



Project Information

McGhee Street Bridge Over Southern Railroad
TOWN OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA
VDOT UPC #116980
Federal Project # STP-5141(110)
Structure No. 8000

Project Description

The existing McGhee Street Bridge, built in 1907, is a three-span, two-girder steel bridge with a timber deck and concrete abutments. The bridge is 93.5-foot long, single lane bridge was closed to all traffic in September 2018 due to its poor condition.

McGhee Street bridge, a GS-7 Urban Collector Street, connects Belltown Road/Orange Street to Route 221 (Forest Road) and carries primarily residential traffic. Based on 2021 traffic data, the average daily traffic (ADT) is 430 vehicles (~ 1% trucks) with a 25-mph speed limit. No major traffic increase is anticipated.

Proposed Improvements

The project will replace the existing bridge with a new single-span structure featuring:

- Two 12-foot travel lanes (24-feet curb-to-curb)
- Five steel girders with a concrete deck
- Semi-integral abutments
- Pedestrian fencing (no sidewalk)
- Total bridge length: approximately 102 feet

The new bridge will provide safer and more reliable access while maintaining the existing character of the corridor. McGhee Street will remain closed to through traffic until construction is complete.

Intersection and Roadway Work

The McGhee Street/Belltown Road-Orange Street intersection will be regraded to meet railroad clearance requirements. Flagging operations will be used at the intersection of McGhee Street/Orange Street/Belltown Road during construction, except this intersection will be closed for 30 days in order to raise the grade. Advanced signage will be put in place during this closure.

Utilities

- **Overhead power lines** will not require relocation.
- **One communication line** located on McGhee Street may need relocation during construction.
- **Underground water line** beneath the railroad is not anticipated to conflict with the project.

Railroad Coordination

The Town will coordinate with Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) and enter into an agreement to access railroad property. The bridge will be designed to accommodate two future railroad tracks and maintain a minimum vertical clearance of 23 feet, consistent with recent VDOT projects over this rail line.

Right-of-Way

A right-of-way is required in order to accommodate the rise in the roadway grade. Necessary acquisitions will be completed prior to construction.

For additional information, please contact:

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