



## Bedford Town Intersection Study:

- **Longwood Avenue / Forest Road / Independence Boulevard Intersection Study**

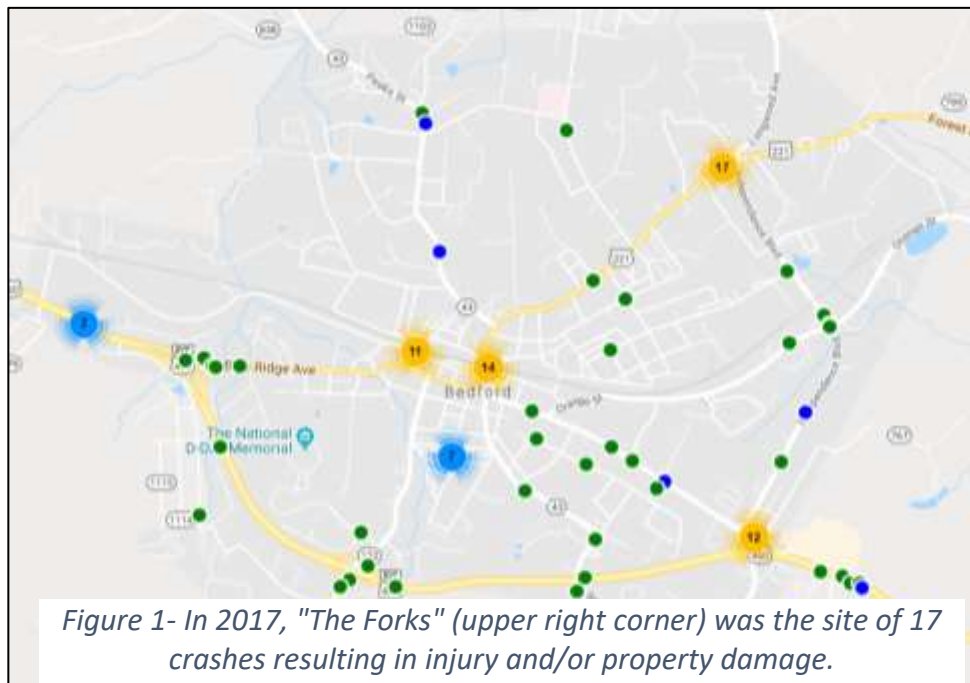
## Synopsis:

Staff recommends committing \$8,500 from FY 2019 Rural Transportation Planning Funds (SPR) and \$26,500 from FY 2020 SPR funds for an intersection study in the Town of Bedford. We would be using funds from two fiscal years and committing some of next year's Rural Transportation Planning funds to this effort.

## Background:

During the public involvement process for the 2018-2019 Bedford Bike | Walk Plan, CVPDC staff received input from citizens and elected officials regarding actual and potential safety issues at the intersection of US 221 (Longwood Avenue and Forest Road) and Virginia Route 122 (Longwood Avenue and Independence Boulevard).

Known to locals as "The Forks," this is one of the Town of Bedford's top vehicular crash locations and is a hotspot of pedestrian crashes resulting in injuries. As part of the Independence Boulevard project (completed in 1993), the intersection was partially realigned to accommodate the newly-constructed Independence Boulevard to the south.



## Proposed Action:

As a follow-up to the Bedford Bike | Walk Plan, CVPDC staff proposes to engage one of the organization's on-call consultants to conduct a formal analysis of the intersection. This would include

- evaluation of innovative intersection concepts,
- access management techniques, and
- recommendations for improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The resulting study could then be utilized by town officials to inform town funding allocations along with applications for SMART SCALE or the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Bedford Town Council's Streets Committee has reviewed the concept and is in favor of the study.

## Funding:

The study is estimated to cost \$35,000 and is eligible for funding through the CVPDC's State Planning & Research (SPR) annual funding allocation, which is specifically for projects and activities in the rural portion of the region (including the Town of Bedford).

An indirect consequence for FY 20 may be to reduce the amount of contracted work that we do in the MPO (urban) area by \$26,500 in order to offset the loss of rural funds that would typically go for staff projects.

## Recommended Action:

Authorize staff to negotiate a contract for an intersection study in the Town of Bedford for the Longwood Avenue / Forest Road / Independence Boulevard Intersection using \$8,500 in FY 18-19 SPR funds and an estimated \$26,500 in FY 19-20 funds.

