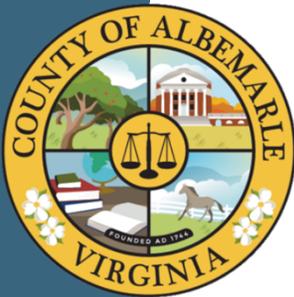


Roadway Litter Collection Program - Update

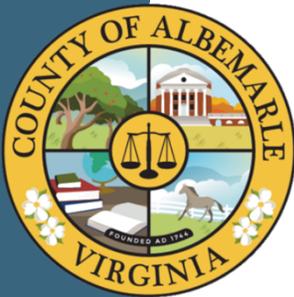
Cai Mowry
Deputy Chief of Operations, FES
cmowry@albemarle.org





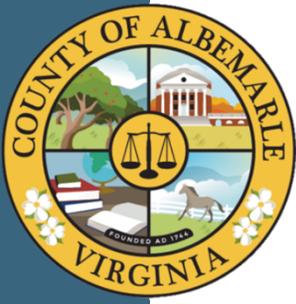
Purpose

- Discuss the development of a litter collection program along County roads, to help reduce the amount of environmentally harmful waste reaching local waterways.
- The program would be supported by the Disposable Plastic Bag Tax revenue.



The Litter Problem

- Roadside litter is more than just an eyesore—it is a safety hazard, an environmental issue, and a health threat.
- Solid waste, trash, and debris on the roadways can interrupt traffic flow, cause delays, and even increase the risk of wildlife-vehicle collisions.
- Litter often gets mistaken for food by both land and marine animals, resulting in severe organ damage and possible death.

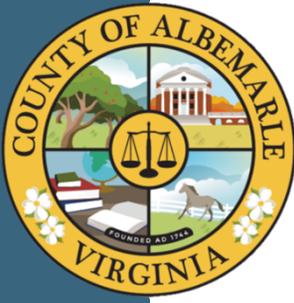


The Litter Problem

Litter can clog infrastructure, such as storm drains, sewer systems, and wastewater treatment plants.

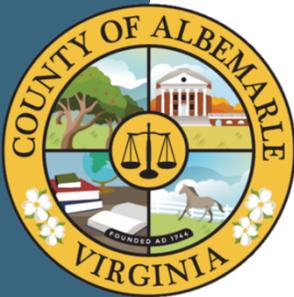
- Increased risk of flooding.
- Breeding ground for disease carriers like mosquitos.





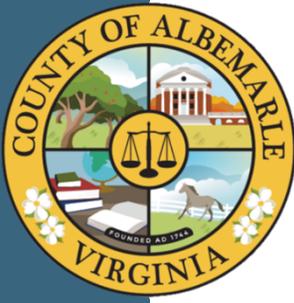
Litter by the Numbers

- A 2020 study by Keep America Beautiful estimated:
 - Nearly 24 billion pieces of litter are along U.S. roadways, and approximately 26 billion pieces are along the shores of U.S. waterways.
 - More than 2,000 pieces of litter per mile
 - Local roadways have the most litter
 - A majority of waterways are close to roadways



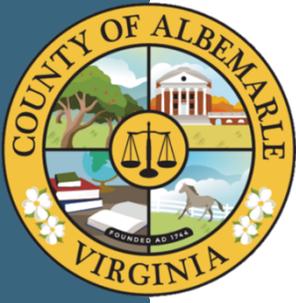
Disposable Plastic Bag Tax

- The Virginia Disposable Plastic Bag Tax is meant to address the climate and other environmental impacts and costs of disposable plastic bags in the community, encouraging the use of reusable bags.
- Per Virginia Code § 58.1-1745, the plastic bag litter tax funds can only be used for environmental cleanup, providing education programs designed to reduce environmental waste, mitigating pollution and litter, or providing reusable bags to recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) benefits.
- The Board approved the Disposable Plastic Bag Tax in Albemarle County, commencing January 1st, 2023



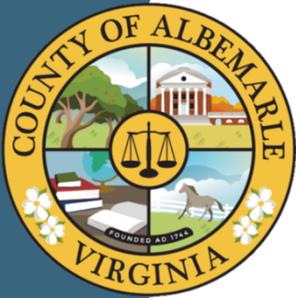
Tax Revenue Overview

- FY23 collected funds: ~\$47k
(Approximately was \$20k used for the distribution of reusable bags in the Spring of 2023)
- FY24 collected funds: ~\$120k
- FY25 Projected funds: ~\$125k



Program Development Methodology

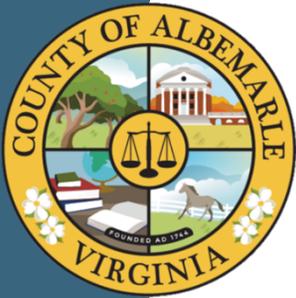
1. Determining the roads that have existing litter collection efforts
 - Albemarle County mowing & litter program
 - VDOT mowing & litter collection program
 - Private citizen groups participating in VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway program
2. Analyzing data and establishing roads that do not have existing litter collection and met the criteria
3. Determine a level of service based on average daily traffic and existing litter collection efforts



Program Development Methodology

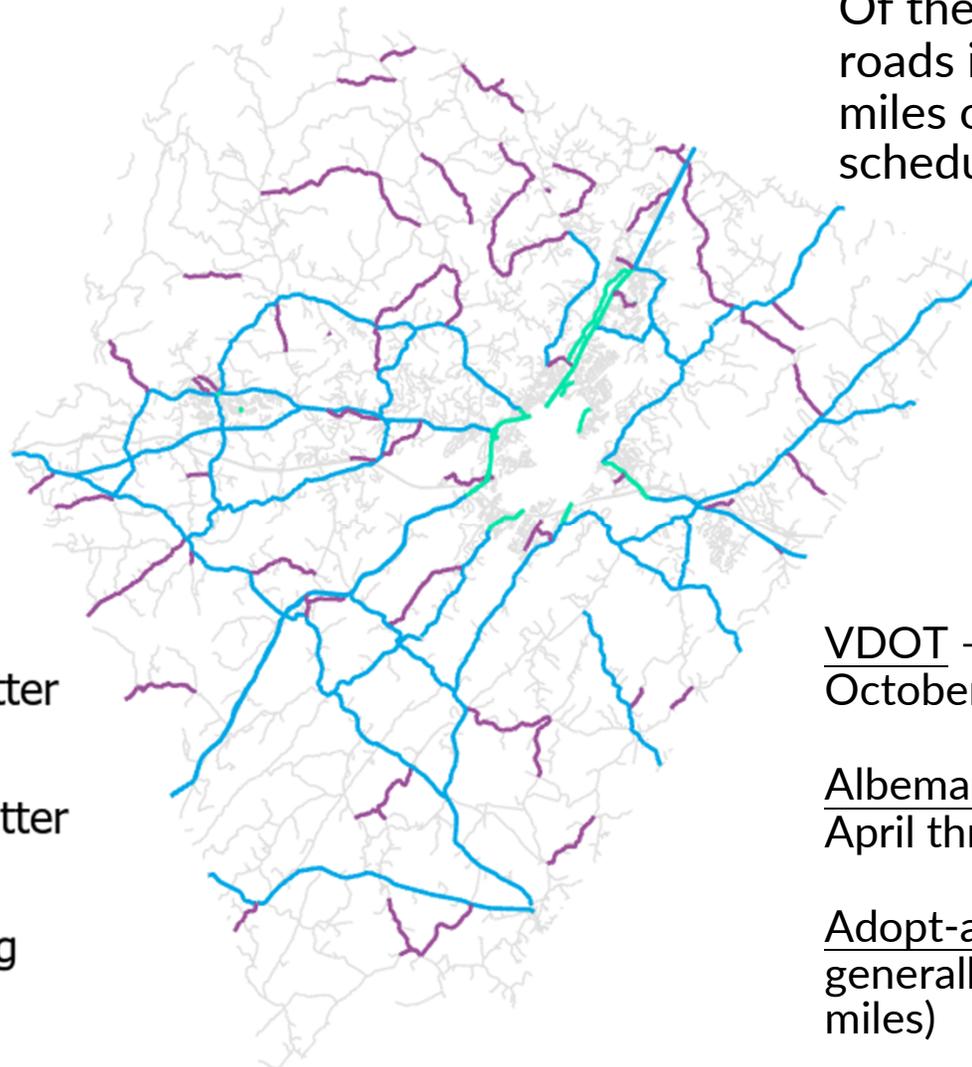
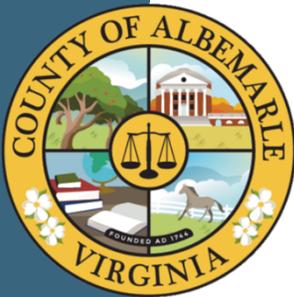
Staff utilized VDOT-published traffic volumes throughout the county and grouped the roads by Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume:

- Tier 1 roads > 4,000 ADT
- Tier 2 roads between 3,000 and 4,000 ADT
- Tier 3 roads between 2,000 and 3,000 ADT
- Tier 4 roads between 1,000 and 2,000 ADT



Selection criteria for roadway litter collection

1. Roadways with an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume of more than 1,000 cars per day, as determined by VDOT traffic data.
2. Public roads that have been accepted into the VDOT maintenance system. Private roads would remain the responsibility of the owner(s), HOA, or Adopt-a-Highway volunteer groups.
3. In general, public roads that are outside of planned neighborhoods and are not residential in nature.



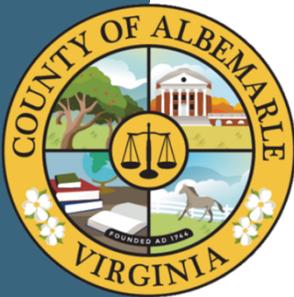
Of the roughly 900 miles of roads in the County, ~400 miles of roadway have scheduled litter removal.

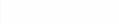
- Adopt-a-Highway Litter Route
- Albemarle County Litter & Mowing Route
- DOT Litter & Mowing Route

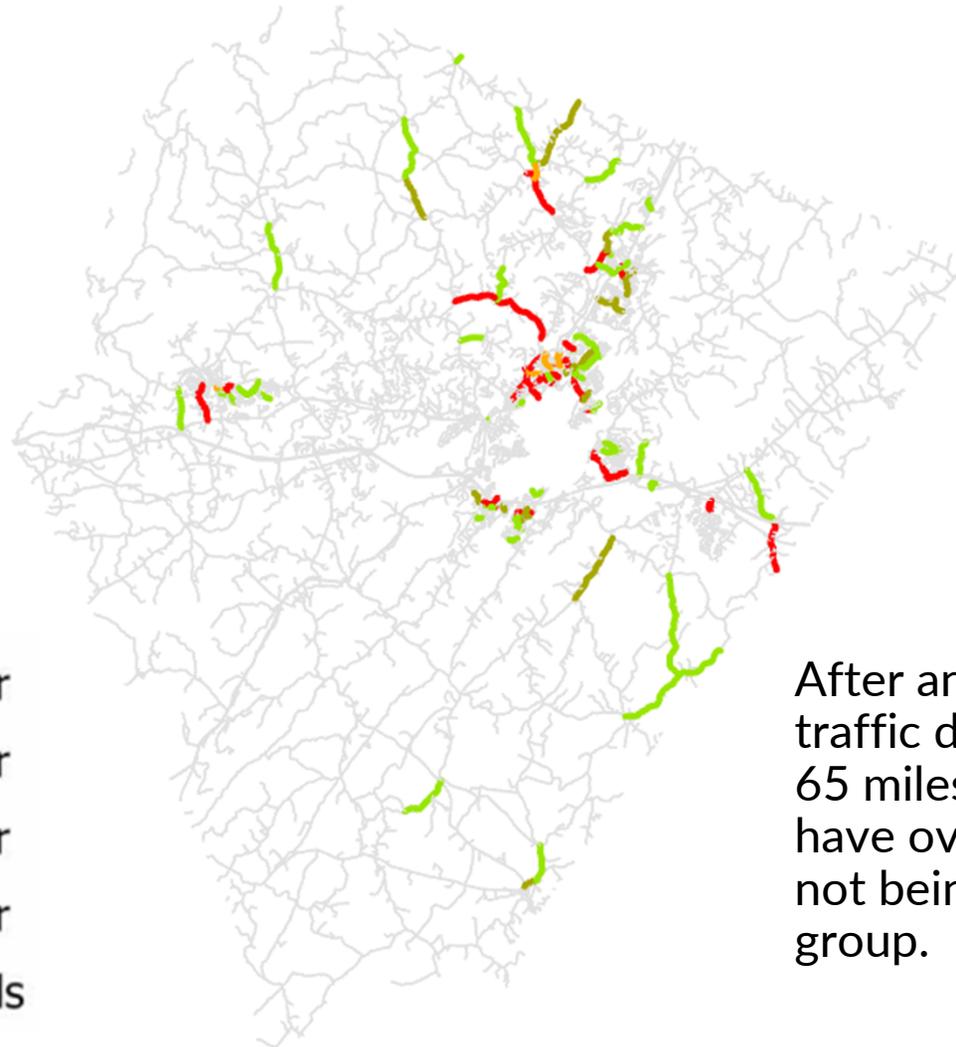
VDOT – 3x a year; May, July, and October (240 miles)

Albemarle County – 2x a month; April through October (41 miles)

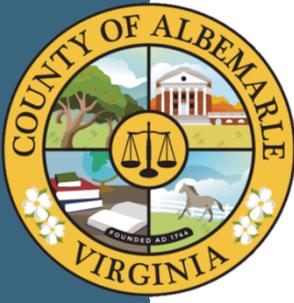
Adopt-a-Highway – 2x a year; generally spring and fall (126 miles)



-  Tier 1 Litter
-  Tier 2 Litter
-  Tier 3 Litter
-  Tier 4 Litter
-  Other Roads

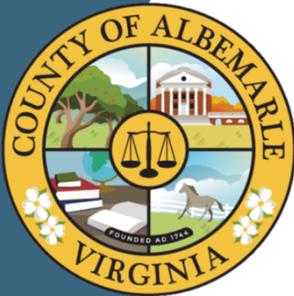


After analysis of VDOT traffic data, staff determined 65 miles of roadway that have over 1,000 ADT that are not being serviced by any group.



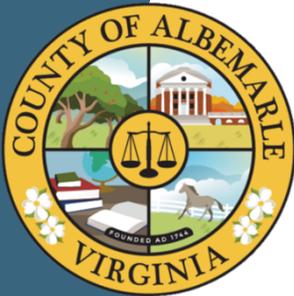
Recommendations:

- For Tiered roads that have no litter collection:
 - Tier 1 and 2 roads - perform 4 services a year – December, March, June, and September
 - Tier 3 and 4 roads– perform 2 services – March and September
- To augment during the winter season, perform 2 collections, one in December and 1 in March on all Albemarle County and VDOT serviced roads.
- Initiate a one-year pilot program to engage an outside contractor and assess the results. The results would be weighed based on litter collection totals received from the selected contractor, the overall effectiveness of the program, and opportunities to improve the service.



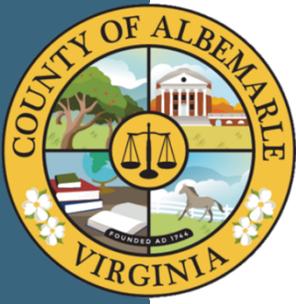
Street Sweeping with *Sweeping Beauty*

- Street sweeping is an effective method of removing debris from roads and preventing potential pollutants from entering local waterways
- Albemarle County's sweeper came online in August of 2023
- In the last year, the sweeper has cleaned 730 miles of curbed streets, collecting over 256 tons of debris, pollutants, and litter



Other Public Works programs:

- Mowing and Litter Collection - the County performs mowing and litter collection along 60 miles of entrance corridors to Charlottesville.
- Street Name & Watch For Children signs - the County installs, repairs or replaces approximately 100 signs per year due to accidents, weather, and vandalism.
- Vegetation Management along the right of way - from tree clearing, auto accident damage, clean up of overgrown areas, and maintenance of the Rio Rd / 29 North planters.
- We also assist residents with various issues along the right of ways, and if we cannot help, we get them in contact with the correct agency to solve the problem.



Questions?