



Legislative Priorities

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June 12, 2024



Agenda

2024 Priorities & Legislative Session

Looking Ahead to 2025

Strategy for 2025



2024 Priorities & Legislative Session



2024 Legislative Priorities

- Provide state funding for Rivanna Futures project
 - The approved budgets did not include funding for the Rivanna Futures project
- Grant the County taxing authority for school division capital projects
 - HB 805 (Rasoul) and SB 14 (McPike), provided enabling authority for all localities
 - Approved by legislature but vetoed by Governor
 - Both House of Delegates and Senate sustained the Governor's veto
- Expand the authority to use photo speed monitoring devices
 - HB 20 (Jones), provided enabling authority for all localities, continued to 2025
 - SB 336 (Roem), provided enabling authority for speed cameras at high-risk intersections, enacted and approved by the Governor



2024 Legislative Positions and Policy Statements

- Virginia Freedom of Information Act
 - HB 894 (Bennet-Parker) and SB 734 (Marsden)
 - Increases the number of permitted all-virtual public meetings from 25% to 50% percent of meetings held per calendar year, non-consecutively
- Virginia Business Ready Sites Program
 - HB 233 (Campbell) and SB 135 (Head)
 - Reduces the acreage eligibility threshold for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program from 100 acres to 50 acres, subject to certain conditions (e.g., topographic or environmental factors)
- Small bus shelters
 - HB 285 (McQuinn)
 - Delegates to the local building official enforcement of the Uniform Statewide Building Code for state-funded small bus shelters to be constructed on state-owned property



Looking Ahead to 2025



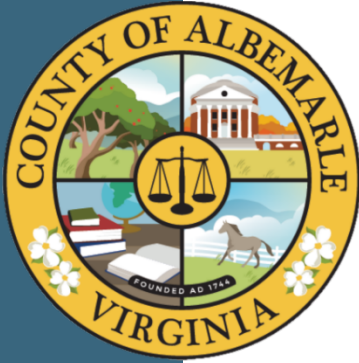
The 2025 General Assembly

- Significant topics expected to be addressed during the 2025 session include:
 - Clean energy
 - Data centers
 - Mental health
 - Schools funding
 - Skill games
- Takeaways from 2024 session that inform approach to 2025 session:
 - No new taxes without adequate reductions/eliminations elsewhere
 - Record number of vetoes



The 2025 General Assembly

- 2025 is an election year (again) in Virginia
 - House of Delegates members and Governor up for election in November
 - Adjustments to biennial budget for FY25 and FY26
 - Vetoed bills likely to return
 - Look for campaign "brochure bills"
 - Local authority bills still plentiful



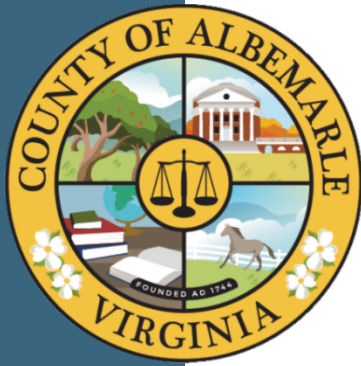
The 2025 General Assembly

Opportunity: Continue educating delegation on local priorities and the state/local partnership

- Local and state governments are closely linked: Schools/children's services, transportation, tax policy, environmental, public safety, human/social services, health, elections
- A significant amount of state dollars flows to localities
- Budget and critical issues are priorities
- TJPDC and localities can play roles

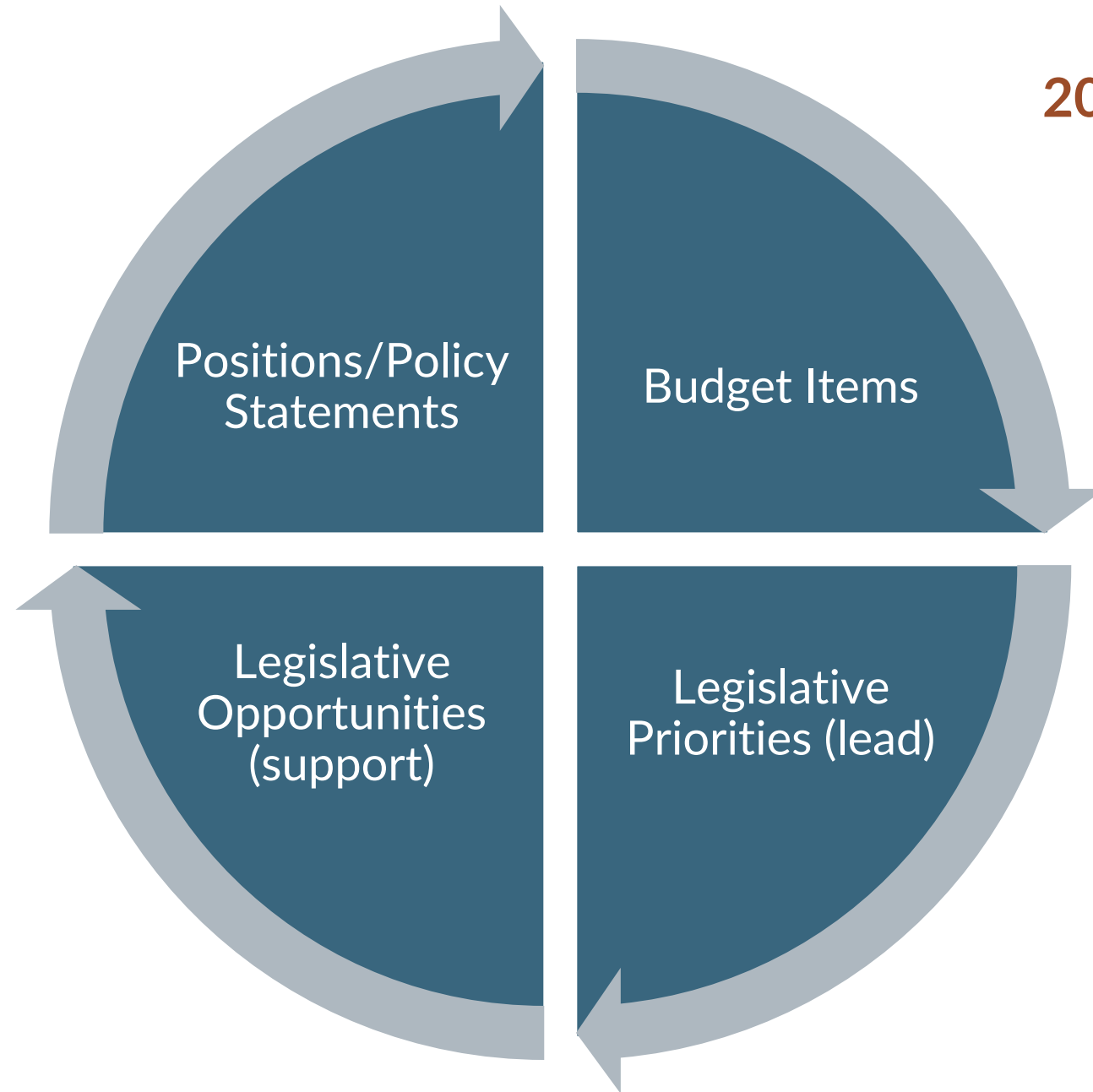


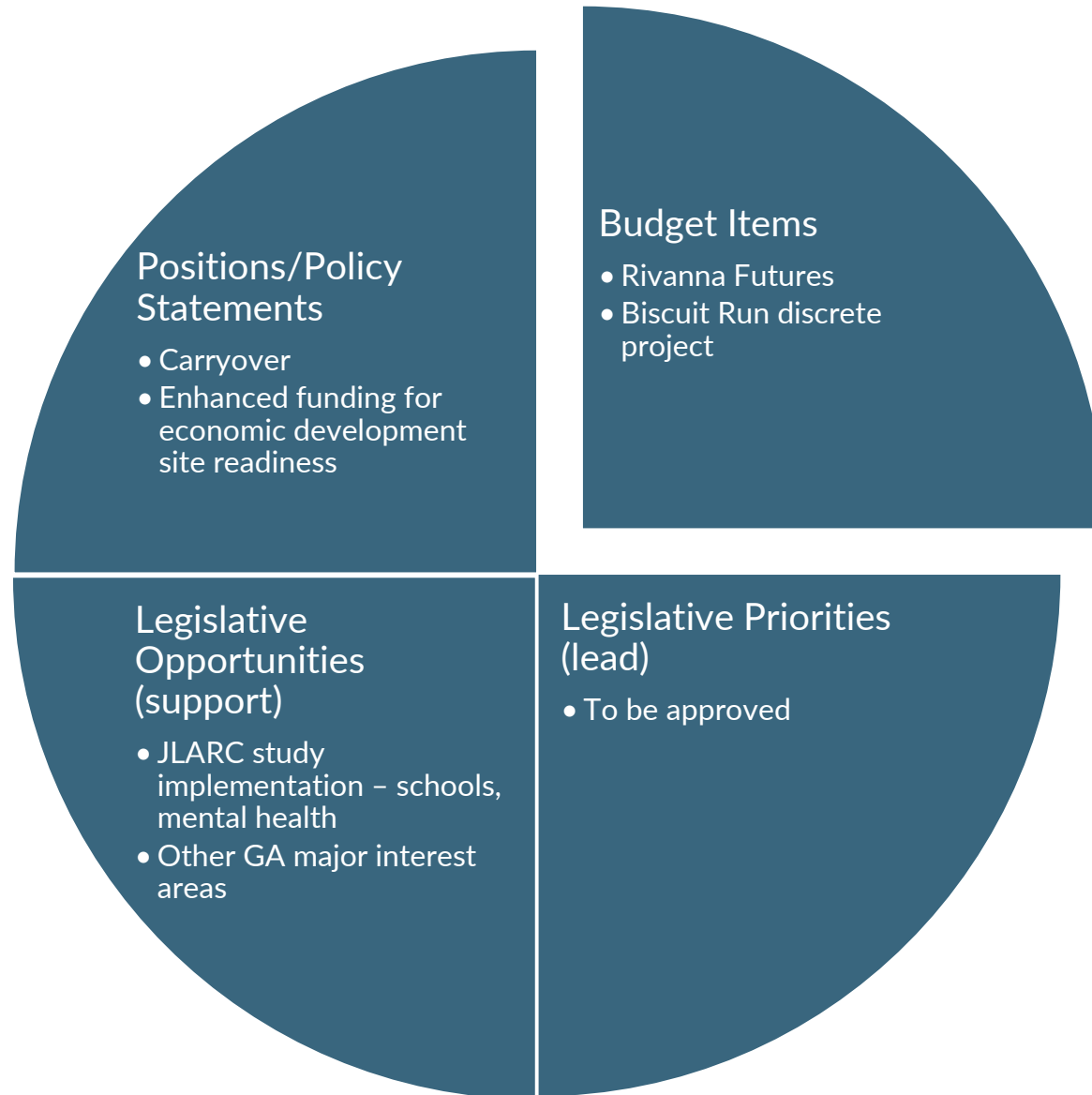
Strategy for 2025





Proposed 2025 Strategy







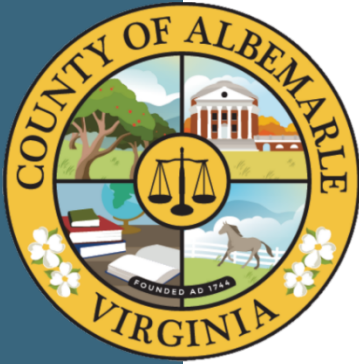
RIVANNA FUTURES

- Targeted, Phase 1 opportunity
- \$5 million request for utility, infrastructure, site work



Biscuit Run Park project

- Discrete project
- Relatively short development timeline
- If interest, scoping would proceed



Feedback

- Consider supporting budget amendment requests for Rivanna Futures (\$5M) and Biscuit Run (TBD ~\$1M).
- Any others to consider?



Positions/Policy Statements

- Carryover
- Enhanced funding for economic development site readiness

Budget Items

- Rivanna Futures
- Biscuit Run discrete project

Legislative Opportunities (support)

- JLARC study implementation – schools, mental health
- Other GA major interest areas

Legislative Priorities (lead)

- To be approved



Legislative Priorities (lead)

2024 approach included 3 priorities:

- Rivanna Futures
- 1-cent for Schools Capital
- Enhanced photospeed camera authority

Other items identified:

- Rental housing safety
- Enhancing authority to seek increased reimbursement of expenses incurred in responding to community threats
- Enabling funding authority for CARTA



1-Cent for Schools Capital

2024

- Unexpected broad support from across the Commonwealth (>2/3 voted to pass in both chambers)
- Vetoed by Governor – concern for adding taxes without any reductions
- Failed to receive 2/3 votes needed to overturn veto

2025

- Expected to have broad support in 2025
- Consider
 - Carrying forward



Enhanced Photo Speed Device Authority

2024

- Unexpected broad support from across the Commonwealth
- Several bills introduced, consolidated
- SB336 signed. Limited applicability in Albemarle

2025

- Consider:
 - Carrying forward
 - Determine focus of characteristics of roadways to be addressed/of greatest concern



Rental Housing Safety

- Address desire for more tools to support non-building code issues in rental housing
- 2024 HB 597
 - Vetoed by Governor
 - Would have enabled localities to pursue legal action against landlords not addressing safety hazards in rental units
- Consider pursuing legislation similar to HB 597, or identify other legislative tools



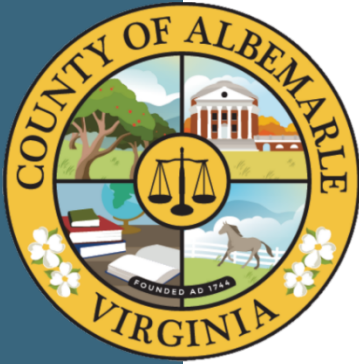
Funding Authority for CARTA

- The creation of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Transit Authority (CARTA) was enabled in 2009.
 - Authority to hold a referendum on a dedicated sales tax funding mechanism for CARTA/transit failed.
- The Regional Transit Partnership recently began work to establish CARTA (structure, by-laws, etc.)
- Consider pursuing authority to hold a referendum for dedicated funding for CARTA/regional transit.



Reimbursement for responding to community threats

- Current statute limits localities' authority to pursue reimbursement of expenses incurred in responding to threats to \$2,500.
- Option to bill flat fee of \$250 or on basis of "minute by minute accounting of the actual costs incurred."
- Enhanced authority would allow recovery of more of the actual costs of response.
- In 2024:
 - HB147 (left in committee) and SB656 (stricken at request of patron)
 - Would have allowed a flat fee of \$2,500 or minute-by-minute billing of actual costs, up to \$2,500.
- Consider pursuing authority for enhanced reimbursement with increase cap or flat fee, or both.



Positions/Policy Statements

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Budget Items

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Legislative Priorities (lead)

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Legislative Opportunities (support)

- Consider whether to specifically support (or oppose) legislation that could be introduced on the following topics:
 - General Assembly legislative interest area topics
 - Clean energy
 - Data centers
 - Mental health
 - Schools funding
 - Skill games
 - Continued implementation of JLARC studies
 - Education funding
 - Community Service Boards funding (mental health services)



Positions/Policy Statements

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Legislative Priorities (lead)

- To be approved



Positions & Policy Statements

- Broad articulation of support/opposition
- Positions staff to be responsive to requests by/inquiries from local delegation during the session
- Consider whether to:
 - Refresh and carryover 2024 document
 - State funding for economic development site readiness
 - \$20 million each year in the 25/26 biennium budget
 - FY23: \$54 M
 - FY24: \$180 M

