

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Secondary-Six Year Plan Priorities and Recommendations

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors April 2, 2025

VDOT Secondary Six-Year Plan Background

The Secondary-Six Year Plan (SSYP) allocates funding for construction, maintenance, and improvement of roads in the state secondary system. The funds allocated to Albemarle County through the SSYP include state and federal funds for a variety of road improvement programs. The SSYP for Albemarle County is updated and approved annually and identifies the specific funding source, use, and levels allocated for the immediate fiscal year. The SSYP also identifies projected funding allocations for the next five fiscal years. The Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads is a listing of all Secondary Roads that either the public, a County department, or the Board of Supervisors has requested be paved. This list is reviewed and approved by the Board annually and forms the basis of the SSYP for Albemarle County.

Two major funding sources can be directed towards projects in a manner that gives the Board of Supervisors some latitude to fund its prioritized projects. The draft total annual allocation for FY 26 is \$1,207,087.

- **TeleFee Funds** are funded through fees utility companies pay for infrastructure within VDOT right-of-way, and can be used for a broad range of secondary road construction, maintenance, and improvements. Tentatively \$243,266 is available for FY 26.
- **District Grant Unpaved Funds** must be used for hard surfacing of unpaved state secondary roads with more than 50 vehicle trips per day. Tentatively \$963,821 is available for FY 26.

Attachment A.1 is the Draft FY 26 – 31 SSYP. Following are the draft projected funding allocations from this plan:

| FISCAL YEAR | TELEFEE FUNDS | DISTRICT GRANT UNPAVED | TOTAL FUNDS |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 2026 | \$243,266 | \$963,821 | \$1,207,087 |
| 2027 | \$243,266 | \$963,821 | \$1,207,087 |
| 2028 | \$243,266 | \$963,821 | \$1,207,087 |
| 2029 | \$243,266 | \$963,821 | \$1,207,087 |
| 2030 | \$243,266 | \$1,017,428 | \$1,260,759 |
| 2031 | \$243,266 | \$1,017,428 | \$1,260,759 |
| Totals: | \$1,459,596 | \$5,890,205 | \$7,349,801 |

VDOT Paving Programs

Rural Rustic Road Program

The Rural Rustic Road (RRR) Program is the preferred method for paving because it offers a flexible approach to paving unpaved roads that is less expensive than traditional reconstruction. To qualify as an RRR, several criteria must be met:

1. The Board of Supervisors must pass a resolution declaring the road to be a RRR;
2. The Board of Supervisors indicates that expected growth and traffic increase along the road in the near future is minimal;
3. The curves along the road should be generally adequate for the traffic and any increase in speeds expected after the improvement;
4. Roadway drainage must currently be sufficient or require only minor improvements; and
5. The daily traffic volume must be under 1500 vehicles.

For roads with traffic volumes greater than 400 vehicles per day, 18-foot pavement width is desirable and some typical section improvements may be necessary. The local VDOT manager will determine whether this approach is suitable for a requested unpaved road.

Traditional Reconstruction with Additional Right of Way

If significant improvements are needed or if significant development is proposed along the road, a more traditional approach is used to reconstruct the unpaved road and improve the alignment. A minimum 40-foot right of way is usually required for these projects with additional right of way or easements acquired based on the proposed improvement.

Albemarle County Paving Priorities

The *Albemarle County Unpaved Road Policies and Review Process* (**Attachment A.2**) outlines the process for the submission, review, prioritization, and construction associated with the paving of unpaved roads in the County. This document was updated in May 2022 based on Board of Supervisors direction, to clarify how paving requests are submitted and reviewed by staff. These changes included a requirement that requests for paving must be accompanied with documented support from two-thirds of the home or commercial owners that would be directly impacted by the hard-surfacing.

The *Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads* (**Attachment A.3**) is a listing of all Secondary Roads that have been requested to be paved by the public, County departments, or the Board of Supervisors. This list is reviewed annually, approved by the Board, and forms the basis of the SSYP for Albemarle County. Based on Board feedback regarding the prioritized projects, VDOT will draft a revised SSYP each spring.

Following is a list of both road segments that have been requested to be added since the previous year's list and those roads that have moved to the top of the priority list and are proposed for paving in the next fiscal year.

Roads Recommended to be Added to the SSYP for Paving

- **Blair Park Road (Rt. 707)** - This road has received the necessary number of signatures to demonstrate support and has met VDOT feasibility standards to be considered for Rural Rustic Paving. The project is estimated to cost \$110,000. Staff recommends adding this paving project to the SSYP.
- **Starlight Road (Rt. 813)** - This road has received the necessary number of signatures to demonstrate support and has met VDOT feasibility standards to be considered for Rural Rustic Paving. The project is estimated to cost \$125,000. Staff recommends adding this paving project to the SSYP.
- **Sutherland Road (Rt. 697)** – This road was approved for paving by residents last fiscal year. However, a small portion of the road was left off the approval. The remaining portion of the state-maintained road has received the necessary number of signatures to demonstrate support and has met VDOT feasibility standards to be considered for Rural Rustic Paving. The total project is estimated to cost \$311,166. Staff recommends adding this paving project to the SSYP.
- **Burton Road (Rt. 711)** – Approximately half of the segment of Burton Road from North Garden Lane to Burton Lane is paved, but is in poor condition. VDOT has determined that this segment meets the requirements for Rural Rustic Paving. VDOT has also determined that the segment from Burton Lane to US 29 does not meet the requirements for Rural Rustic Paving. Letters were sent out to the four affected owners on the segment of Burton Road. Two owners responded with support for the paving, the other two have been unresponsive. Despite having received support from only 50% of the affected owners (to date), based on the circumstances described, staff is recommending adding this paving project to the SSYP. This project is estimated to cost \$75,000.
- **Burton Lane (Rt. 856)** - This road has had the necessary number of signatures and has met VDOT feasibility standards to be considered for Rural Rustic Paving. This project is estimated to cost \$105,000.

Roads Not Recommended to be Added to the SSYP for Paving

- **Bleak House Road (Rt. 662)** - This recently requested paving project had previously been included on the list of roads not to be paved. However, based on Board direction in 2022, roads could be removed from the do not pave list. Therefore, Bleak House Road was evaluated for feasibility and necessary support levels again this year. VDOT determined that it meets the requirements for Rural Rustic Paving. Responses from affected owners showed that far less than the required 2/3 of those owners supported the paving. Staff is not recommending that this project be added to SSYP for paving.
- **Pea Ridge Road (Rt. 766)** - This recently requested road was determined to meet VDOT standards for paving under the Rural Rustic program. However, it does not have the 2/3 support of affected owners required to recommend paving. Therefore, staff is not recommending this project be added to the SSYP.
- **Fosters Branch Road (Rt. 746)** - This recently requested road was determined to meet VDOT standards for paving under the Rural Rustic program. However, it does not have the 2/3 support of affected owners required to recommend paving. Therefore, staff is not recommending this project be added to the SSYP.
- **Sharon Road (Rt. 723)** - This recently requested road was determined to meet VDOT

standards for paving under the Rural Rustic program. However, it does not have the 2/3 support of affected owners required to recommend paving. Therefore, staff is not recommending this project be added to the SSYP.

Recommendations:

Staff recommendations on the Draft FY 26-31 SSYP include adding or completing the paving of Blair Park Road (Rt. 707), Starlight Road (Rt. 813), Sutherland Road (Rt. 697), Burton Road (Rt. 711), and Burton Lane (Rt. 856) under the Rural Rustic Paving Program. These roads will require a Board Resolution to approve paving under the Rural Rustic Road Program before work can be started, which can be brought forward at the proposed Public Hearing for the approval of the Secondary Six Year Plan scheduled for May 21, 2025.