



U.S. 220 Waterline General Questions Concerning the Waterline Extension:

Where will the waterline be located?

The waterline extension will run along U. S. Route 220 from Suncrest Heights in Roanoke County to Wirtz “Plateau Plaza” in Franklin County. To the extent possible the waterline will be constructed in the VDOT right-of-way.

How much will the water line project cost and how long will it take to construct?

The total cost of installing the 12 miles of waterline is approximately \$5.5 million. The estimated cost for Franklin County is \$3.2 million and Roanoke County’s estimated cost is \$2.3 million. The project will be constructed in three (3) phases as follows:

- Phase I will begin near Suncrest Heights and is approximately 3 miles in length. Bids for Phase I were received the week of March 2, 2008 and the apparent low bid is approximately \$1.5 million.
- Phase II will begin where Phase I stops and extend to the Roanoke County-Franklin County line.
- Phase III will begin at the end of Phase II and extend to the Wirtz “Plateau Plaza” area of Franklin County.

The total project is expected to take 18 months to two years to complete.

Who will have access to the water?

The initial project will consist of a 12” waterline along U.S. Route 220. Property fronting on U.S. Route 220 will be able to connect to the waterline.

Future extensions into Franklin County and into Roanoke County must be approved by the respective County’s Board of Supervisors Approval. Such approval of extensions is based on the *Code of Virginia* and both Franklin County and Roanoke County Rules, Ordinances, Regulations and Comprehensive Plans.

What will be the cost for residents and businesses to hook up to the waterline?

Franklin County is in the process of developing fee schedules for residential and business units served by the new waterline. This information will be available in the near future.



When will the water line construction begin?

Bid for Phase I were received the week of March 2, 2008 and the apparent low bid is approximately \$1.5 million. Construction of Phase I is planned to begin in March of 2008. Phase II is projected to begin July, 2008. Phase III of the waterline construction will begin at the Roanoke County-Franklin County line and extend to the Plateau Plaza area. Phase III construction is expected to start in November of 2008.

Will Franklin County be able to ensure the mechanisms are in place to guide growth along the U. S. Route 220 Corridor?

Yes.

In an effort to address any land use changes from the addition of public water along the U.S. 220 corridor, the Franklin County Planning Commission is currently drafting a U.S. 220 Corridor Planning Study. The study will address future land use along the corridor and the projected impact to: transportation, community facilities, cultural resources, utilities, and the economy. Recommendations/changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan will be addressed as deemed appropriate.

Are there any planned U.S. Route 220 improvements by the VDOT?

The Planning Staff is not aware of any plans by VDOT to improve the road at this time.

How is the project beneficial to Franklin County residents and businesses?

According to the newly revised Franklin County 2025 Comprehensive Plan, the County's future development will rely on the quantity and quality of available water. Private drinking water wells in Franklin County range from 250' to 500' in depth and average less than 10 gallons per minute and are considered moderate to low producers. The Franklin County Comprehensive Plan states "*This type of rock formation results in some of the poorest subsurface water production in the state, except where fracturing or weathering has occurred. Actually, water is only found in fracture zones in the upper levels of rock. Primarily, this is a result of faults or other subsurface structural movements and contact zones between the various rock strata. The openings that provide for groundwater storage in these rocks usually occur within a few hundred feet of the surface. Due to the extremely limited supply of water in the shattered rock formation, heavy pumping often results in dramatically fluctuating water levels.*" With this in mind the County began the implementation of a public water system in 2005 through a water source purchase agreement with the Bedford County Public Service Authority and construction of a public water line from Hales Ford Bridge along State Route 122 to the Westlake area. Since that time Franklin County has also been able, through acquisition of existing systems and construction of new lines, to extend service



laterally from Route 122. Through a water source agreement with the Town of Rocky Mount, Franklin County has extended service to the Forest Hills area. The logical next step in providing safe and reliable water source to the citizens of Franklin County was the U.S. Route 220 Corridor. U.S. Route 220 is a major transportation corridor and the waterline is expected to enhance economic development opportunities. In addition, the waterline will provide current residents with a safe and reliable water source and fire protection.

Based on meetings with engineering consultants, local leaders and a meeting with the Virginia Department of Health on March 7, 2005, five (5) options were identified and evaluated as part of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). These options involve five (5) separate entities including the Town of Rocky Mount, the Town of Boones Mill, Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA), Roanoke County and Franklin County (Plateau Plaza/Wirtz area). Each of the five (5) options was evaluated. Based on the findings outlined in the PER, Franklin County and Roanoke County entered into an agreement with WVWA to provide service to the U.S. Route 220 Corridor. WVWA has a proven track record of managing both construction and day to day oversight of such systems and offers an excellent opportunity for a genuine partnership.

How will Franklin County pay for its part of the water line extension?

Franklin County has received a State and Tribal Grant (STAG) from the federal government for \$1 million to assist in construction costs associated with Franklin County's portion of the waterline extension. Franklin County's remaining share of the project has been built into the County's Capital Budget for infrastructure development.

How does the Western Virginia Water Authority view the project and what role will the Authority play?

WVWA will design, construct and maintain the water line and views the project as an opportunity to provide a regional service that will enhance the quality of life for customers as well as the regional community. The County estimates the cost of the Water Line Extension will be provided proportionately in accordance with the length of the water line extension in each County. The parties anticipate that WVWA will issue bonds to finance the water line extension, and that the Counties will contribute to their respective portions of the annual debt service paid to the Authority annually over the term of the bond issue ("Capital Contributions in Aid of Construction"), and that the bond issue will be secured by the respective proportionate moral obligations of Franklin County and of Roanoke County, Virginia.



Will this extension jeopardize the water supply, especially during times of drought, for existing Western Virginia Water Authority customers?

No.

The 2003 Long Range Water Supply Study, prepared by the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC), shows the Western Virginia Water Authority having a surplus water supply until at least the year 2040. This project will allow the Water Authority to utilize the surplus water from multiple water sources and treatment facilities and maximize efficiencies. By allowing the recommendations of the 2003 study, the residents in our regional community will experience the same safe and reliable long-term water supply enjoyed by our current customers.

If WVWA restricts water usages or withdrawals due to droughts, emergencies, or other conditions or circumstances, any reductions or restrictions placed on water sold to Franklin County shall be the same as placed on all other WVWA customers.

The quality and pressure of the water delivered under this contract shall provide fire flow and be the same as furnished the WVWA's customers and shall meet the requirements of the Virginia Department of Health and other state or federal agencies which have jurisdiction over public water supplies.