

# COUNTY OF WARREN, VIRGINIA



## INTERSTATE AND PRIMARY HIGHWAY NEEDS

Warren County is a burgeoning community located 75 miles west of Washington, D.C. with 38,077 residents as of July 1, 2012 (Weldon Cooper Center). Residents in the eastern portion of Warren County can be in Manassas in 35 minutes by I-66. New residents continue to move to Warren County to enjoy the living conditions of the Shenandoah Valley while working in Northern Virginia. According to the most recent data, 12,764 commuters leave Warren County each day and 5,610 commuters enter the County for employment. Approximately 55% of the out-commuters are traveling to the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for work each day.

While the County is working hard to bring more jobs to our community, a good number of our citizens will continue to commute to Northern Virginia each day. This growth has brought with it increasing demands for services and facilities. The County has maintained a steady growth rate of approximately 1.36% annually adding approximately 2,125 new dwelling units since 2002 (Warren County Planning Department).

Improved highway facilities are needed to keep up with this growth. With the growth of the Northern Virginia suburbs, Warren County has become increasingly closer to Northern Virginia employers.

The Virginia Department of Transportation recently updated the 2035 Front Royal Area Transportation Plan (FRATP). The study area includes the town limits and the urbanizing portions of Warren County immediately surrounding the town. In summary the FRATP, originally adopted in 1991 and updated in 2000, is intended to identify transportation needs in the Front Royal area through the year 2020. This plan outlines a comprehensive set of transportation solutions that will accommodate projected travel demands. One of the most significant outcomes of the plan involved the change in priority for the County placing Route 55 East ahead of the Route 606/I-66 Interchange project. The plan showed that improvements to Route 55 would be needed prior to the construction of the interchange.

This FRATP has only served to reinforce the recommended improvements in the County and the need for projects within town limits including the proposed Leach Run Parkway; a revenue sharing project being completed by the Town of Front and Warren County scheduled for bid in spring 2014. The project includes the construction of a 1.3 mile parkway to link Route 55 East and Route 624 (Happy Creek Road). It will serve the County's proposed second middle school, a site for the relocation of Warren Memorial Hospital and provide improved access for the Happy Creek Technology Park. Other improvements identified by the plan include the upgrading of Route 624 (Happy Creek Road) to Route 606 (Shenandoah Shores Road) and the proposed East-West bypass to link the Happy Creek area to 8<sup>th</sup> Street.



## INTERSTATE AND PRIMARY HIGHWAY NEEDS

### TOP TRANSPORTATION PRIORITY

#### ROUTE 55 EAST

The top priority for the Warren County Board of Supervisors is the establishment of construction funding to improve a three-mile stretch of Route 55 East from Front Royal to the Linden Interchange with I-66 to a divided four-lane roadway, which is important to the overall Front Royal transportation system. This project was identified as a top priority in the 2035 Front Royal Area Transportation Study. This road is the County's primary commuter route for the thousands of workers traveling to Northern Virginia to work each day via I-66 and has an average daily traffic count in upwards of 20,000 vehicles per day.





## INTERSTATE AND PRIMARY HIGHWAY NEEDS

### ADDITIONAL INTERSTATE AND PRIMARY NEEDS

The Warren County Board of Supervisors asks the Virginia Department of Transportation to consider the following future highway projects in Warren County as funding becomes available:

#### ROUTE 55 EAST/ROUTE 638 INTERSECTION

The installation of turn lanes and a traffic signal at the intersection of Route 55 East and Route 638 (Freezeland Road). The number of existing and proposed homes along Route 638 will generate increasing traffic utilizing this intersection. The current traffic volumes are 4,200 vehicles per day for Route 55 and 3,400 vehicles per day for Route 638.



#### LINDEN PARK-N-RIDE LOT

Provide additional parking spaces at the County's two existing park-n-ride lots (Route 340/522 – 238 spaces: Linden – 130 spaces) or construct an additional park-n-ride lot to meet the growing demand. Many of the new residents moving to Warren County and surrounding jurisdictions are commuting to the Northern Virginia area. In addition, with rising gas costs there is additional interest in area ride sharing programs





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### ROUTE 340 SOUTH

Make safety improvements and bring Route 340 South from Route 619 (Rivermont Drive) to Route 607 (Rocky Lane) up to present geometric design standards while protecting the scenic attributes of the roadway. As growth continues, the traffic on Route 340 south of Front Royal to Page County continues to increase. The current average daily traffic count is 8,100 vehicles per day between Route 607 and 619. In 1999 the Raymond R. “Andy” Guest Shenandoah River State Park opened in southern Warren County, adding additional traffic to Route 340. The need for improvements to Route 340 will take on growing importance in the years ahead.



The Board of Supervisors also recently adopted a resolution requesting VDOT funding to make safety and capacity improvements to Route 340 that will be consistent with the “Route 340 Context Sensitive Solutions Study Report.” Such improvements could include, but not be limited to, the installation of turn and passing lanes, rumble strips, widened shoulders, improved visibility, pavement marking, signage, reflectors, scenic pullovers, guardrail, bike lanes, and pedestrian facilities. This effort has also been supported by the Page County Board of Supervisors.

### INTERCHANGE AT I-66 AND ROUTE 606

An interchange at Interstate 66 and State Route 606 (Shenandoah Shores Road). Warren County and Front Royal are currently served by two interstate interchanges. A third interchange is proposed, which would serve as an eastern entrance to the Town of Front Royal. It would serve two existing industrial parks and open up hundreds of additional acres of land that would be well suited for industrial development if interstate access were available. The Town of Front Royal is planning its transportation program to provide major roads to connect to Route 606 allowing this interchange to serve the rapidly growing eastern section of the Town of Front Royal and Warren County.

