

# CITY OF WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

## PROPOSED CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

**CITY COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MEETING OF:** April 28, 2015 **CUT OFF DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**  **ORDINANCE**  **PUBLIC HEARING**

**ITEM TITLE:** Proposed Safety Improvements at Cork Street/Indian Alley  
**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** See attached.  
**PUBLIC NOTICE AND HEARING:** NA  
**ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION:** NA  
**FUNDING DATA:** See attached.  
**INSURANCE:** NA

The initiating Department Director will place below, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda.

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>INITIALS FOR APPROVAL</u>	<u>INITIALS FOR DISAPPROVAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1. Finance	[Signature]		4/20/15
2. Planning	[Signature]		4/20/15
3. Downtown	[Signature]	[Signature]	4/20/15
4. Police	[Signature]		4/20/15
5. Fire	[Signature]		4/20/15
6. Parking Authority	[Signature]		4/20/15
7. City Attorney	[Signature]		4/22/2015
8. City Manager	[Signature]		22 April 2015
9. Clerk of Council			

Initiating Department Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]

4/15/15  
Date



Revised: September 28, 2009



**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

[Signature]  
CITY ATTORNEY

# CITY COUNCIL ACTION MEMO

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council  
**From:** Perry Eisenach, Public Services Director  
**Date:** April 28, 2015 (Council work session)  
**Re:** Indian Alley/Cork Street Safety Improvements

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**THE ISSUE:** Addressing safety concerns for pedestrians and motorists near the intersection of Cork Street/Indian Alley in the vicinity of Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum.

**RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:** Goal #2 – Create a More Livable City for All.

**BACKGROUND:** There are a couple of significant safety concerns for pedestrians and motorists near the intersection of Cork/Indian Alley near the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum. Specifically, the two primary safety concerns are:

1. Motorists that utilize Indian Alley traveling north between Cecil and Cork have very little sight distance at Cork Street to see pedestrians on the sidewalk or other motorists on Cork Street. Likewise, pedestrians on the south side of Cork walking east on the sidewalk are not able to see vehicles approaching Cork on Indian Alley.
2. There is not an existing crosswalk across Cork Street at Indian Alley. There are a significant number of pedestrians that cross Cork Street at this location, especially visitors to the Discovery Museum.

**OPTIONS:** Staff initially developed three different options of improvements that would improve safety in this area. Each option includes constructing a crosswalk across Cork Street on the west side of Indian Alley. The three options are (see attached schematics):

- Option #1: Close the northern section of the alley just south of Cork Street and allow two-way traffic on the southern section of the alley.
- Option #2: Reverse the flow of traffic in the alley between Cecil and Cork from northbound to southbound.
- Option #3: Close the northern section of the alley just south of Cork Street and divert traffic into the adjacent parking lot.

Input was solicited from adjacent property owners on the three options. While there are pros and cons for each option, there was definitely not a consensus as to which option was preferred, and a few individuals responded that they felt none of the options should be implemented. Based on the feedback received, staff developed a fourth option as follows:

- Option #4: Make no traffic pattern changes to the alley. Instead, extend the section of sidewalk on the south side of Cork Street in front of Indian Alley and the parking lot farther north and install a short section of rail on the sidewalk adjacent to the Discovery Museum as shown on the attached schematic. This change would alter the pedestrian travel path on the sidewalk on the south side of Cork greatly, improving sight distance for vehicles and pedestrians. It would also provide motorists on northbound Indian Alley with a better view of vehicles traveling on Cork Street.

Public Services believes that Option #4 provides the best compromise of improving safety while still maintaining the existing traffic flow northbound on Indian Alley.

### **Parking Modifications**

Along with the proposed improvements in Option #4, Public Services is also recommending that the parking changes on Cork Street as shown in Exhibit #5 be implemented at the same time to improve safety. These changes would allow for bus parking in front of the Discovery Museum on the south side of Cork during the daytime. The existing bus parking on the north side of Cork Street would be converted to two metered spaces.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** The estimated cost for the improvements being recommended is approximately \$20,000. Funds are available in the Highway Maintenance budget for this expenditure.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Staff recommends that City Council approve the attached resolution directing staff to proceed with the implementing the following improvements:

- Construction of a new crosswalk across Cork Street on the west side of Indian Alley.
- Modifications to the sidewalk on the south side of Cork Street as shown in Option #4.
- Parking modifications on Cork Street as shown in Exhibit #5.



# THE COMMON COUNCIL

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Winchester, VA 22601  
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## RESOLUTION

### **Safety Improvements at Cork Street/Indian Alley**

**WHEREAS**, the Public Services Director has expressed that he believes that there may be safety concerns for both pedestrians and motorists near the intersection of Cork Street and Indian Alley; and

**WHEREAS**, staff has developed the design of improvements that would improve safety in this area; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety of Winchester's residents and visitors is one of the City's highest priorities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The City of Winchester Common Council hereby approves the following improvements to be completed:

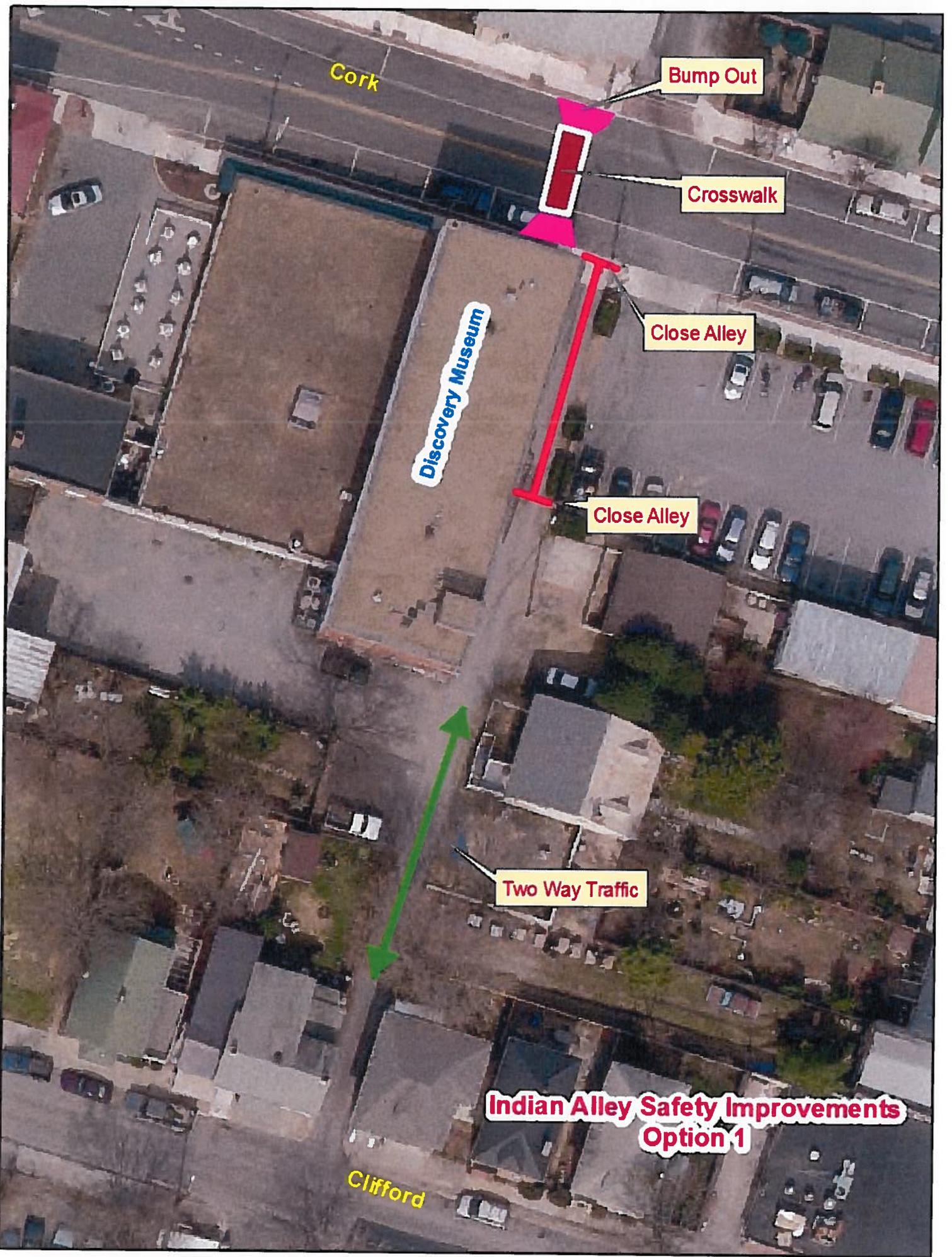
1. Construction of a pedestrian crosswalk across Cork Street on the west side of Indian Alley.
2. Modification of the section of sidewalk on the south side of Cork Street adjacent to Indian Alley and the entrance to the City owned parking lot on the east side of Indian Alley.
3. Modification of the on-street parking on Cork Street west of Indian Alley by moving the bus parking from the north side of Cork Street to the south side of the street.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** The City of Winchester Common Council directs staff to take immediate action to temporarily alleviate the safety concerns expressed by the Public Services Director and prepare a proposed supplemental appropriation as needed for the costs to construct the improvements for City Council's consideration and action in the near future.

**Resolution No.**

**ADOPTED** by the Common Council of the City of Winchester on the \_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup>  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

*Witness my hand and the seal of the City of Winchester, Virginia.*



Cork

Bump Out

Crosswalk

Discovery Museum

Close Alley

Close Alley

Two Way Traffic

Indian Alley Safety Improvements  
Option 1

Clifford



Cork

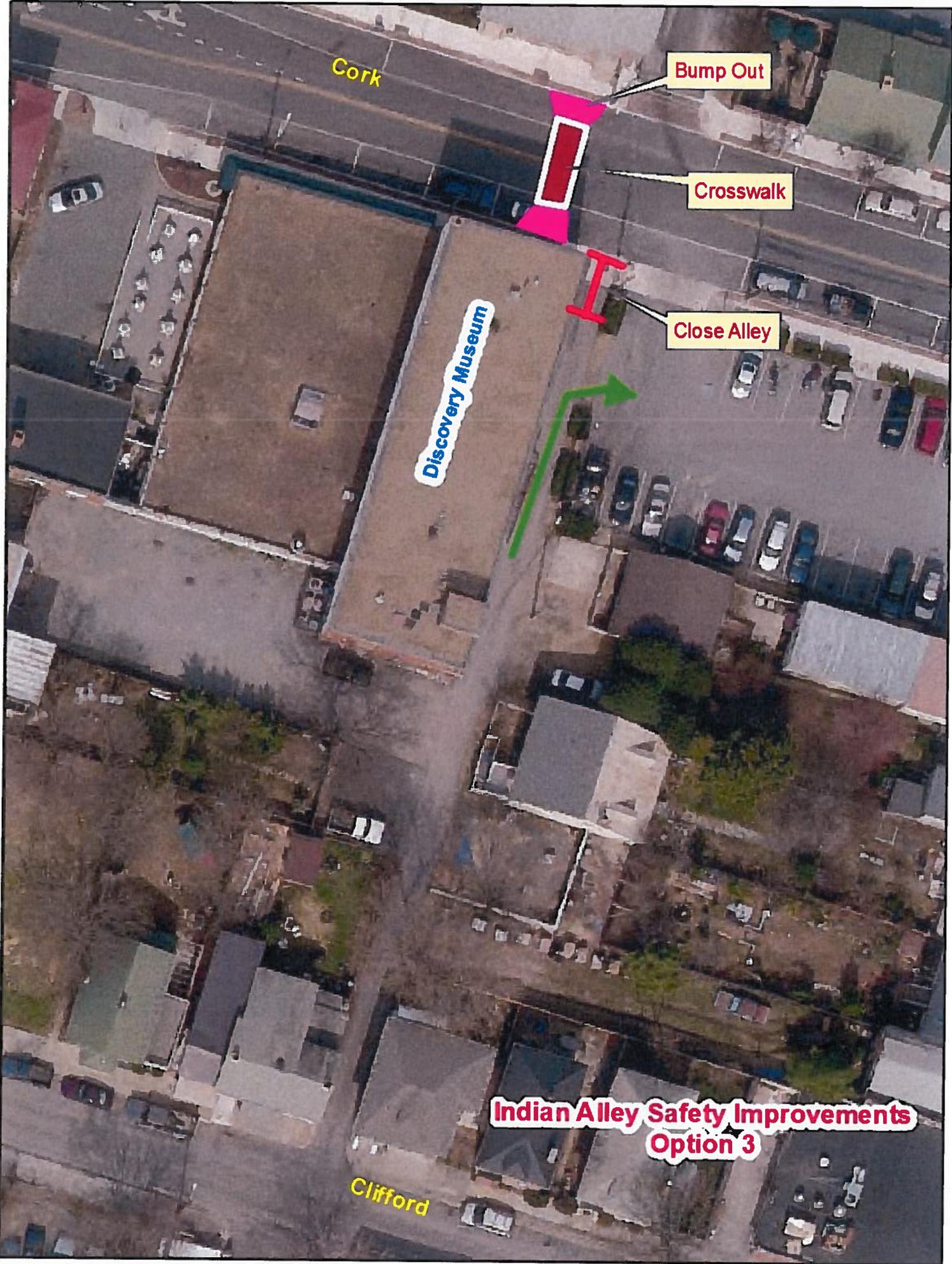
Crosswalk

Discovery Museum

One Way South

Indian Alley Safety Improvements  
Option 2

Clifford



Cork

Bump Out

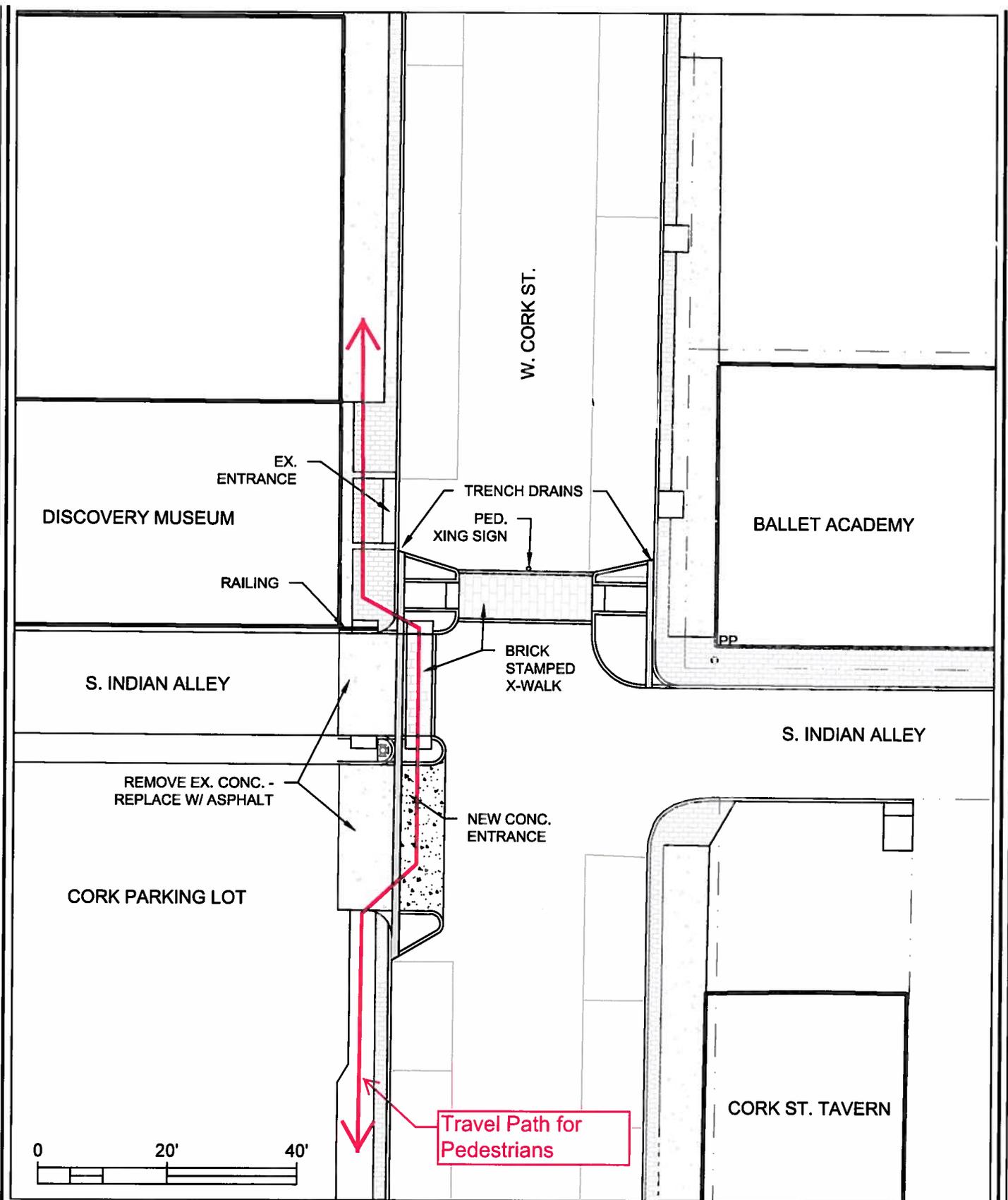
Crosswalk

Close Alley

Discovery Museum

Indian Alley Safety Improvements  
Option 3

Clifford



**CITY OF WINCHESTER**  
**VIRGINIA**  
 PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
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 WINCHESTER, VA. 22601  
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**Indian Alley/Cork  
 Safety Improvements  
 Option #4**

SCALE: 1"=20'  
 DATE: 2/3/15



**Two Metered  
Parking Spaces**

**Cork**

**Indian**

**Bus Parking Only  
9 am - 5 pm**

**Handicap Parking  
Space**

**Discovery Museum**

**Exhibit 5  
Proposed On-Street Parking Changes  
on Cork Street**