

VDOT lays out North Stafford road plans

BY SCOTT SHENK / THE FREE LANCE-STAR | Posted: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 2:34 pm

Drivers in North Stafford can expect to encounter plenty of work zones the next two years because of road improvement projects.

Details on a trio of projects were on display Monday evening at Anne E. Moncure Elementary School, giving residents an idea of what to expect while crews work in several areas along State Route 610 through late 2017.

The biggest of the projects is the estimated \$13.8-million widening work slated for Route 610 (Garrisonville Road). Plans call for an expansion to a six-lane, divided highway from the area of Eustace Road to Onville Road.

Work at the Onville intersection is another of the projects that was on display.

The third project aims to add a turn lane on U.S. 1 to Route 610.

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the county both are involved in the projects. They gave presentations on Monday to about 50 residents.

Utility work is expected to start soon on the widening project, which should be completed in December 2017.

The actual road work should start around August, according to VDOT officials who spoke at Monday's meeting. Any lane closures are expected to happen overnight.

The widening project is aimed at easing congestion on the busy highway, where traffic increased by 63 percent between 2009 and 2014, VDOT officials said at the meeting. VDOT expects another increase of 45 percent on the road over the next 20 years.

The plan is to eventually continue widening the highway to the west.

Work started in December on the \$14.9-million Onville Road intersection project, which includes the addition of turn and through lanes around the intersection.

There will be overnight lane closures throughout the intersection project, which is expected to wrap up in May 2017.

The work zone speed limit is 35 mph and there are temporary lanes, making travel through the intersection rough.

The other project will add an additional turn lane on southbound U.S. 1 for traffic heading west on

Route 610. The new lane is designed to alleviate backups on U.S. 1.

Work on the \$800,000 project is expected to start in April and be completed in July.

Alex Owsiak with the county told the crowd at Monday's meeting that the intersection is one of the most heavily used in the area.

To help traffic flow through the intersection, crews will add the turn lane, which will extend 700 feet, and replace the traffic signals.

Officials said the new signals will allow the patterns to be adjusted, which should further help with traffic flow.

The changes are expected to significantly reduce wait times at the intersection.