



Road Improvements on Raphune Hill (Route 38)

A Public Information Meeting for the Raphune Hill Road Improvement Project will be held on October 3, 2013 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Lockhart Elementary School Auditorium, in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas. Please provide any comments you have regarding the proposed project by November 2, 2013.

Mr. Wystan Benjamin
V.I. Department of Public Works
8244 Subbase
St. Thomas, VI 00802



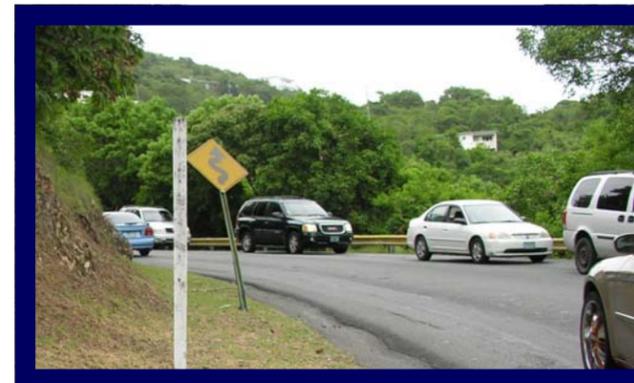
Road Improvements on Raphune Hill (Route 38)

Project Overview

In cooperation with the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works (VI DPW), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, is preparing plans for the improvement of Raphune Hill Road (Route 38) between the intersection with Centerline Road (Route 313) and its intersection with Route 381 for a distance of approximately one half of a mile.

Two build alternatives are currently being studied. The 3-Lane Alternative would widen Route 38 from two-lanes to three lanes and realign portions of Route 38. The additional lane would be a climbing lane in the eastbound direction. Approximately 1,000 feet of Route 381 would be realigned at the intersection with Route 38.

The 4-Lane Alternative would widen Route 38 from two-lanes to four-lanes and realign portions of Route 38. Also, approximately 1,000 feet of Route 381 would be realigned from its intersection with Route 38. Additionally, intersection improvements along the project corridor are proposed under both build alternatives for safety and capacity considerations.

**Public Information Meeting:**

A public information meeting has been scheduled for:
Thursday, October 3, 2013
between the hours of 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM
at the Lockhart Elementary School
Auditorium
#41 Estate Thomas
Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with information regarding this project's scope, preliminary design, temporary and permanent impacts as well as acquisition of private property for road right-of-way. Representatives of VI DPW and FHWA will be available to informally discuss specific issues and answer questions during the open forum portion of the meeting.

Preliminary design plans and general information regarding the proposed project will be available for viewing and to aid in discussing details of the possible effects on adjacent properties. All interested citizens, interest groups and businesses are invited to attend the public information meeting. The public information meeting provides a setting in which the VI DPW and FHWA can present the proposed project to the general public. Beginning on October 3, 2013 the information presented at the public meeting can be viewed at www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/environment.aspx



NEPA Process:

In order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the FHWA is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and soliciting input to assist in determining what, if any, impacts the proposed project or undertaking may have upon the area's natural and cultural resources. Critical components of meeting the requirements of the NEPA and NHPA are public participation and input in the documentation and decision making process.



Traffic Simulation:

The analysis of this section of Raphune Hill Road was performed in VISSIM software in order to see what traffic would look like under the No Build Alternative, 3-Lane Alternative, and 4-Lane Alternative in the year 2030. The simulation showed that implementation of the 3-Lane or 4-Lane Alternatives would reduce vehicle delay time.



Visual Impacts:

Design visualization has been completed in order to determine the aesthetic impacts of widening the existing road. Views at several locations were developed, comparing the 3-Lane Alternative to the 4-Lane Alternative, and the use of retaining walls or rock cuts.



Next Steps:

The tentative dates for the next steps are listed below:

- Release of the Environmental Assessment for Public Review/
Final Public Information Meeting: Spring 2014
- Phase I: Raphune Hill Road/Centerline Road Intersection Improvements: Spring 2014
- Phase II: Raphune Hill Road/Route 381 Road Intersection Improvements: Spring 2015
- Phase III: Raphune Hill Road Improvements Between Phases 1 and 2: Fall 2016

Comments:

After the public information meeting, the information presented at the meeting can be viewed at www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/environment.aspx. To provide written comments regarding the project, please mail or e-mail your comments to:

Mr. Wystan Benjamin
V.I. Department of Public Works
8244 Subbase
St. Thomas, VI 00802
wystan@vipowernet.net

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public view, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.