



2-WAY TRAFFIC CONVERSION

Saturday, November 7*
(weather permitting)

Cameron & Braddock Streets will
be converted to 2-Way Traffic!
Look for the new traffic pattern!

www.winchesterva.gov

Coming Soon to Cameron & Braddock Streets

* If it rains the morning
of 11/7, the next dates
conversion could occur
are 11/8, 11/14 or
11/15.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: November 4, 2009

DOWNTOWN UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE: Braddock and Cameron Streets To Convert to Two-Way

On Saturday, November 7, 2009 (if weather allows construction to continue on schedule), the City will celebrate the end of the Cameron Street and Braddock Street phase of the Downtown Utility Infrastructure Improvement (DUII) project and dedicate the opening of two-way traffic on these two streets.

The final (yellow center) line painting and traffic light changes will not occur until the day two-way conversion on these streets is made (scheduled date (weather permitting): Saturday, November 7, 2009). If weather hinders construction the next two days or if it rains/snows on November 7, then the next scheduled date for the official two-way conversion and dedication is Sunday, November 8, 2009. If the weather does not cooperate on either Saturday, November 7 or Sunday, November 8, the City will attempt to complete the conversion on Saturday November 14 or Sunday, November 15, respectively.

The Downtown Utility Infrastructure Improvements Project replaced the underground water, sewer, and storm infrastructure and sidewalks on Braddock and Cameron between Gerrard and Fairfax Lane. During the project, every effort was made to maintain one lane of traffic on both Braddock and Cameron, with safety being the utmost consideration.

This Downtown Utility Infrastructure Improvements Project was necessary to replace the extremely old water and sewer infrastructure. Some of the existing water mains in the project area are over 150 years old.

The project was originally scheduled to be completed in 2010-11 but was expedited so that it would be completed along with the installation of new traffic signals and in advance of the conversion of Braddock and Cameron to two-way traffic. City Council voted to convert Braddock and Cameron back to two-traffic at its November 2008 meeting and tasked staff to complete the conversion by December 2009.

The total cost of the utility replacements is approximately \$10 million and will be paid for by the City's Utility Fund that is funded solely by water and sewer rates. There is no General Fund tax money in the replacement of utility infrastructure or repaving the streets. General Fund tax dollars are funding a

portion of the city-wide traffic signal project, in addition to state and federal grants. By expediting the utility replacement project and by completing the conversion to two-way traffic in conjunction with the city-wide traffic signal upgrade project, the actual additional cost to the General Fund for converting the streets to two-way traffic was minimal.

The City of Winchester understands the significant impact this project has had on the downtown area during construction and worked diligently to minimize these impacts and complete the project as quickly as possible. The City worked closely with the Old Town Development Board to provide updated project information to affected businesses and to maximize the flow of information by holding information meetings every Friday that were open to the public. The City's website <http://www.winchesterva.gov/duii/> reserved space to provide updates throughout the project. Finally, we posted positive messages displayed in the project area to help show the importance and necessity of the project. The effort included signage such as:

- “Progress Ahead: Investing in Old Town Winchester”
- “Historic Winchester: Investing for the Future”
- “Come Join the Renaissance of Old Town Winchester”

Be on the look out for the upcoming citizen survey! The City wants to know your thoughts about the DUII project and how we can improve for Phase II of the project. Phase II of the DUII project will include Piccadilly Street. This phase will not begin until after the holidays on January 4, 2010.

Project updates can also be found on the City's website, www.winchesterva.gov, by clicking on “Downtown Utility Infrastructure Improvements” or “2-Way Traffic Coming in Nov.” links on the homepage. The City of Winchester thanks all residents and businesses for their patience and cooperation.

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PRESS CONFERENCE FACT SHEET

DOWNTOWN UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE: Braddock and Cameron Streets Convert to Two-Way

1. How is the public being informed?

- a) On Wednesday of the week prior to conversion, City staff will deliver flyers to residential and business occupants announcing the schedule of events. Vehicles may park on Braddock and Cameron Streets between the curb and marked white parking lanes. It is recommended for vehicles to park on side streets or in one of the city autoparks during the actual striping of the yellow middle traffic lines.
- b) V-DOT signs are placed at various intersections announcing the upcoming traffic change.
- c) The City website (www.winchesterva.gov) has a dedicated link on the homepage.
- d) Flyers will be available at downtown banks and churches for distribution

CHURCHES

- Christ Episcopal
- Impact Christian Church
- First United Methodist
- Market Street United Methodist
- Grace Evangelical & Preschool
- First Presbyterian Weekday School
- First Baptist
- Braddock Street United Methodist

OTHER

- Handley Library
- Rouss City Hall
- Autoparks – 4 locations
- Frederick County Government Offices
- Joint Judicial Ctr.
- Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center

BANKS

- BB&T
- Rappahannock
- Wachovia
- Virginia National Bank
- United Bank
- Bank of Clarke County

- e) Public Service Announcement distributed to local radio stations:
“On Saturday, November 7 (if weather permits), Cameron and Braddock Streets will convert to two-way traffic. The City of Winchester asks that you please be alert to the new traffic pattern. Thank you for driving safely.”
- f) PA system announcement during the home John Handley High School (vs. James Wood) football game (similar announcement will appear on the scoreboard):
“The City of Winchester asks that you please be alert to a new traffic pattern when you leave the game. Cameron and Braddock Streets are changing to two-way traffic today. Thank you for driving safely.”

- g) The following recorded message will be distributed through CityWatch beginning on Thursday, November 5 and concluding Friday, November 6, 2009 (a reverse 9-1-1 phone system to all city residents):

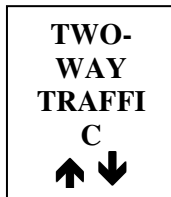
“This is a message from the City of Winchester: On Saturday, November 7 (if weather permits), Cameron and Braddock Streets will convert to two-way traffic. Please be alert to the new traffic pattern. Please call 662-4131 if you have questions. Thank you.”

2. What is the Traffic Conversion Process? How will it progress?

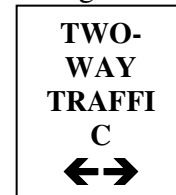
Starting Saturday mid-morning at Braddock/Wyck:

- a) Truck will progress south painting the double yellow line.
- b) Public Works Department staff will follow and unveil previously installed temporary signs (24” x 36”):

At various locations along
Braddock/Cameron Streets:



At stop signs of intersecting streets:



- c) Public Works Department staff will activate signals at each intersection as they progress.
- d) Once Braddock Street is completed, the process on Cameron Street will begin at Cameron/Millwood and progress north. Total time for converting both Braddock and Cameron to two-way is expected to be approximately two to three hours.

3. Will there be an extra police presence during this time?

Yes. Police Officers will provide extra patrol during this time. Police Officers will provide extra patrol on the Monday following the conversion as well.

4. What if I have a fire or medical emergency during the conversion?

The Fire and Rescue Department, Police Department, and Emergency Communications Center will be notified as the conversion progresses to aid in incident response.

5. Will the transit bus routes be affected?

Transit buses will run the regular scheduled route with a possible detour to Kent Street, if affected by the conversion.

6. What if my car is parked in the wrong direction after the conversion?

Violation tickets will not be issued by the Winchester Police Department for vehicles parked in the wrong direction for seven (7) days after the official change to traffic patterns. However, if your vehicle is left unattended for seven (7) of days after conversion it may be ticketed or towed. If your vehicle is facing on-coming traffic, wait until there is no traffic traveling in either direction and carefully drive across to the correct lane. If you are concerned that you can not safely move your vehicle, please contact the Winchester Police Department at 662-4131 and an officer will be sent to help you.



Ribbon Cutting Two-Way Traffic Dedication Ceremony

- WHO:** Following a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate two-way traffic conversion, Mayor Elizabeth Minor will ride in a 1950 Jeepster driven by antique car owner Gary Sibert
- WHERE:** At the corner of Piccadilly and Braddock Streets. After the intersection is converted, they will drive north up Braddock
- WHEN:** approximately 10:00 a.m.
- PARTICIPANTS:** Residents along Braddock and Cameron and all citizens of Winchester are invited to come downtown, stand on our beautiful new sidewalks and witness the conversion of traffic back to two-way on Braddock and Cameron Streets just like they were nearly 60 years ago. This is living history!