

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

April 2026

Administrative Activities

- Staff attended Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) Technical Committee and MPO Policy Board meetings in February
- Staff attended the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) Rural Transportation Advisory Committee in February
- Attended monthly Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)-County Transportation meetings; in addition to staff from transportation planning, staff from ACPD and FES attended this quarter
- Staff attended the Mobility Summit hosted at the Wool Factory

Transportation Planning Efforts

SMART SCALE 2026

Staff continues to work with VDOT, CA-MPO, and City partners on selecting and revising project submittals for SMART SCALE Round 7. Preapplications are due to VDOT on April 1, with final submittals due by August 1. As presented at the March 4th Board Meeting The list of eligible projects for SMART SCALE are as follows:

County eligible projects for consideration:

A - Barracks Road & US 29 SB/US 250 WB On-ramp: This project will add a dedicated right turn lane from Barracks Road eastbound to the US 29/250 bypass southbound, close the median opening on Barracks Road at Ricky Road, relocate a bus stop, and construct a pedestrian connection from the bus stop to the existing sidewalk.

B - US 250 & Old Trail Roundabout: This project will construct a roundabout at the intersection of US 250 (Rockfish Gap Turnpike) at Old Trail Drive with crosswalks and pedestrian connections. This project was previously submitted for SMART SCALE funding and narrowly missed being selected.

C - US 250 (Ivy Road) – Full Recommendation: This project will redesign US 250 (Ivy Road) from Old Garth Road/Canterbury Road to Boar’s Head Drive/Colridge Drive. It will convert the Ivy Road/Old Garth Road/Canterbury Road intersection to a roundabout, construct a roundabout at the Intersection of Ivy Road/Boar’s Head Drive/Colridge Drive, install a median between the roundabouts, and construct a shared use path along the same segment.

D - US 250 (Ivy Road) – Partial Recommendation: As part of a funding strategy, this project is a smaller version of Project C. This project will convert the Ivy Road/Old Garth Road/Canterbury Road intersection to a roundabout and construct a shared use path along Ivy Road at Old Garth Road/Canterbury Road.

CA-MPO eligible projects for consideration:

1 - US 29 NB/US 250 EB Off-ramp improvements at Barracks Road: This project will extend the deceleration lane and widen the off-ramp to provide two left turn lanes from northbound US 29/250

onto westbound Barracks Road. In addition, a sidewalk under the bypass would be constructed to connect to the existing sidewalk in the City of Charlottesville.

2 - I-64 and 5th Street (Exit 120): This project would rebuild the I-64/5th Street interchange as a diverging diamond interchange, like the one at US 250 and I-64 in Pantops. This project includes a connection for pedestrians over I-64, connecting the future shared-use path to 5th Street Station to the 5th Street Place apartments. This project is part of the VDOT Pipeline study currently being conducted (more details below).

3 - US 29 SB/US 250 WB Off-ramp extension at Ivy Road: This project will extend the length of the deceleration lane on southbound US 29 / westbound US 250 to the off-ramp to Route 601 (Old Ivy Road).

4 - US 29 NB/US 250 EB On-ramp extension at Ivy Road: This project will extend the length of the acceleration lane from the on-ramp at Old Ivy Road onto northbound US 29 / eastbound US 250 to continue as a full-width lane to the Leonard Sandridge Road exit.

Three Notched Trail Shared Use Path

Albemarle County was awarded just over \$2,000,000 in Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funds to complete a Master Plan for a future Three Notched Trail Shared Use Path. The plan is expected to take two years and involves four major planning tasks:

1. Conduct an alternatives analysis of up to three potential alignments for the shared use path;
2. Conduct stakeholder and public engagement to determine a preferred alignment;
3. Reach functional (30%) design for priority sections of the preferred alignment; and
4. Develop an implementation plan for the shared use path that identifies segments of the alignment that would have independent utility if constructed separately.

The selected consultant team of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) and several sub-consultants, including Toole Design and EPR began work in February 2025. Following is a list of the project activities so far:

- Staff presented on the project at the Active Mobility Conference in early March,
- The project website (<https://engage.albemarle.org/three-notched-trail-master-plan>) went live,
- The project's technical committee – composed of representatives from Albemarle County, VDOT, City of Charlottesville, University of Virginia, Nelson County, City of Waynesboro, the Rivanna Trails Foundation, and the Blue Ridge Health District, among others – has met three times, once in mid-March again in late June, and most recently in late October,
- The second of four public meetings occurred in early December, where the three potential alignments were shared for feedback,
- A second online public survey on the project is currently open.
- A meeting of selected stakeholders occurred in late June to help identify considerations and possible alignments to be evaluated for the initial alternatives analysis.

VDOT-led Studies

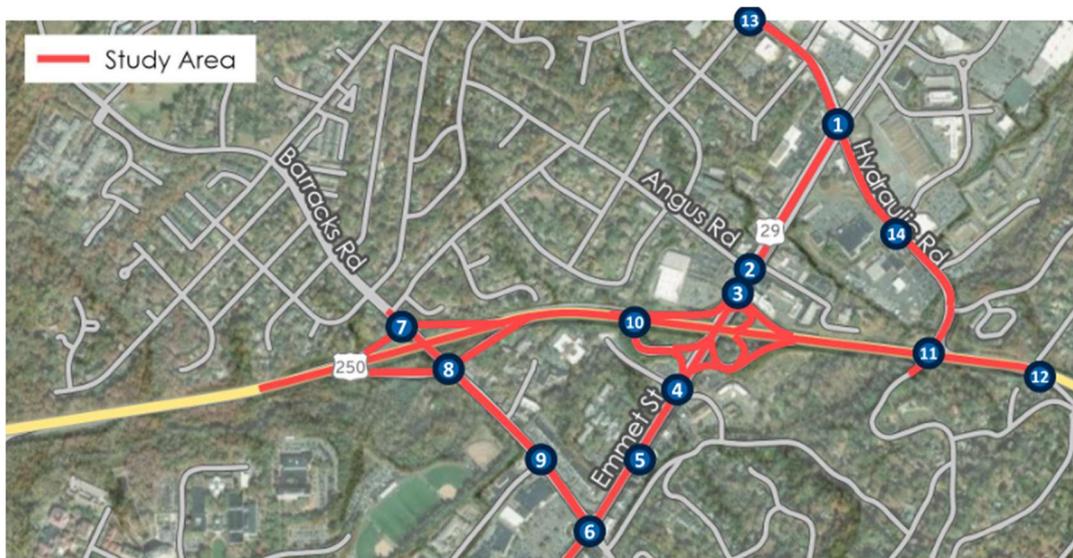
The objective of the STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) Program is to develop comprehensive and innovative multimodal transportation solutions to address congestion and safety challenges in the Commonwealth.

Albemarle County is participating in two STARS studies described below that kicked off a year ago. Since the kickoff staff met with VDOT and the consultants in January for proposed alternatives for the US 29 Corridor STARS study and are awaiting the delivery of updated alternatives.

The two STARS studies are:

US 29 Corridor: Hydraulic Road to Woodbrook Road – A corridor study that examines safety and operations for all road users along US 29 and intersecting roadways between Hydraulic and Woodbrook roads.

US 29/250 Bypass Interchange with Emmet Street – An interchange study that examines safety and operations of the interchange with Emmet Street and the surrounding intersections. See study area in graphic below.



Last year, VDOT also kicked off two Pipeline Studies described below in Albemarle County. Pipeline Studies study transportation corridors to provide multimodal recommendations in a suite of different packages. Recommended project bundles can then be submitted for funding through SMART SCALE or Revenue Sharing programs. Staff met with VDOT and project consultant to review the current alternatives in January and are awaiting updated concepts.

The two Pipeline studies are:

5th Street - Albemarle County/City of Charlottesville - The study area includes 5th Street from Pinehurst Court to Harris Road. This is a re-evaluation of previous studies and SMART SCALE applications to refine and value engineer solutions that will have better potential for benefits in relation to cost. The study will result in refined concepts suitable for this round (Round 7) of SMART SCALE.



US 29/I-64 Exit 118 Interchange – Albemarle County: The study area includes U.S. Route 29 from Teel Lane to north of the Fontaine Avenue interchange. Three previous projects have been funded related to this area. Traffic is currently backing up at the U.S. Route 29 southbound to get onto I-64 eastbound signal, and there are significant safety concerns at that location as a result. This study will also look to improve the small park and ride lot located on the east side of U.S. Route 29 northbound just south of the interchange on Teel Lane. Currently this study is on hold to consider additional alternatives.



Free Bridge Lane Promenade Pilot Program

Per Board direction staff developed a Free Bridge Lane Promenade Pilot Program which concluded in late 2025. After the successful pilot the promenade will become a permanent amenity closed to public vehicular traffic.

Last summer, staff presented a summary of the pilot promenade program to the Board, and the Board instructed staff to begin the discontinuance process with VDOT. Staff expects to return to the Board this spring for a resolution of support to discontinue Free Bridge Lane. Staff intends to apply for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to pursue funding for additional site improvements. On December 18, staff met with VDOT, ACPR, and the initial project consultants to walk the site and discuss the scope of improvements. Staff has requested a scope of services and fee to complete a feasibility study.

FY27-33 Secondary Six Year Plan (SSYP)

The SSYP allocates funding for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of roads in the state secondary system – including the hard surfacing of unpaved roads. The SSYP identifies the Telefee and Unpaved District Grant funds for Albemarle County for the upcoming fiscal year and projects allocations

of these funds for the following five fiscal years. The SSYP is updated and approved by the Board of Supervisors annually.

There were also changes made to the Rural Rustic Roads process. Now, residents are responsible for collecting signatures and demonstrating support to staff before VDOT conducts a review of the road. Additionally, roads that fail to demonstrate support are recommended to be added to the “Retained Unpaved Roads” list by Board vote and are ineligible to be requested again for six years. Staff have been working with residents on multiple roads to provide them with the materials needed to gather signatures and will return to the Board in April with an SSYP update.

In 2023 the General Assembly passed a law allowing Rural Rustic funds to be used on projects that do not include hard surfacing. Following guidance from our VDOT partners, staff is drafting a report for a new initiative called the Unpaved Road Improvement Program (URIP), which will prioritize unpaved roads in the County for construction improvements that do not include paving.

Transportation Project Construction

Projects currently in design and/or under construction are listed and described below. Timelines for public hearings (when relevant) and expected construction beginning and completion dates (when available) are listed for each project.

(Smart) Funded by SMART SCALE

(RS) Funded by Revenue Sharing

(TA) Funded by Transportation Alternatives

(HSIP) Funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program

(CIP) Funded by Albemarle County’s Capital Improvement Program

VDOT Administered

In Design

Rio Road/John Warner Parkway Intersection Improvements: This project will construct a roundabout to address identified traffic issues at the intersection and improve pedestrian and bike facilities. Albemarle County committed \$2 million to this project.

This project has been fast-tracked by VDOT and incorporated into the Albemarle Design-Build Bundle #2. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023 (at the National Guard Armory and at The Center at Belvedere), and construction is expected in Spring 2026. **(Smart)**

Belvedere Boulevard/Rio Road Intersection Improvements: This project would install a continuous green-T intersection treatment. With the continuous green-T, vehicles traveling along Rio Road would continue through the intersection without stopping. Vehicles turning left onto Rio Road from Belvedere Boulevard would use a channelized receiving lane on Rio Road to merge onto Rio Road eastbound. It is still to be determined whether this intersection treatment will be signalized. This project may include an at-grade pedestrian crossing of Belvedere.

This project has been fast-tracked by VDOT and incorporated into the Albemarle Design-Build Bundle #2. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September (at the National

Guard Armory and at The Center at Belvedere), and construction is expected in Spring 2026. **(Smart)**

Route 20/Route 53 Intersection Improvements: This project will convert the intersection into a roundabout and include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. Albemarle County committed \$1 million to this project.

This project has been fast-tracked by VDOT and incorporated into the Albemarle Design-Build Bundle #2. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023 (at the National Guard Armory and at The Center at Belvedere), and construction is expected in Fall 2026. **(Smart)**

I-64/Exit 107 Crozet Park and Ride Lot: This project will construct a park and ride lot at the corner of Patterson Mill Lane and US 250 just south of the I-64 interchange. Staff are coordinating with Crozet Connect and services to finalize the provision of services for this lot.

A public hearing for this project was held in late January 2024. Construction is expected in Fall 2026. **(Smart)**

US 29 Shared Use Path (Seminole Lane North to Carrsbrook Drive): This project will construct a shared-use path on the east side of US 29 from Seminole Lane to Carrsbrook Drive. Construction is expected in Fall 2026. **(Smart)**

Fontaine Avenue/29 Bypass Improvements: This project will signalize ramps at Fontaine, close the current left-turn movement from northbound Rt 29 to westbound I-64, and construct a shared use path. This project does not include the construction of a loon near the intersection of Ray C. Hunt and Fontaine.

This project has been incorporated into a bundle to include the Hydraulic Road/District Avenue Roundabout and the City of Charlottesville's Fontaine streetscape project. A public hearing was done in Summer 2025, and construction is expected in early 2026. **(Smart)**

Fifth Street Hub and Trails: This project will complete a shared use path that connects a commercial space adjacent to Fifth Street to the Fifth Street Station shopping center. This trail would be the first of a planned network of trails in the area to connect pedestrians and bicyclists to commercial and recreational amenities. VDOT has organized a staff-level stakeholder committee to assist in the development of this project; they met in February 2023 and again in July 2023.

A public hearing was held in late 2023, and construction is expected in Fall 2026. **(Smart)**

Route 250 East Corridor Improvements: This project will close the center turn lane with a median between the Route 20 intersection and Rolkin Rd with potential breaks at Hansen Rd, Town & Country Ln, and People Place for limited movements and additional right-turn lanes as necessary. Sidewalk gaps will also be addressed. Albemarle County committed \$2 million to this project.

VDOT has bundled this project with Intersection Improvements at Route 20/US 250 to maximize cost efficiencies and minimize disruptions to US 250 corridor users. A public hearing was held in September 2024, and construction is expected in Fall 2026. **(Smart)**

Intersection Improvements at Route 20/US 250 in Pantops: The project will rebuild the traffic signal, add additional turn lanes and reallocate other lanes, add a pedestrian crossing of US 250 and crossings of Route 20 and Riverbend Drive, close existing sidewalk gaps approaching the intersection, and update all pedestrian curb ramps in the VDOT right-of-way.

VDOT has bundled this project with Route 250 East Corridor Improvements to maximize cost efficiencies and minimize disruptions to US 250 corridor users. A public hearing was held in September 2024, and construction is expected in Fall 2026. **(Smart)**

Hydraulic Road/District Avenue Roundabout: This is a proposed roundabout at the intersection of Hydraulic Road and District Avenue near Stonefield shopping center. This project was part of a previous and more comprehensive SMART SCALE application for the U.S. 29 and Hydraulic Road intersection. It was recommended as part of the Hydraulic/29 Small Area Plan and is identified as a priority project in CAMPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan.

This project has been incorporated into a bundle to include the Fontaine Avenue/29 Bypass Displaced Left-turn and the City of Charlottesville's Fontaine Streetscape project. A Citizen Information Meeting was held in June 2024, public hearing happened Summer 2025, and construction is expected in fall 2027. **(Smart)**

Avon Street Corridor Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: Druid Avenue to Avon Court: The project will develop a package of multimodal transportation improvements along Avon Street between Druid Ave and Avon Court. Improvements include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, road widening on the west side of Avon Street, installing a drain underground and improving stormwater retention. A public hearing is expected in Spring 2026, and construction is expected in Summer 2028. **(Smart)**

Eastern Ave South (US 250 across Lickinghole Creek to Cory Farms Road): This project was awarded funds through the Revenue Sharing program in 2023. It is currently on hold while the County works through the VA Public-Private Transportation Act to determine the ability to utilize this program as an opportunity to construct the proposed project.

Berkmar Drive to Lewis & Clark Drive (Hollymead Town Center to Airport Road): This project will construct a new roadway with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to continue Berkmar Dr to Airport Rd where a roundabout will be constructed to connect to Innovation Dr/Lewis and Clark Drive. Construction is expected in Fall 2027.

In Construction

Old Lynchburg Road/5th Street Extended Intersection Improvements: This project will address failing operations at the entrance to the County Office Building on 5th St with a roundabout that includes pedestrian crosswalks. Albemarle County committed \$2 million to this project.

This project has been fast-tracked by VDOT and incorporated into the Albemarle Design-Build Bundle #2. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023 (at the

National Guard Armory and at The Center at Belvedere), and construction began in late 2025. **(Smart)**

Albemarle County Administered

In Design

Library Avenue Extension/ Barnes Lumber Redevelopment – Right-of-way acquisition for this project is underway, and the project is expected to begin construction by Spring 2026. The project has been advertised and bid, bids were higher than expected and staff is considering alternatives. **(NIFI)**

Old Lynchburg Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements – This project would construct an enhanced sidewalk and multiple crosswalks along Old Lynchburg Road between Timberland Park Apartments and the Rivanna Trail trailhead south of Azalea Park to improve pedestrian safety and mobility. This project would include a crosswalk across Old Lynchburg Road (the Apartments are on the west side of the roadway, and the park is on the east side). Funding to complete design has been identified. The project was advertised in November 2025 with construction expected to start this month (March). **(CIP)**

Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements – This project will design and construct an approximately 1.1 mile long Shared-use Path along Berkmar Drive from the Woodbrook Road intersection to the Hilton Heights Road roundabout. The Right-of-Way phase has begun, and the project is expected to be advertised in early 2027. **(RS)**

In Construction

Crozet Square – Project has been completed and the final inspection took place on 1/21/2026. **(NIFI)**

Commonwealth Dr./Dominion Dr. Pedestrian Improvements – This project will design and construct approximately 2,500 feet of sidewalk on Commonwealth Drive from Hydraulic Road to Peyton Drive (east side); and along Dominion Drive from Commonwealth Drive to US 29 (north side). Project construction will begin this spring. **(RS)**

Transit

Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)

Staff attended the January CARTA Board meeting hosted by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC). During this meeting CARTA welcomed two new members, County Supervisor Duncan and City Councilwoman Fleisher and elected Councilwoman Oschrin as chair and Supervisor Pruitt as vice-chair to the Board. CARTA meetings will continue to be held bi-monthly. The Transit Service Prioritization and Implementation Feasibility Study has kicked off and will evaluate the projects recommended in the TJPDC Regional Transit Vision.

Transit Stop Improvements

Staff continue to work with Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) and stakeholders to make improvements to transit stops throughout Albemarle County. CAT is currently expanding service south of Charlottesville on Route 2. Albemarle County staff are assisting with stop location, stakeholder input, and communication with property owners about installing more stops. Improvements include the

installation of shelters, benches or other seating, and/or minor alterations to routing or stop locations that are intended to improve safety and/or convenience for transit users.

Other transit stop improvement efforts may be coordinated with other transportation planning/construction projects – such as improvements to Commonwealth Drive transit stops. These improvements may be coordinated with proposed development that can offer additional stop locations or amenities. Additional sites for new stop amenities will be prioritized based on ridership and partnership potential in coordination with CAT.

Microtransit Service

Charlottesville Area Transit has been operating MicroCAT, a microtransit service throughout the Places 29 and Pantops Development Areas, since October 30th, 2023. The service was initially funded through a pilot program grant from the Department of Rail and Public Transit and a County local match for two years. CAT has contracted with VIA as the provider for this service. Ridership quickly increased before reaching the relative maximum number of weekly rides possible under the current contract amount. The County, VIA, and CAT have been meeting regularly to review operations and plan for the potential future of the service. A contract to extend the service was recently signed which will continue service provision until the end of June 2026 to allow the Board to consider the future of the service through the annual budget discussions.

Development Projects

Transportation staff reviews and comments on transportation issues related to pre-application meetings and projects submitted for Zoning Map Amendments, Special Use Permits, and Site Development Plans. Transportation staff's role is to review the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) or other transportation information and assist the lead reviewer or engineer in the development and scoping of traffic studies and review of plans/plats for transportation and mobility issues such as transit, pedestrian access and interconnectivity. Major projects reviewed/discussed this quarter include:

- **Oak Bluff Rezoning and TIA** – Rezoning proposal for single-family attached and detached housing, which includes parcels on both sides of Lickinghole Creek, south of Westhall Dr, and west of Jonna Street. This project also falls in the current alignment of the proposed Eastern Avenue Connector Road and bridge. This project was presented for a Public Hearing at the Planning Commission Meeting on December 17, 2024, where the applicant requested deferral.
- **North Pointe Rezoning and TIA** – Rezoning proposal in the northern part of the Places 29 Development Area across US 29 from North Fork. This would amend a Rezoning to remove some commercial square footage and add residential units.
- **Belvedere Rezoning and Site Development Plan for Phase IV** – Rezoning to amend proffers from Belvedere Neighborhood Model District and develop the Phase IV by-right section for residential uses.
- **Albemarle Business Campus Amendment** – Rezoning to amend the current NMD zoning to reduce transportation proffers and required non-residential square footage and increase residential units. This project was presented for a Public Hearing at the Planning Commission Meeting on March 25, 2025, where the applicant requested deferral.

- **Brookhill Rezoning** – A proposal to amend the rezoning approved in 2018 to increase the allowable residential units in the development for an additional 300 units, from 1,550 to 1,850. This project is scheduled for a Planning Commission Public Hearing on July 8, 2025.
- **Attain on 5th** – A proposal to rezone the Cavalier Crossing Apartments on 5th Street Extended from R-10 to PRD to increase the number of units from 144 to 309 units. Attain on 5th would move away from a student housing model and would focus on being a standard multi-family model. This project has gone to the Planning Commission.
- **Lochlyn Commons** – A rezoning on the former Eco-village site on Rio Road from R-4 to PRD to allow a maximum of 75 units on the site. Lochlyn Commons aim to incorporate sustainable best practices in their development. Staff are currently reviewing the proposal.
- **Rubin Lane** – A rezoning adjacent to the Holly Hills development, proposals include multifamily housing or townhomes, or single-family detached homes. Staff are currently reviewing the proposal.
- **Burley Pointe** – A rezoning focused on providing low-income housing along the US 29 corridor, this proposal would build 92 units adjacent to the Food Lion on Branchlands Boulevard. Staff are currently reviewing the proposal.

Reported Transportation Issues

Staff have been engaged in addressing local concerns related to a variety of transportation issues. Staff have instituted a documentation process to track these ongoing issues and keep a record of these concerns. This includes collecting relevant data and reporting through proper channels as appropriate. A tracking list of these concerns/issues has been developed and is reviewed and presented at monthly traffic coordination meetings with VDOT, Albemarle County Police Department, and other agencies. The following is a list of the primary issues staff has been working on in this quarter.

All speeding concerns should be directed to ACPD using their website: [Have a traffic safety concern? | Albemarle County, VA](#). Speeding complaints will no longer be documented by CDD unless ACPD finds a significant speeding concern, in which case CDD, ACPD, and VDOT will follow the approved process to pursue potential traffic calming solutions.

- **Park Ridge Road** – Speed studies have demonstrated that speeding is an ongoing issue on Park Ridge Road. VDOT and County staff agree that this issue meets the warrants to pursue a traffic calming plan based on VDOT requirements. Staff recently kicked off an effort to perform this traffic calming study. It will include engineering evaluations and public engagement, resulting in recommendations (with cost estimates for implementation) for both physical and non-physical traffic calming improvements.