shared use paths and trails on Battlefield Parkway, Tavistock Drive, Hope Parkway and other streets to provide a walkable / bikeable network serving this portion of the Town and County.

Comments:

Typical Section: The new typical section will include two 12-foot wide travel lanes in each direction divided by a raised median. The roadway will have standard curb and gutter, a ten-foot wide asphalt shared use path on the east side, and a five-foot wide sidewalk on the west side (see attachment).

Structures: No structures are needed.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC	PRESENT		IMPACTS	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Minority/Low Income Populations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disproportionate Impacts to Minority/Low Income Populations: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Existing or Planned Public Recreational Facilities:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: USA.com Website accessed 10/14/15; Google Maps and the Project Plans, and memo from M. Novak, Chief Park Planner, Facilities Planning and Development, 5/29/15				
Community Services:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Google Maps and the Loudoun County Website.				
Consistent with Local Land Use: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
Source: Leesburg Virginia Town Plan, June 2012, as amended through January, 2014				
Existing or Planned Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities: Beneficial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Source: Leesburg Virginia Town Plan, June 2012, as amended through January, 2014; Project Plans				

Comments: The minority or low-income population of the environmental justice study area does not exceed 50 percent; however the percentage of minority population is above the Environmental Justice (EJ) evaluator factor in Tract 107610604, Block Group 2. Although an EJ population is present, there are no impacts to the EJ population (i.e., no relocations, no displacements, no disruption of community, and no disruption of emergency services). No minority or low-income populations have been identified that would be adversely impacted by the proposed project as determined above. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of E.O. 12898 and FHWA Order 6640.23, no further EJ analysis is required.

Loudoun County's Philip A. Bohlen Memorial Park abuts the southern end of the project area (to the east), but only repaving and striping is proposed in this area. No impacts on the park are anticipated.

The Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management is located off Sycolin Road. No response was received during coordination on 4/28/2015.

Under the Leesburg Town Plan, the area is proposed for Office/Light Industrial, Commercial Office, and Regional Office uses, except for the areas occupied by the Philip A. Bohlen Memorial Park (Open Space) and Loudoun County Facilities (Major Institutional). The Town's planning policy for Sycolin Road is that Sycolin Road should be considered a Major Arterial, and proposes specific improvements (Chapter 9, page 9-14). Chapter 3 of the Town Plan establishes an objective to encourage the expansion of the Town's Greenway corridors and trail network to encourage pedestrian and bicycle access to parks and regional trails. The Town Plan Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Map shows a multi-use trail along Sycolin Road.

SECTION 4(f) and SECTION 6(f)	YES	NO
Use of 4(f) Property: Acres of use:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name of Resource:		
Type of Resource:		
Individually Eligible Historic Property:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contributing Element to Historic District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Recreation Area:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Park:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Wildlife/Waterfowl Refuge:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planned Public Park, Recreation Area, Wildlife or Waterfowl Refuge:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Maps and project plans; memo from Marc Holma, VDHR, 5/13/15		
De Minimis:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Type of Use:		
Permanent:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Temporary:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
*Constructive:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
*Temporary Non 4(f) Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Section 4(f) Evaluation Attached:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conversion of 6(f) Property: Acres of Conversion:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Maps and project plans; site visits		

Comments: Loudoun County's Philip A. Bohlen Memorial Park abuts the southern end of the project area, but only repaving and striping of the existing road is proposed in this area. No impacts to the park are anticipated (memo from M. Novak, Chief Park Planner, Facilities Planning and Development, 5/29/15).

*Note that a Constructive Use and a Temporary Non 4(f) Use do not apply with a De Minimis finding.

CULTURAL RESOURCES	COMPLETE	N/A
Source: VCRIS Website, accessed 4/3/2015; Memo from Marc Holma, VDHR 5/13/15		
"No Effect" Pursuant to 1999 DHR Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phase I Architecture Conducted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phase II Architecture Conducted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phase I Archaeology Conducted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Phase II Archaeology Conducted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Section 106 Effect Determination: No Effect		
DHR Concurrence on Effect: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date: 5/15/2015		
MOA Attached: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Execution Date: / /		
Name of Historic Property:		
Comments:		

NATURAL RESOURCES	PRESENT		IMPACTS	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Surface Water (Name:) Unnamed tributaries to Sycolin Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Source: Wetland Delineation Report, dated 6/15/15; Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination 8/25/2105				
Federal Threatened or Endangered Species:				
Terrestrial:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic: Dwarf wedge mussel (<i>Alasmodonta varicosa</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Plants:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Database searches and correspondence with the USFWS, VDGIF, and VDCR - see comments below				
100 Year Floodplain:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If "Yes" then identify the regulatory floodway zone:				
Source: Flood Insurance Rate Map #51107C0235 D, July 5, 2001				
Tidal Waters/Wetlands:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Wetlands:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Wetland Delineation Report, dated 6/15/15, and project plans				
Permits Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Source: Wetland Delineation Report, dated 6/15/15, and project plans				

Comments: VAFWIS Search Report, compiled 3/3/2015, identified the federally-threatened and state endangered dwarf wedge-mussel. However, the VDGIF email response, dated 4/30/15, indicated no impacts are anticipated provided the project is constructed with strict adherence to erosion and sedimentation controls.

The Virginia Natural Heritage Data Explorer project report dated 3/25/2015, and VDCR response letter dated 4/23/15, indicated no state-listed species in the project area.

The USFWS IPaC Species List initially indicated no federally-listed species in the project area. An online certification letter was submitted dated 4/21/15 to the USFWS with no response. The project was re-submitted to the USFWS on 8/3/15 to address the northern long-eared bat, which was listed after submission of the first online certification letter. After informal coordination with the USFWS, the Service determined that the effects of the project on northern long-eared bat will be insignificant and discountable and that the project as proposed is not likely to adversely affect this species.

The improvements will involve minor impacts (50 and 75 linear feet) to the small streams for extension of existing culverts. These impacts should qualify under the terms and conditions of USACE Nationwide Permit #23.

AGRICULTURAL/OPEN SPACE	PRESENT		IMPACTS	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Open Space Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Email from VOF dated April 29, 2015.				
Agricultural/Forestal Districts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Town of Leesburg Zoning Map, published 3/24/15; Response from VOF 4/29/15				
Comments:				

FARMLAND	YES	NO
NRCS Form CPA-106 Attached: Rating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alternatives Analysis Required:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Form CPA-106 is not attached check all that are applicable:		
Land already in Urban use:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entire project in area <i>not</i> zoned agriculture:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NRCS responded within 45 days: N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NRCS Determined no prime or unique farmland in the project area. N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Source: Town of Leesburg Official Zoning Map published March 24, 2015		
Comments: Project area is largely within areas zoned as Municipal Airport (MA) and Industrial / Research Park (I-1), Planned Employment Center (PEC), Planned Residential Community (PRC), and Community Retail/Commercial (B3).		

INVASIVE SPECIES	PRESENT		
	YES	NO	UNKNOWN
Invasive Species in the project area:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VDCR indicated that the potential exists for some VDOT projects to further the establishment of invasive species. All seeds used will be tested in accordance with the Virginia Seed Law to ensure there are not prohibited Noxious Weed-Seeds in the seed mixes.

Comments:

AIR QUALITY

Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Yes	No
-----------------------------	------------	-----------

This project is located in a CO Attainment Area Maintenance Area

CO Hotspot Analysis Required? (if "Yes", please attach analysis)

If "No", indicate which exemption it falls under:

- Exempt project under 40 CFR 93.126.
- Exempt project based on traffic volumes below thresholds in the current VDOT Project Level Air Quality Studies Agreement with FHWA/EPA.

Ozone

This project is located in an Ozone Attainment Area Maintenance Area
 Nonattainment Area Early Action Compact Area

Only projects located in ozone nonattainment or maintenance areas must complete this box

- Exempt from regional emissions requirements under 40 CFR 93.126 or 40 CFR 93.127.
- Properly programmed in the CLRP and FY - TIP.
- The project is not regionally significant and/or is not of a type that would normally be included in the regional transportation model.
- This project is regionally significant; however the project was not modeled, or the scope of the project is not consistent with what was modeled in the currently conforming CLRP and TIP.

Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	Yes	No
--	------------	-----------

This project is located in a PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area Maintenance Area
 Attainment Area (if checked, do not fill out box below)

PM_{2.5} Hotspot Analysis Required? (If "Yes", Please Attach Analysis)

Check all that apply;

- A. Exempt project under 40 CFR 93.126, Table 2.
- B. Not a project of air quality concern under 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1)(i) thru (v).
- C. Properly programmed in the CLRP and FY - TIP.
- D. This project is regionally significant; however the project was not modeled, or its scope is not consistent with what was modeled, in the currently conforming CLRP and TIP.

If "B" is checked above, please indicate the following for highway projects:

Design Year = 2039; Peak AADT=27,350 (south of Miller Dr.) & 24,130 (north of Miller Dr.);
Peak Diesel Truck = 5.7%

Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSAT)

This project is exempt with no meaningful potential MSAT effects
 is one with low potential MSAT effects (attach qualitative MSAT analysis)
 is one with high potential MSAT effects (attach quantitative MSAT analysis)

Check all that apply;

- Exempt project under 40 CFR 93.126, or qualifies as a CE under 23 CFR 771.117(c).
- Project with no meaningful impact on traffic volumes or vehicle mix.

If a qualitative MSAT analysis is required, please indicate the following for highway projects:

Design Year = 2039; Peak AADT = 24,130 – 27,350
Source: Air Quality Report for the Sycolin Road Widening Project (Phase IV), Loudon County, VA, July 2015
Comments (Air Quality): Air Quality Report reviewed by VDOT Air Section

NOISE	YES	NO
Type I Project:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Source:		
Noise Analysis Attached:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barriers Under Consideration:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Narrative Noise Analysis; Sycolin Road – Widen to 4 Lanes (Phase IV) August 2015		
Comments: The Narrative Noise Analysis concluded no noise impacts are predicted in the design year. The VDOT Noise staff reviewed and approved Narrative Noise Analysis.		

RIGHT OF WAY AND RELOCATIONS	YES	NO		
Residential Relocations: If "Yes", number:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Source: Project Design Plans, GIS and Site Visits (5/30/2014, 4/6/2015, 4/30/2015)				
Commercial Relocations: If "Yes", number:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Source: Project Design Plans, GIS and Site Visits (5/30/2014, 4/6/2015, 4/30/2015)				
Non-profit Relocations: If "Yes", number:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Source: Project Design Plans, GIS and Site Visits (5/30/2014, 4/6/2015, 4/30/2015)				
Right of Way required: If "Yes", acreage amount: Approximately:1.5 acres fee take; 3 acres permanent easements; and 2.5 acres temporary construction easements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Source: ROW Summary Table, Project Preliminary Design Plans				
	PRESENT		IMPACTS	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Septic Systems, Wells, or Public Water Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Loudoun County Health Department (Stoutenburgh) email dated 5/1/2015				
Hazardous Materials:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Report, Sycolin Road Widening Project, Phase IV, Leesburg, VA July 2015				
Comments: Right-of-way and easements required from 14 parcels (7 property owners)				

CUMULATIVE AND INDIRECT IMPACTS	PRESENT		
	YES	NO	N/A
Present or reasonably foreseeable future projects (highway and non-highway) in the area:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact same resources as the proposed highway project (i.e. cumulative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

impacts):			
Indirect (Secondary) impacts:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Source: Preliminary/Final Development Plan, TLPF-2004-0025 (Paciulli Simmons & Associates), Leesburg Virginia Town Plan, June 2012, as amended through January, 2014			
Comments: A development plan for the Tavistock Office Park at the southeast corner of Tavistock Drive and Sycolin Road was approved in 2008, but has not yet been constructed.			
The intensity of the incremental impacts of the project are considered small, when viewed in the context of impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and would not rise to a level that would cause significant cumulative impacts. The project is unlikely to cause indirect impacts because much of the planned growth has already occurred or will occur as the result of the Town Plan.			

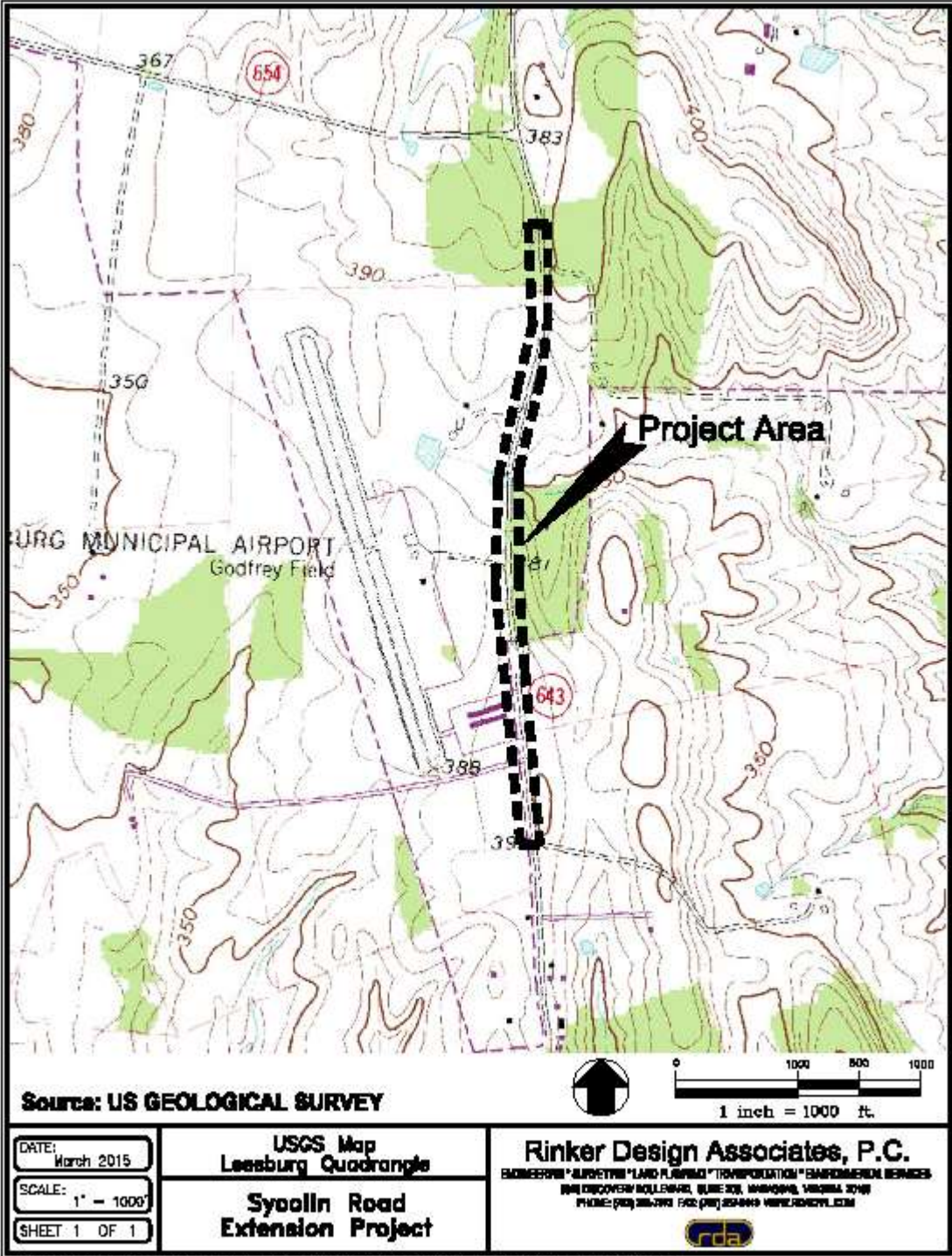
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	YES	NO
Substantial Controversy on Environmental Grounds:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source:		
Public Hearing: If "Yes", type of hearing: Location/Design	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Involvement Activities: If "Yes", type of Involvement:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Source: File record.		
Comments: A public hearing has been scheduled for October 28, 2015.		

COORDINATION

The following agencies were contacted during development of this study:

- City of Leesburg Department of Planning and Zoning
- City of Leesburg Department of Parks and Recreation
- Leesburg Executive Airport
- City of Leesburg Department of Plan Review
- Loudoun County Health Department
- Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue, & Emergency Management
- Loudoun County Department of Family Services,
- Loudoun County Department of Planning and Zoning
- Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure
- Loudoun County Public Schools Department of Support Services
- Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Virginia Department of Health
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

This project meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.4 and 23 CFR 771.117 and will not result in significant impacts to the human or natural environment.



TYPICAL SECTIONS & DETAILS
 (Not to Scale)

Sycolln Road, Rte. 643
 (Town of Leesburg)
 Normal Crown, 4 Lane Curb Section
 VDOT Spc. 607, V-40 (2007)

