

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

October 2018

Administrative Activities

- Dan Butch, the new Senior Transportation Planner, started at the beginning of August
- Assisted on the Biscuit Run Park Master Plan Project Team
- Attended CA-MPO Tech and Policy Board Meetings in July and September
- Attended UVA/City/County Transportation Planning Coordination Meeting in August
- Board of Supervisors approval of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization 3-C Agreement update

Albemarle County Transportation Priorities

County staff continues to work to advance the projects in the approved 2018 Albemarle County Transportation Priorities list. Advancement constitutes planning, funding, design and engineering, construction, or implementation of the project. The typical methods to advance these projects are through the biennial grant programs administered by the State and Federal transportation Agencies such as Smart Scale, Revenue Sharing, and Transportation Alternatives, among others. Local sources of funding are available for any phase of a project, primarily through the Albemarle County Capital Improvement Program. Staff has begun working on the update to the 2019 Transportation Priorities List which will be brought to the Board in the Spring of 2019. Following is a summary of work currently underway to advance the projects through the major funding programs.

2018 Albemarle County Smart Scale Applications

Smart Scale applications were submitted for the following projects in Albemarle County on August 8th 2018.

Albemarle County Applications

1. **Route 20 (Stoney Point Road)/US 250 Richmond Road Intersection Improvements** - Project would add and reallocate lanes at the intersection to improve operations and safety at this key intersection. Additional improvements include closing gaps in the sidewalk network and constructing new signals to allow improved signalization.
2. **Berkmar Drive to Airport Road Connection** – Extend Berkmar Drive (formerly Meeting Street) north from Timberwood Blvd to Airport Road. Intersection at Airport Road would be reconstructed to a roundabout. Project would include sidewalks and bike lanes.
3. **Route 20 South (Scottsville Road) Improvements at Route 53 (Thomas Jefferson Parkway)** – Project intends to improve safety, operations, and bicycle and pedestrian access in the Route 20 Corridor through the Route 53 intersection by converting the intersection to a roundabout.
4. **Rio Road East/Pen Park Road Roundabout** – Convert intersection of Rio Road East and Pen Park Road from signalized 4-way intersection to a mini-roundabout including pedestrian facilities and traffic calming measures.

CA-MPO Applications

5. **Hydraulic/29 Improvement Project** - Three applications were submitted for components of this project to improve operations at and around the Hydraulic/29 intersection including converting this intersection to a grade-separated intersection. Additional components include roundabouts and grade separation of adjacent intersections
6. **Barracks Road/SB 250/29 Bypass Ramp Right Turn Lane** – Project would realign lanes on eastbound Barracks Road to accommodate a right turn lane onto the SB 29 Bypass. Other elements included would be closure of the median to prevent some left turn movements and inclusion of a sidewalk along Barracks.

TJPDC Applications

7. **Fontaine Ave/US 29 Bypass Interchange Improvements** – Reconstruct Fontaine Ave at the US 29 Bypass Interchange to a diverging diamond interchange.
8. **US 29 Shared-Use Path to Carrsbrook Drive** – Construct a shared-use path from Seminole Lane, just south of the Rivanna River to Carrsbrook Drive. This project is a segment of Northtown Trail.
9. **Park and Ride Lot at Exit 107** - This project would add a new park and ride on the south side of the interchange accomodating 24 parking spaces including 2 handicap spaces.
10. **Frays Mill/US 29 Intersection Improvement** – Reconstruct this intersection into a possible R-cut intersection to improve safety.

Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative

The Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative (NIFI) included numerous projects related to transportation and the approved transportation priorities, which continues to require varying levels of transportation staff involvement. The transportation related projects that were ultimately selected by the CACs and the Board for funding through NIFI included the following:

- Cale Elementary School Crosswalk - See additional details under Transportation Alternatives below
- School-Pedestrian Connections (Albemarle-Jouett-Greer) - See additional details under Transportation Alternatives below
- The Crozet Square Improvements- See additional details under Revenue Sharing below
- East Rio Road Pedestrian Connections – This project is underway and being managed by FES Department
- Avon Street Extended Corridor Study- See additional details under Other Major Transportation Processes below
- Free Bridge pedestrian underpass– This project is underway and being managed by FES Department

Transportation Alternatives (Safe Routes to School) and Revenue Sharing Grants

Projects awarded funding under the Transportation Alternatives (Safe Routes to School) and Revenue Sharing Grant programs have had funding agreements with VDOT signed. Activity is now underway to get consultants under contract to begin development of the Engineering and design process for these projects. Following is a description of the submitted projects:

Revenue Sharing:

- **Commonwealth Dr./Dominion Dr. Pedestrian Improvements (FY20 funding)** - This project will construct three segments of sidewalk: 1) on Commonwealth from Hydraulic to Peyton Place, 2) on Commonwealth Dr from Commonwealth Circle to Dominion Dr., and 3) on Dominion Dr from Commonwealth Dr to US 29. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$3,336,224

- **Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** - This project will construct a Shared-use Path from Woodbrook Drive to Hilton Heights Road to connect to the new Shared-Use Path on Berkmar Extended. It would be approximately 1.1 miles long and cost \$2,690,026. Funding will not be available for this project until 2019.
- **Library Avenue Extension** - This project will extend Library Avenue from its current terminus through the Barnes Lumber property to connect to Hilltop Street in Parkside Village and Crozet Square. This is being proposed as a partnership with the developer of the Barnes Lumber property in which the developer would provide the local match necessary for the Revenue Sharing Program. Cost for the transportation project is \$4,986,700.
- **Crozet Square** - This project involves the reconstruction of Crozet Square to improve operations, parking, and pedestrian facilities and connect to the proposed road system of the Barnes Lumber Development. Crozet Square would be a one-way in road from Crozet Avenue and connect to an improved Oak and High Streets. Cost for the project is \$1,510,000.

Transportation Alternatives:

- **Greer/Jouett Bike/Pedestrian Improvements** - This project will construct a shared-use path from the Hydraulic Rd/Lambs Rd intersection to the Greer/Jouett School complex to provide a safe walking and bicycling connection for students, staff, and visitors to those schools. The total length of the path would be just under a half of a mile at a cost of \$700,000 with NIFI (Hydraulic CAC) contributing \$195,000.
- **Cale ES Pedestrian Improvements** - This project will construct a pedestrian crossing of Avon St Extended in front of Cale Elementary and internal sidewalks to connect from the road to the entrance of the school. The total cost of the project is \$512,000 with NIFI (5th and Avon CAC) contributing \$125,000.

Other Major Transportation Planning Processes

Rio/29 Small Area Plan

Transportation staff has been heavily involved in this small area planning process for the area surrounding the Rio/29 intersection. This process has included an analysis of existing transportation facilities, internal meetings to develop information and a process to involve stakeholders and the public, and public and stakeholder meetings to gather feedback and ideas. Ongoing meetings with representatives of Albemarle Square have occurred. Staff has then taken this information and been working to develop potential transportation improvement recommendations that could be funded through any number of identified processes. This project has also opened a broader discussion regarding transportation planning that has resulted in the development of and application of street and bicycle and pedestrian typologies that can be uniformly applied throughout the county. Also see discussion of Arden Place II under Development Applications.

Avon Street Extended Corridor Study

Line+Grade has been selected as the consultant for this study and the timeline, scope, and cost have been developed. Approvals are underway and the consultants have held a scoping meeting with the 5th and Avon CAC.

5th Street Extended Corridor STARS Study

Staff began working with VDOT on development of the scope for this upcoming project. The intent is to examine the corridor from Harris Road to the end of the four-lane section for long and short-term safety and operational improvements. Additional information on this project will be shared when available.

Rivanna River Corridor Plan

Meetings were held this quarter to review the results of Phase 1 of this study and begin to develop the scope for Phase 2. The project is evaluating opportunities to improve regional engagement with the Rivanna River focusing on coordination between the City and County and being led by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.

C-A MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan

Staff has been working with MPO on the update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The identification and assessment of projects and scenarios is underway now with the goal of developing a draft constrained list of projects which will be recommended in the plan.

Southwood

The redevelopment of the Southwood Mobile Home Park is a significant development project for the County. Transportation staff has been involved attending meetings and reviewing preliminary concepts for the transportation system development. Staff has reviewed the application and Traffic Impact Analysis and provided comments and held a comment resolution meeting. A TIA update is underway to evaluate some additional factors. Staff has also been working with the funding team to identify potential grant opportunities to develop the road system. Staff will continue to remain involved throughout the entire process to insure that the County's transportation goals are being met and the development's residents are well served.

Rural Transportation Long-Range Plan

Through the TJPDC and the Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, staff is engaged in the update to the Rural Transportation Long-Range Plan evaluating long-term transportation needs for areas of Albemarle County outside the MPO. The Plan has now been approved by the TJPDC Commission and discussions on potential adoption by the Board into the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan are forthcoming.

Pantops Master Plan

Staff has been involved in the Pantops Master Plan update process. Multiple public meetings have been held with transportation being a major focus of discussions. Identification of needs potential project recommendations and prioritization is underway. Staff has been engaged in evaluating the existing transportation system reviewing recommendations from a variety of sources and preparing presentations on the transportation processes, funding, regulatory environment, and existing data. As discussed under the Rio/29 Small Area Plan this has resulted in development and application of street and bicycle and pedestrian typologies that can be uniformly applied throughout the county.

Miscellaneous

- Held discussions with the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Greene County on potential for Scenic Byways designations in Albemarle County.

Public Transit Program

- **Transit Development Plan** – Staff is engaged with JAUNT, CAT, DRPT, and the C-A MPO in the development of the update to the Regional Transit Development Plan. This plan is intended to assess the current transit needs and services in the Region and make recommendations for improvements and new services primarily focusing on the next six years but acknowledging the needs into the future. The Draft plan is under review and includes many of the recommendations for service improvements previously identified in various Comprehensive, Master, and Long-Range Planning documents, as well

as through specific direction of the Board such as extension of service in the Avon Street Extended Corridor and improved service to Pantops. The final plan should be available in early October.

- **CAT Transit Stop Improvements.** Staff is working with CAT to make improvements at a number of the most popular transit stops around the county. The improvements include installation of benches or other seating, shelters, or minor alterations in the routing or stop locations to improve safety, convenience, or circulation. The stops have been identified and improvements recommended. Construction is underway for the Phase 1 improvements now.
- **Regional Transit Partnership** Staff attended meeting in August.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

- **Quality of Life Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects**– This list of projects has had funding directed to them through the CIP and staff is now working on development of conceptual designs and cost estimates for them. Once that information is available a schedule will be developed for advancement and completion of the projects. Following is a list of the recommended projects:
 - Old Lynchburg Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement
 - Avon Street Extended Shared-Use Path
 - Tabor Street, High Street, and Hilltop Street Sidewalks
 - Rio Road Shared-Use Path (Segment of the Northtown Trail)
 - Berkmar Drive Shared-use Path (Segment of the Northtown Trail)
 - Ashwood Boulevard Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (Connection to the Northtown Trail)
- Continued work on the Development of a bicycle and pedestrian facilities inventory in the county to track progress in the improvement of those facilities and develop program to organize and update bicycle and pedestrian network GIS data.
- Update to the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – Staff continues to work with the TJPDC/CA-MPO on the update to the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan with an expected completion date in late 2018.
- Staff is engaged in the Regional Greenways Advisory Group, which is an outgrowth of a grant received by the Piedmont Environmental Coalition and the CA-MPO to plan and promote greenways throughout the region. A number of meetings both among the committee and for the public have been held. Recommendations from this process will be included in the Jefferson Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Local 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. These are based on project submittals with the transportation staff's role to review the Traffic Impact Assessment 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:

- **Barnes Lumber** - Attended meetings with County officials, VDOT and developers of the Barnes Lumber related to the Library Avenue Extension Project and TIA. An updated TIA which will better examine latent demand for the new connection the site and examine benefits and high-level feasibility of providing additional connections has been requested.

- **Southwood** - TIA update (See discussion under Other Major Transportation Planning Processes)
- **Arden Place II** – Arden Place II is likely to be the first pilot project submitted for rezoning under the Rio/29 Small Area Plan. Staff held meetings with VDOT and developers to go over potential transportation solutions and scope the required TIA for the development. (See discussion under Other Major Transportation Planning Processes)
- **Eco Village** – on Rio Road East
- **Galaxie Farm** – on Route 20 South developer is in discussions on potential land swap for road construction.
- **Belvedere** – multiple applications under review
- **Woolen Mills Redevelopment (Willowtree)** – Staff is working with multiple departments on multi-modal connectivity plans
- **Stonefield** – Staff met with developer on a possible rezoning to the residential portion of Stonefield and connectivity issues.
- **Wetzel Property**
- **Willow Glen**
- **University of Virginia Foundation Projects at Birdwood and the North Fork Research Park**
- **Proffit Road ZMA**
- **Regent Schools**
- **West Rio Road Mixed Use development**
- **Brookhill**
- **Peabody School**
- **Martha Jefferson Hospital Apartments**

Local Transportation Issues

Staff has been engaged in addressing local concerns related to a variety of transportation issues. Staff has 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 bi-monthly traffic coordination meetings with VDOT, Albemarle County Police Department, and other agencies. Following is a list of the primary issues staff has been working on in this quarter.

- **Miller School Road and Owensville Road Through-truck restrictions** – The studies evaluating these restrictions have been completed and are available on the Transportation page of the Community Development Department Albemarle County website. Public information and outreach has been ongoing and a Public Hearing will be held on October 10, 2018 on the topic.
- **Ivy Creek Natural Area Recreation Access program** – Staff is working with VDOT and a consultant to develop conceptual designs and cost estimates to address the safety issues at the entrance to the Ivy Creek Natural Area. The Study is expected to take approximately 3 months and once complete funding for implementation will be sought through the recommended sources.
- **Gillums Ridge RR Crossing Quiet Zone**- Staff has contacted Buckingham Branch RR concerning implementation of a railroad crossing quiet zone near Gillums Ridge Road.
- **Free Union Road** - Safety Concerns
- **St George Ave** - Speeding and cut-through traffic concerns
- **Pedestrian Crosswalks on Commonwealth to support transit**

- **Heather Glenn parking-** VDOT is now working on installing signs restricting parking on the east side of the street
- **Earlysville Road at Rutledge –** Speeding and safety concerns
- **Pen Park Road -** Speeding Concerns
- **Cory Farms Subdivision -** Speeding Concerns
- **Dudley Mountain Road/Red Hill Road intersection concerns -** VDOT reviewing vegetation clearing
- **Proffitt Rd -** Pedestrian crossing to Baker-Butler Elementary School
- **Markwood Rd near Buck Mountain Rd Intersection -** speeding concerns
- **Morgantown Rd off Ivy Rd-** speeding concerns
- **White Mountain Road current road conditions and drainage issues -** VDOT is addressing drainage
- **Greenbrier Dr pedestrian connectivity and crossings**
- **Park Ridge Road -** Speeding and traffic level concerns, proposed to begin traffic calming process with residents