



CASE STUDY

Hanover County Route 360 Widening Project

Hanover County, VA

Route 360 is one of Hanover County's most heavily traveled transportation corridors, connecting residential neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and regional destinations throughout Mechanicsville, Virginia. As traffic volumes continued to grow, the County recognized the need to improve roadway capacity, enhance safety, and provide better access for motorists, pedestrians, and the surrounding community.

The approximately \$36 million Route 360 Widening Project transformed this critical corridor through roadway widening, pedestrian improvements, utility relocations, stormwater infrastructure upgrades, reconstruction of the Mechanicsville High School bus loop, and innovative drainage improvements designed

to support the County's long-term transportation needs while minimizing impacts to surrounding properties.

MBP served as Construction Manager from pre-construction through closeout, working alongside Hanover County, VDOT, Kimley-Horn, Allan Myers, utility providers, businesses, school officials, and residents to guide the project from planning through successful completion while maintaining a focus on safety, mobility, communication, and community impact.

CHALLENGE

Improving Route 360 meant far more than widening a roadway. Construction had to take place along one of Hanover County's busiest transportation corridors while maintaining traffic, preserving access to businesses, minimizing impacts on nearby neighborhoods, and keeping essential community facilities fully operational.

The project also carried a unique history. Originally conceived in the 1990s, the Route 360 improvements were on hold for years before construction began. During that time, the design underwent multiple iterations, software platform transitions, updated stormwater requirements, additional geotechnical investigations,

Throughout the project, MBP demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and dedication to the County's goals. Their team maintained a strong on-site presence and served as an effective extension of County staff. During construction, these activities were carried out in accordance with project requirements and industry best practices.

- William R. Hardman III, P.E., Director, Hanover County

and numerous revisions to meet current standards. Successfully delivering a project with such a lengthy development history required the team to reconcile decades-old plans with today's requirements while adapting to changing field conditions.

As construction progressed, additional challenges emerged. Undocumented utility conflicts, material procurement delays, evolving field conditions, and work adjacent to schools, businesses, and residential communities all had the potential to affect schedule, budget, and the traveling public. At the same time, maintaining safe access for motorists, pedestrians, emergency responders, and local businesses remained a priority.

Success depended on continuous coordination among Hanover County, VDOT, utility providers, designers, contractors, school officials, emergency services, businesses, residents, and property owners. Solving problems quickly while maintaining public confidence required clear communication, collaborative decision-making, and a construction management team capable of adapting as conditions changed.

SOLUTION

Successfully delivering the Route 360 Widening Project required a construction management team that could anticipate challenges, adapt quickly, and solve problems while keeping work moving.

From the outset, MBP provided leadership, technical oversight, and day-to-day coordination throughout construction. Early involvement helped identify risks associated with legacy design documents, establish collaborative working relationships, and create a framework for timely decision-making as the project advanced. Although the original contract called for part-time construction management services, MBP recognized the project's complexity and committed to maintaining a full-time on-site presence to ensure continuity and responsiveness throughout construction.

One of the first major challenges emerged as undocumented utility conflicts began to appear throughout the corridor. Rather than allowing these discoveries to delay progress, MBP worked alongside Hanover County, the contractor, designers, and utility providers to evaluate field conditions and develop practical solutions. One notable example involved a Verizon duct bank located beneath an active travel lane. Relocating the utility would have required a change order estimated at more than \$1 million. Instead, the team modified the construction sequence and lowered the utility in place, avoiding significant relocation costs while allowing work to continue with minimal disruption. As additional challenges arose, MBP continued adjusting the project to maintain momentum. When long-lead drainage materials were delayed, the team worked with the contractor to resequence construction activities,





shifting crews to other areas of the corridor while materials remained pending. This flexible approach kept crews productive and minimized schedule impacts despite changing field conditions.

Maintaining traffic and community access remained equally important. Working closely with Hanover County, VDOT, and the contractor, MBP developed traffic management strategies that allowed major utility crossings and storm drain installations to proceed without full roadway closures. These approaches reduced workers' exposure to live traffic while minimizing impacts on motorists, businesses, and nearby neighborhoods. Reconstruction of the Mechanicsville High School bus loop was carefully scheduled during summer break, allowing construction to be completed before students returned and giving bus drivers time to become familiar with the new traffic pattern before the school year began. Throughout construction, MBP also coordinated with businesses, emergency services, utility providers, property owners, and County staff while keeping the community informed through message boards, social media, and direct outreach.

The team's collaborative approach also created opportunities to improve the project itself. Working with Allan Myers, MBP helped develop an alternative approach to storm drain installation that replaced a planned jack-and-bore operation with nightly detours and open-cut construction. The revised approach generated more than \$265,000 in value engineering savings while improving constructability and reducing project risk. MBP also supported the installation of an underground stormwater detention system that reduced right-of-way impacts, preserved adjacent properties, minimized the project's

footprint, and met environmental requirements. Drone mapping, aerial photography, and 360-degree imaging further improved communication, documentation, and decision-making throughout construction.

Throughout the project, quality and safety remained constant priorities. MBP performed more than 1,000 inspections across more than 25 features of work, while daily safety reviews and innovative traffic control strategies helped protect both workers and the traveling public. The project was completed with zero lost-time injuries, reflecting the team's commitment to delivering a high-quality project safely.

RESULTS

The Route 360 Widening Project transformed one of Hanover County's busiest transportation corridors into a safer, more efficient roadway that supports residents, businesses, schools, and regional commuters while positioning the County for continued growth.

The completed improvements enhanced roadway capacity, improved pedestrian accessibility, upgraded stormwater infrastructure, reconstructed the Mechanicsville High School bus loop, improved traffic flow, and strengthened connectivity throughout the corridor. Throughout construction, the project maintained access for businesses, residents, schools, and emergency responders while minimizing disruption to the surrounding community.

Through disciplined construction management and collaborative problem-solving, the project avoided more than \$1 million in utility relocation costs and generated more than \$265,000 in value engineering savings. It

was completed within approximately 3% of the adjusted construction budget despite unforeseen field conditions and procurement challenges.

Beyond the measurable results, the project demonstrated the value of professional construction management. By navigating complex utility conflicts, maintaining traffic operations along a critical transportation corridor, coordinating a diverse group of stakeholders, and delivering a high-quality project, MBP helped Hanover County achieve meaningful improvements in safety,

mobility, and economic vitality while maintaining the community's confidence throughout construction.

Today, the improved Route 360 corridor provides lasting benefits through safer travel, better pedestrian access, improved stormwater management, and greater capacity to support Hanover County's continued growth. More importantly, it demonstrates how thoughtful planning, collaborative leadership, and innovative problem-solving can successfully deliver complex transportation improvements while keeping a community moving.

