

Sundra, Ed (FHWA)

From: Sundra, Ed (FHWA)
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 9:56 AM
To: Fedora, R.Wayne (FHWA)
Subject: RE: media inquiry: FONSI for bypass

VDOT has not formally submitted a request for a FONSI.

Not sure what is meant by a "significant archeological finding"? The overwhelming majority of the time, archeological sites that are determined to be on or eligible for the National Register (i.e. significant) are not worthy of preservation in place. The normal and routine course of action for archeological sites is to dig them up and recover the data.

If FHWA were to issue a FONSI, issues related to a newly discovered archeological site would need to be resolved before a FONSI were issued. Namely, the decision whether or not the site was eligible for the National Register would need to be made before a FONSI were issued; if eligible, an agreement would need to be executed on how the site would be treated (i.e. data recovery, cover over the site, etc.). The actual treatment (i.e. data recovery, cover over the site, etc.) would then be carried out after a FONSI was issued.

In this case, a small family cemetery was recently discovered in the right-of-way owned by VDOT for the project. VDOT has submitted documentation to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources regarding the site and recommended that it not be considered eligible for the National Register (under the National Historic Preservation Act, there is a much higher standard for cemeteries to be considered historic). The VDHR is currently reviewing the documentation. If the VDHR concurs with the recommendation, the cemetery will be addressed in accordance with the requirements of State code.

From: Fedora, R.Wayne (FHWA)
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 9:34 AM
To: Sundra, Ed (FHWA)
Subject: FW: media inquiry: FONSI for bypass

Any thoughts?

From: Hecox, Doug (FHWA)
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 9:32 AM
To: Fedora, R.Wayne (FHWA); Rico, Irene (FHWA)
Subject: media inquiry: FONSI for bypass

Our reporter friend is again asking whether VDOT has formally asked the FHWA to weigh in on a FONSI request. Also, what if there was a significant archaeological finding that VDOT did not know about, and was not in the EIS? I'm curious to know of the timing.

Any thoughts?
Doug