

Williamsburg Boulevard Green Street Meeting Q&A

Many of these questions were received during or following the April, 27 2011 public meeting.

Will it be safe with the trees in the median? Some of the intersections along there are dangerous. Consider another tree besides yellowwood – it has a lot of lower branches and may be a sight line issue. Will trees be close together? It may make it hard to see. We recommend keeping trees away from intersections.

The shingle oaks will be planted 45 inches apart and the yellowwood trees will be planted 32 inches apart. The trees have been sited in the median so as to avoid utility conflicts, provide enough growing room for the trees and to ensure traffic safety. The tree species and locations have been selected to protect site lines during turning and to provide enough visibility at intersections. Additionally, once hardscape work is completed, staff will visit the site and locate the trees, keeping visibility in mind. The trees will also be pruned as they mature to direct their growth. The yellowwoods will be pruned to ensure they develop a single central trunk, and lower branches will be limbed as necessary.

How large will the inlets be along the curb? Will they get clogged with leaves or branches?

The new catch basins in the curb will be 22 ½ inches wide. The curb cuts in the median will be 12-30 inches (1-2 ½ feet) wide. The width varies depending on how much water flows along the curb during a rain. The green street will be maintained quarterly; maintenance will include cleaning the curb cuts and catch basins to allow them to work properly. However, if one of the catch basins or curb cuts does get clogged, water won't flood the street. The original drainage system will remain in place even after the rain gardens are installed. If water bypasses the clogged curb cut or catch basin, it will enter the next curb cut or catch basin downslope where it will enter the rain garden or storm drain system.

What is the slope in the rain garden? Will it be hard to grow plants on the slope? How big will the plants be, and how fast will they grow?

Each of the rain gardens will have flat bottoms, but the sides and ends of the gardens will be sloped. These slopes are either 2:1 (45 percent) or 3:1 (33 percent). Plants chosen for the rain garden will be able to grow on this slope, although they may take a bit longer to become full-grown. The plants will vary in height, but none will be taller than 5 feet. The rain garden is depressed below street level. For safety, the plants will be less than 2 ½ feet above the street pavement at maturity. The rain gardens are being planted fairly densely and should be fully established 2-3 years after planting.

Will medians near 35th Street North be replanted to match these gardens?

No, this project will only include medians between Old Dominion Drive and 35th Street North.

What is the construction timeframe?

Multiple projects will impact Williamsburg Boulevard and Old Dominion Drive through 2014. The existing 36-inch water main along Williamsburg Boulevard is scheduled for replacement. The work is divided into two phases, with the dividing line at 35th Street North. Therefore, both phases of the water main project affect the green street project. Additionally, a pedestrian improvement project will be taking place on Old Dominion Drive. Construction of the green street project for Williamsburg Boulevard must be coordinated with these projects. Water main work between 35th Street North and Williamsburg Boulevard should be completed by April 2013.

Construction of the green street project will begin at that time or shortly thereafter. If all goes as scheduled, construction will take approximately two months. Water main work west of 35th Street North should be completed in fall 2013. Williamsburg Boulevard between North Glebe Road and 33rd Road North will be paved and restriped in the spring of 2014 to complete the project. The median between Old Dominion Drive and 33rd Road North will be constructed in conjunction with the pedestrian improvement project and may not occur until 2014. Paving between Old Dominion and 33rd Road North is likely to occur in spring 2015.

Will the bus stop be moved during construction?

We've not yet determined if, for the safety of waiting riders, the bus stop at the intersection of Williamsburg Boulevard and 34th Street North will be moved during construction of the green street project, or if the outside traffic lanes must be closed for construction. If the bus stop is relocated it would likely be moved across 34th Street North.

Will we put the pedestrian crossing marks (white lines) all the way across the street?

At this time, pedestrian crossing marks aren't planned for the intersection of 34th Street North and Williamsburg Boulevard. Restriping of the project area is currently being evaluated and would be implemented following repaving.

How much will the whole project cost?

The price is estimated to be \$296,000 for all four medians.

There are concerns about people speeding down the hill on Williamsburg Boulevard and safety issues related to that. Can anything be done about it?

The addition of canopy trees and other plantings will make the roadway appear narrower, thus encouraging a decrease in traffic speed. It's important to note that this project **will not** actually narrow drive lanes or alter bike lane widths. Another specific concern emerged about safety at the intersection of Williamsburg Boulevard and 34th Road North. Following the April 2011 public meeting, Arlington County's transportation staff examined this intersection and evaluated sight distance. To improve sight distance, parking was pulled back from the intersection on the northwest corner at Williamsburg Boulevard and 34th Road North.

Will snow markers be used to protect curbs in the winter?

We don't currently have plans to use markers to define the location of the rain gardens during snowstorms. This is a great suggestion and one we will take under consideration once the project is constructed.