

# Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

July 2020

## Administrative Activities

- Attended CA-MPO Tech Committee and Policy Board Meetings in May and June
- Attended Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting in May and June
- Attended monthly VDOT-County Transportation Meetings
- Staff presented at the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission's Smart Scale public forum meeting in May.
- Staff has been working on the redevelopment of the Albemarle County Website

## Albemarle County Transportation Priorities

County staff continues work to advance the projects on the 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.

Based on the 2019 Transportation Priorities List, approved by the Board at the July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Meeting, staff has begun preparing for the upcoming 2020 Smart Scale Grant Cycle. Preapplications were due April 3<sup>rd</sup> and final applications will be due on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Following is a summary of the projects being proposed for applications this round based on the Board meeting in June (numbers represent ranking on Albemarle County Transportation Priorities List 2019):

### **Albemarle County Smart Scale Applications:**

**#2. Rt 250 East Widening (Pantops) - From I-64 interchange to City Limits:** This proposal is to close the center turn lane with a median between the Rt 20 intersection and Rolkin Rd with potential breaks at Hansen Rd, Town & Country Ln, and People Place for limited movements and an addition of a continuous right-turn lane in each direction. Sidewalk gaps will also be addressed. This project is proposed as a Smart Scale Grant in 2020.

**#7. Old Lynchburg Rd/5th St Ext Intersection Improvements:** The 5<sup>th</sup> St Extended Corridor is currently being evaluated through a VDOT STARS study which identifies safety, congestion, and multi-modal issues and recommends a series of short and long-term solutions. Previous studies related to Transportation Impact Analysis performed in support of developments have identified this failing intersection for a potential roundabout including pedestrian crosswalk facilities. Therefore, this individual project is proposed to be advanced as a 2020 Smart Scale application.

**#15. Rt 20/Rt 53 Intersection improvements:** This project was submitted for SMART Scale funding in 2018 but rejected. The proposal would convert the intersection into a roundabout and include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. This is recommended to be resubmitted as a Smart Scale application in 2020.

**#17. Rio Road/Belvedere Intersection:** Based on Board and citizen concerns, and related to ongoing development in the Rio Rd Corridor, including The Center, this project was added to the prioritization process and found to rank high. Staff has been working with VDOT and stakeholders to evaluate potential solutions,

primarily focused on an R-cut, to address identified traffic issues at this intersection and provide a pedestrian crosswalk location. VDOT is also evaluating this in consideration of a potential roundabout at the John Warner Parkway/Rio Rd intersection. This is expected to be a Smart Scale application in 2020 based on that transportation study.

#### **Thomas Jefferson PDC/Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Applications:**

**#1. Hydraulic/29 Intersection Improvements:** Following the rejection for Smart Scale funding in the 2018 application cycle, staff have continued to work with the C-A MPO and VDOT to re-evaluate the project to identify scaled back alternatives that address the major issues at the intersection. The C-A MPO is proposing an application in the 2020 cycle and, with VDOT and the Project Stakeholder Team, have identified potential alternatives that are currently being finalized. \$18 million in funding is still available from VDOT which can be used to buy down the cost of any project. However, VDOT has implied this is the last opportunity to use these funds before they are redistributed to other projects around the state.

**#6. Fontaine Ave/29 Bypass Diverging Diamond:** Another project that was denied funding through Smart Scale in 2018, this is proposed to be resubmitted in 2020. The project would reconstruct the existing traditional unsignalized diamond interchange to a diverging diamond interchange also accommodating U-turns that would allow closure of the current left turn movement from northbound Rt 29 to westbound I-64. A Shared-use Path is proposed through the segment as well.

**#35. US 29 Shared-Use Path - From Seminole Lane North to Carrsbrook Drive:** This potential Smart Scale application for 2020 is a resubmittal of a SMART Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. The project would construct a shared-use path on the east side of US 29.

**#74. Fray's Mill/Burnley Station/US29 Intersection Improvements:** This project is a resubmittal of a Smart Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. The project would reconstruct this intersection into an R-cut to address safety and operational issues. Staff has worked heavily to address public concerns related to this proposal.

**#82. I-64/Exit 107 Crozet Park and Ride Lot:** This is a resubmittal of a Smart Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. The project would construct a park and ride lot at the corner of Patterson Mill Lane and US 250 just south of the I-64 interchange. This lot could potentially be served by both the Crozet Connect and the proposed Afton Express transit lines.

#### [Albemarle County FY 21-26 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 FY 21-26 SSYP work session was scheduled for April 1, 2020 but an informational report was submitted instead as a result of the need to reduce agenda items because of the coronavirus outbreak. The public hearing was held on May 20, 2020 which supported the proposed FY21-26 SSYP and Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Road. Through the SSYP, staff has been working with VDOT on the installation and maintenance of two permanent radar devices to be located on Earlysville Road at the intersection of Reas Ford Road which will be funded through the SSYP Countywide Traffic Services line item which were installed in June 2020. Additionally, an LED stop sign, the first in the Culpeper District, was placed on Reas Ford Rd at the intersection.

#### [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 Transportation Alternatives below
- **Albemarle-Jouett-Greer School-Pedestrian Connections** - See Transportation Alternatives below
- **Crozet Square Improvements**- See Revenue Sharing below
- **East Rio Road/Greenbrier Drive Pedestrian Crossing** – Managed by FES Department, this project to construct a new ADA accessible pedestrian crossing of Rio Rd at Greenbrier Dr is expected to go to construction soon with an expected completion date of Fall 2020.
- **Avon Street Extended Corridor Study**- See Other Major Transportation Processes below

### Transportation Alternatives and Revenue Sharing Grants

The following projects were either awarded funding in FY 17 or submitted for funding in FY 18 under the Transportation Alternatives (Safe Routes to School) or Revenue Sharing Grant programs. Staff was informed by the State that projects submitted in FY 18 would not be funded in FY 21 because the State has delayed the Six Year Plan as a result of Covid-19. Following is a brief update on the submitted projects:

#### Revenue Sharing:

- **Berkmar Drive Extension to Airport Road** – Submitted for grant funding in 2019. Project would complete the Berkmar Drive Extension to Airport Rd and construct a roundabout at the intersection including bicycle and pedestrian connections. This project is ranked at #5 in the 2019 Albemarle County Transportation Priority List.
- **Old Lynchburg Road/Moore’s Creek Greenway Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements** – Submitted for grant funding in 2019. Project would construct shared-use path and sidewalk between Sunset Ave, Old Lynchburg Rd, Azalea Park, and Timberland Ln. This project is ranked at #26 in the 2019 Albemarle County Transportation Priority List.
- **Commonwealth Dr./Dominion Dr. Pedestrian Improvements** – Project proposes to construct continuous sidewalks on Commonwealth Dr from Hydraulic Rd to Dominion Dr and Dominion Dr from Commonwealth Dr to Rt 29. This project was funded in 2018, and a consultant is now under contract on design. Public meetings are expected this summer to evaluate the project.
- **Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – This project, which was funded in 2019 through Revenue Sharing, would extend the shared-use path on Berkmar Dr from Hilton Heights Rd to just south of Woodbrook Dr. A second phase of this project, funded through the Quality of Life effort, would extend it to Rio Rd. A consultant will be under contract shortly for design and engineering following meetings on the project this past quarter.
- **Library Avenue Extension** – Funded in 2019, staff has been working closely with the private developer designing this project and VDOT through the engineering and design phase. This has involved numerous public and project team meetings to determine design requirements that meet VDOT standards. Construction remains planned to begin early 2021.
- **Crozet Square** – Funded in 2018, this project will reconstruct Crozet Square and Oak St to improve traffic flow and parking. Engineering and design phase are well underway, and construction is planned to begin early 2021.

#### Transportation Alternatives:

- **Tabor/High Streets Sidewalks**– Submitted for grant funding in 2019. Project would construct sidewalk along Tabor Street to High Street and along High Street to Hilltop Street to meet ADA requirements.

- **Greer/Jouett Bike/Pedestrian Improvements** – Funded in 2018, the project would construct sidewalk and shared-use paths to connect from Hydraulic Rd to Greer ES. Engineering and design phase well underway with construction expected Summer of 2020.
- **Cale ES Pedestrian Improvements** – Funded in 2018, this project will construct a pedestrian crossing of Avon St and connections to the front of Cale ES. The engineering and design phase is underway with construction expected Summer 2020.

## Major Planning Efforts

### Crozet Master Plan

Staff has been working on the update to the Crozet Master Plan. Transportation involvement has included data collection on existing conditions and proposed projects and assisting in the development of public outreach on transportation issues. Staff is finalizing the scope for a transportation study for the overall Crozet street system to identify future conditions and recommend improvements.

### Broadway Blueprint

Staff continues to work on a team evaluating potential development and redevelopment of this Corridor associated with the Woolen Mills Development. Staff continued to evaluate and propose potential future efforts to enhance this corridor.

### Biscuit Run Park

Staff continued providing transportation assistance on the Biscuit Run Park Master Plan Project Team. Work this quarter involved preparation for grant submissions to fund transportation aspects of the development. This was primarily focused on Recreation Access Program funding to support the Phase 1-a opening. Staff is preparing that grant submission and working with VDOT on the entrance design.

### Rio/29 Small Area Plan/Form-based Code

Transportation staff continues to be involved in this small area planning process for the area surrounding the Rio/29 intersection. This quarter included continued work on the catalyst transportation projects recommended in the implementation plan and work on the development of the form-based code as it relates to streets and transportation. Staff has been working with a consultant on the development of conceptual designs and cost estimates for bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Rio Road through the planning area. On the development of the form-based code transportation staff has provided research on existing form-based code features related to transportation and streets and identified areas where these improvements could be incorporated into the code.

### 5th Street Extended Corridor STARS Study

This VDOT led study recently completed Phase 1 which included meetings with the stakeholder team and a site visit to the corridor to identify issues in the corridor and look at potential solutions to address those issues. Public meetings were held at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avon CAC and at Southwood in February. A public meeting was also held virtually to review the preliminary recommendations. The result of the plan will be to identify specific short and long-term safety and operational improvements for the corridor from Harris Road to the end of the four-lane section on Old Lynchburg Road. Phase 2 of public survey is open from May-June with a public meeting June 4 to evaluate results and recommendations. The final draft is expected late Summer 2020.

## Rivanna River Corridor Plan

Albemarle County is participating in this planning effort with the City of Charlottesville and being managed by the TJPDC to develop a Corridor Plan for the Rivanna River through Albemarle County but primarily focused on the segment along the County/City Line. Staff attended a Technical Team meeting in February on this project and have been working with County staff and the City for a draft Vision Statement for a future Stakeholder meeting planned for Summer 2020.

## Climate Action Plan

Transportation staff lead the Community Mobility sub-group of the Climate Action Plan. This quarter, transportation staff has been working with FES to develop the draft Phase 1 document focusing on Community Mobility and scoping on Phase 2 of the plan.

## Public Transit Program

- **CAT Transit Stop Improvements** - Staff has been working with CAT and stakeholders to make improvements at select transit stops around the county. Improvements include installation of benches or other seating, shelters, or minor alterations in the routing or stop locations to improve safety, convenience, or circulation. Much of this work is also being coordinated with proposed developments that can offer stop locations or amenities
- **Regional Transit Partnership** Staff the May and June meetings of the partnership.
- **Afton Express** - Staff assisted in development of this project to the Board for approval of the local match to support a Pilot program grant from Department of Rail and Public Transit to support the first two years of this proposed commuter transit service. The service would offer public transit between Staunton, Augusta County, and Waynesboro, across Afton Mt to Albemarle County and Charlottesville. Currently the proposed Albemarle County stop will be 5<sup>th</sup> St Station.
- **Woolen Mills Transit Service** – Staff continues to work with the Woolen Mills developer, WillowTree and Jaunt to set up this proposed transit service connecting the Broadway Corridor to downtown with potential to expand the areas to other centers in the area. Staff attended the Broadway Blueprint Woolen Mills transit service technical team meeting in February.

## 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/Moore's Creek Greenway Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement (Samuel Miller District)** – This project proposes to construct a Shared-Use path along Moore's Creek between Sunset Ave to Old Lynchburg Road then down Old Lynchburg to Azalea Park connecting to the existing Shared-use Path in the Park. Additionally, a sidewalk would be constructed from the Shared-use path south on Old Lynchburg to connect to the existing sidewalks on the south side of the I-64 overpass. This project was submitted for Revenue Sharing funding in 2019.

- **Avon Street Extended Shared-Use Path (Scottsville District)** – Through the Avon Corridor Study a recommendation for the specific improvements to be made with this funding and a conceptual design and cost estimate for that project has been developed. Staff is considering this for a Revenue Sharing Grant in 2021.
- **Tabor Street, High Street, and Hilltop Street Sidewalks (White Hall District)** – The consultant’s evaluation on these improvements have provided information that was used for a Transportation Alternatives application in 2019.
- **Rio Road Shared-Use Path (Rio District)** – This project was previously put on hold awaiting a study by VDOT to evaluate potential vehicular improvements to the Belvedere Blvd/Rio Rd intersection. Additionally, a development project was recently approved which proposed to construct a large portion of this Shared-use Path extension. Staff is recommending moving the QoL funding previously identified to this project to different project not yet identified with consideration given to projects in the Jouett District.
- **Berkmar Drive Shared-use Path (Rio District)** – This project will be combined for the design and construction phase with the previously funded Shared-use Path that was discussed under the Revenue Sharing projects above. Pre-scoping on the project has now begun with a potential consultant team for the design.
- **Ashwood Boulevard Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (Rivanna District)** – A consultant previously provided a cost estimate for construction of this Shared-use Path connection. However, there has been a pre-application meeting for a development in this area that may consider constructing this connection as part of the development. Staff is recommending moving the QoL funding previously identified to this project to a different project not yet identified with consideration given to projects in the Rivanna District.
- **Solomon Road/Inglewood Drive Sidewalks** – Staff has been evaluating the potential to supplant one of the undefined Quality of Life projects with a proposal for sidewalk additions in this area of the Urban Neighborhoods. VDOT and County staff are currently evaluating this possibility.

### Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Staff participates in a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Group, made up of representatives from the City, the TJPDC, and UVA, and the Regional Greenways Advisory Group, which is an outgrowth of a grant received by the Piedmont Environmental Coalition and the CA-MPO, on planning and implementation of the recommendations from the plan. Staff attended a Regional Greenways Advisory Meeting in February and met monthly through this quarter with the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Group focused on the following projects:

- Work with VDOT to evaluate two potential implementation projects from the plan. These VDOT studies are being completed through their on-call consultants with public meetings and draft reports expected in the Spring of 2020.
  - The Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge in the area of Riverview Park, Woolen Mills and Pantops, and
  - Bicycle and pedestrian connections along Route 20 to connect the City to Monticello. This project was proposed as a potential Smart Scale application in 2020 however following the

June Board it was determined to remove this from the potential applications and work to develop the proposal further with additional public outreach efforts before moving forward.

- Development of a bicycle and pedestrian facilities inventory in the county to track progress in the improvement of those facilities and proposed infrastructure. This also includes development of a program to organize and update bicycle and pedestrian network GIS data. The original data was inventoried by TJPDC and staff is now editing and formatting it to the County's transportation standards. The format consists of standardizing Shared-Use Paths, Bike Infrastructure, Pedestrian Infrastructure and Trail data. This data will be utilized in the TJPDC's regional One Map effort with the County, the City and UVA. Staff is currently involved in the merging of data with the regional partners.

### Micro-mobility Permitting

Staff continues to work on development of the permit regulations and permit application form for micro-mobility companies to operate under. This quarter involved continued coordination with the City of Charlottesville staff, work drafting the permit regulations, and contacts with potential companies interested in operating in Albemarle County.

### 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. Transportation staff's role is 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:

- **ZMA202000007 RST Residences** – Review of the proposal and Traffic Impacts of this residential rezoning on US 29.
- **Brookhill Development**
  - **SUB201800115 Brookhill Road Plans** – Road plan review for this mixed-use development
- **SUB201900156 Rivanna Village Phase II Road Plans** – Road plan review for this residential development
- **SDP202000005 1895 Avon St Extended (Albemarle Limousine)**
- **ZMA201900010 3223 Proffit Rd, Amendment** – Amends previously approved rezoning for residential development to revise internal road network and buildable areas/lot sizes to reduce overall density from 109 units to 80 units.
- **ZMA201900004 Breezy Hill ZMA** – Residential development on Rt 250 in Rivanna Village. Staff reviewed the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA), provided comments, and worked with the applicant to propose potential solutions to address impacts.
- **Regent's School SDP** – Staff is reviewing an updated TIA submitted with the Site Development Plan requesting an increase in student enrollment in accord with the approved proffer.
- **Albemarle Business Campus (Royal Fern) ZMA** – Mixed-use development on 5<sup>th</sup> Street Extended. Staff is reviewing a TIA for the development as well as transportation facility design and working with the developer to propose potential solutions to address impacts. Staff comments due 04/15/2020

- **Southwood** - The redevelopment of the Southwood Mobile Home Park is a significant development project for the County. Staff continues to review information submitted for the project and providing comments and reports to the applicant, staff and elected and appointed officials as necessary. Monthly meetings with the developer help to continue to coordinate on this work. Review of the Initial Site Development Plan occurred this quarter.
- **Barnes Lumber ZMA and Library Ave design**– Staff continues to attend meetings with County officials, VDOT, and developers of the Barnes Lumber related to the Library Avenue Extension Project, the proposed rezoning of the property, and necessary traffic analysis and improvements. Staff is preparing for 60% designs for the Library Ave connection and overall road system are currently in review.
- **Parkway Place ZMA** – Staff has reviewed a Transportation Impact Analysis submitted by a developer for the site and discussed necessary transportation facility improvements as well as potential ways to address identified impacts. This project was deferred by the Board of Supervisors on May 6, 2020.

## 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.

- Huntington Rd speed concerns
- Colonial Dr speed concerns
- Ivy Farm Dr speed concerns
- Dick Woods Rd (near Ivy Material) through truck restriction request; Dick Woods Rd from 151- speed limit reduction request
- Briairwood speed concerns
- Reynovia Dr speed concerns
- Cory Farms speeding concerns
- Hyland Ridge speeding concerns
- Hillsdale Drive - Speeding and intersection safety concerns; traffic calming plan developed. VDOT looking into implementation of traffic calming modifications.
- Berkmar Dr truck parking concerns
- 29 S sign clutter study
- Ashcroft traffic calming request- currently allowing recent traffic calming implementations by County, VDOT, ACPD (speed reduction on Lego Dr from 35 mph to 25 mph, recent police enforcement and speed study) be given a 6-9 month timeframe to allow for analysis or any needed modifications and steps towards an official traffic calming study.
- **Earlysville Road** – Speeding/safety concerns; purchase and installation of speed radar signs and LED stop sign by VDOT. The use of Countywide Traffic Services funds (apportioned out of previous Telefee funds) from the SSYP for the installation and maintenance of two permanent, post-mounted, radar



feedback devices at the intersection of Earlysville Road and Reas Ford Road. Radars and LED stop sign were installed in June 2020. Re-evaluating study of mini roundabout for low cost solutions.

- **Miller School Road and Owensville Road Through-truck restrictions** – The Board of Supervisors previously approved Resolutions requesting the Commonwealth Transportation Board institute Through-Truck Restrictions on these roads. The request has now been approved by the Commissioner of Highways for Miller School Road and signs have been implemented. Owensville Road was rejected because of the agricultural exception of logging trucks. Staff presented this to the Board in May, and it was determined that the County would no longer proceed with this Through Truck Restriction request.
- **Greenbrier Dr/Hillsdale Dr Traffic Calming and Safety Study** – Staff and VDOT are working with a stakeholder group to address safety and speeding concerns in the vicinity of this intersection. Currently a number of short-term and long-term improvements are being evaluated including removal of turn lanes through pavement markings, moving stop bars, pedestrian crosswalk improvements, and a low construction roundabout.