

# Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

January 2026

## Administrative Activities

- Staff attended Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) Technical Committee and MPO Policy Board meetings in December
- Staff attended the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) Rural Transportation Advisory Committee in November
- Attended monthly Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)-County Transportation meetings;
- Jessica Dimmick AICP PE, joined the Transportation/Long-Range Planning Team

## Transportation Planning Efforts

### Smart Scale 2026

Staff is working with VDOT, 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. The list of eligible projects in consideration for Smart Scale are as follows:

#### County Submissions:

**A - Barracks Rd Eastbound Right Turn Lane** – Adding a dedicated right turn lane from Barracks Road eastbound to the US 29/250 bypass southbound.

**D - Old Trail Dr/US 250 Roundabout** – This was a previously submitted application in both the 2022 and 2024. This roundabout would be built at the intersection of US 250 and Old Trail Drive, in front of Western Albemarle High School. It would include pedestrian improvements to connect Old Trail with Henley Middle School. Staff is coordinating with ACPS regarding stormwater and right-of-way.

**E & F - Ivy Rd Roundabouts (Canterbury Dr& Boar's Head Dr)** – These projects may be submitted together or independently. Both would improve operations and access management in the US 250/US 29 Bypass Interchange area.

#### MPO Submissions:

**A - Barracks Rd Northbound Ramp and Sidewalk** – This project would construct dual lefts from northbound the US 29/US 250 Bypass 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.

**B – 5<sup>th</sup> St/Exit 120 Interchange Improvements** – This project would rebuild the I-64/5<sup>th</sup> Street interchange as a diverging diamond interchange, similar to the one at US 250 and I-64 in Pantops. This project is the subject of an ongoing VDOT Pipeline study (more details below).

**C – I-64/US 29 Exit 118 Improvements** – This project would reconfigure the I-64/US 29 bypass at Exit 118 to improve safety and operations. This project is the subject of an ongoing VDOT Pipeline study (more details below).

**G - Old Ivy Rd/US 29 Bypass Ramp Extensions** - This project would extend the ramps of US 29 at Old Ivy Rd, adding additional capacity for vehicles going to Old Ivy Road. It may be submitted as a single project or split into two.

County staff are working with VDOT to develop scope and initial cost estimates on these projects and will be looking for Board of Supervisors input this spring.

### Revenue Sharing 2025

Virginia Department of Transportation's Revenue Sharing Program provides funding to localities for the improvement, construction, reconstruction, or maintenance of state highways. Localities can request up to \$10 million per round (odd years) and up to \$10 million per project over the project's lifetime. Localities must provide matching funds for all state funds awarded.

Staff continue to coordinate with VDOT to prepare for the next round of Revenue Sharing applications by completing feasibility studies that will include initial cost estimates. Project pre-applications are due Spring 2027.

### 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,
- An 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

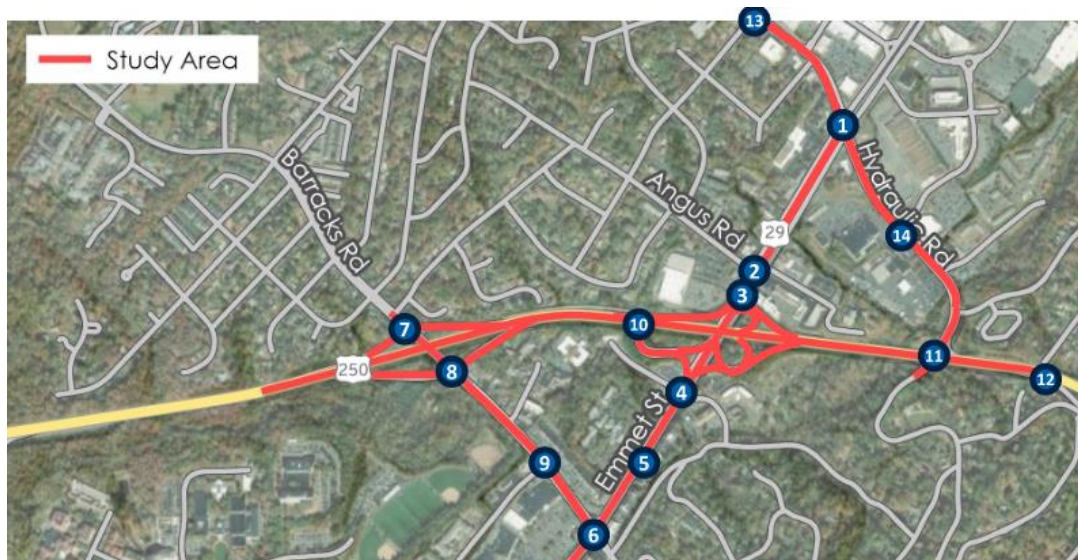
The objective of the STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) Program is to develop comprehensive and innovative multimodal transportation solutions to address congestion and safety challenges in the Commonwealth.

Albemarle County is participating in two STARS studies described below that kicked off a year ago. Albemarle County staff have attended preliminary alternative meetings with the project teams, where designs for potential improvements have been presented. Staff will meet with VDOT and the consultants on January 16 for the next iteration of proposed alternatives for the US 29 Corridor STARS study and will provide an update to the Board of Supervisors in a future Quarterly Report.

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.



Pipeline Studies evaluate transportation corridors to provide multimodal recommendations in a suite of different packages. Recommended project bundles can then be applied for through Smart Scale or Revenue Sharing.

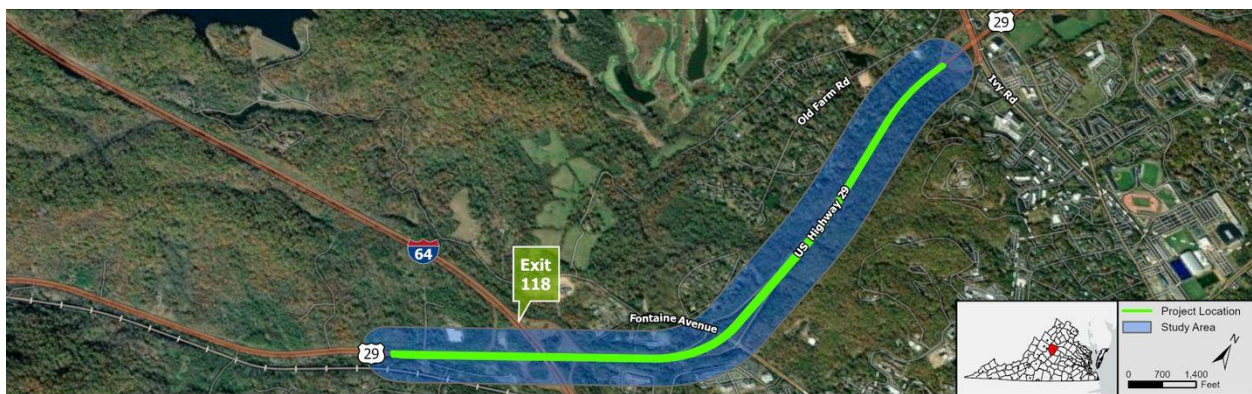
VDOT currently has two Pipeline Studies underway in Albemarle County described below:

**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 for the next 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.



Following an alternative review meeting conducted in October with the stakeholders. Staff will be meeting with VDOT and project consultant to review the current alternatives on January 23 and will provide the Board of Supervisors an update in a future Quarterly Report.

### Free Bridge Lane Promenade

On August 6, 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 expect to return to the Board this spring for a resolution of support to discontinue Free Bridge Lane. Staff intends to pursue funding for site improvements identified as necessary for the conversion of Free Bridge Lane into a recreation resource. On December 18, staff met with VDOT, ACPR, and the 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.

### FY26-31 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.

Staff have been working with residents and VDOT on multiple roads that have been requested to be paved. A Work Session is scheduled with the Board for April 2026 to discuss the draft SSYP and proposed roads for hard surfacing along with updates to the Secondary Road programs in general.

### Comprehensive Plan (AC44) – Transportation Element

The Board of Supervisors approved AC44 Comprehensive Plan on October 15, 2025. The plan calls for a Multimodal Transportation Plan. Over the next several months staff will determine the work plan to undertake this planning effort.

Additional comprehensive plan information comprehensive is available on the AC44 project website at [engage.albemarle.org/ac44](https://engage.albemarle.org/ac44).

### 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. Projects that are administered by VDOT are listed first; projects that are administered by Albemarle County are in the following grouping. Projects funded by Smart Scale are identified by the notation (Smart) following the project information. Projects funded by Revenue Sharing are identified by (RS); projects funded by Transportation Alternatives are identified by (TA); projects funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program are identified by (HSIP); projects funded by Albemarle County's Capital Improvement Program are identified by (CIP).

#### 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. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023 and construction is expected to begin 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 southbound 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. This project will include an at-grade pedestrian crossing of Belvedere. Construction is expected to start 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. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023 and construction is expected to begin 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 the Afton Express and Crozet Connect for provision of transit services to this lot. A public hearing for this project was held in late January 2024. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 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 (north) 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 loop 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 project will construct a roundabout at the intersection of Hydraulic Road and District Avenue.

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 public hearing happened in Summer 2025, and construction is expected in early 2026. **(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, pedestrian, and transit facilities. A public hearing is expected in Spring 2026, and construction is expected in Summer 2028. **(Smart)**

**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

**Hydraulic/29 Intersection Improvements:** The major features of this project include removal of the left-turns from Hydraulic to US 29, a pedestrian bridge over US 29, a new transit station, and a roundabout at the Hydraulic/Hillsdale intersection.

Construction began in early 2024, and the roundabout at Hydraulic and Hillsdale was completed in Summer 2024. The pedestrian bridge over US 29 is now complete and a ribbon cutting was held in November 2025. **(Smart)**

**Rt 240/US 250/680 Intersection Improvements:** This project will construct a roundabout at the 3-way intersection of Rt 240, Rt 250, and 680.

Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023, and construction has begun as of June 2025 and is expected to be complete in Spring of 2026 with the new roundabout and bridge open in February 2026. **(HSIP)**

**Old Lynchburg Road/5<sup>th</sup> Street Extended Intersection Improvements:** This project will construct a roundabout and pedestrian facilities at the entrance to the County Office Building at 5<sup>th</sup> St and Old Lynchburg Dr. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023 and construction will begin in early 2026. **(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. Facilities Planning & Construction will provide further updates in their upcoming quarterly report. **(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). Facilities Planning & Construction will provide further updates in their upcoming quarterly report. **(RS)**



**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. Facilities Planning & Construction will provide further updates in their upcoming quarterly report. **(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. Facilities Planning & Construction will provide further updates in their upcoming quarterly report. **(RS)**

#### In Construction

**Crozet Square** – Project construction is nearly complete. Facilities Planning & Construction will provide further updates in their upcoming quarterly report. **(NIFI)**

## Transit

### Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)

Staff attended the November CARTA Board meeting hosted by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC). In December the Regional Transit Partnership (RTP) concluded their role in transit planning. CARTA meetings will continue to be held bi-monthly. The Service Prioritization and Implementation Feasibility Study has kicked off. The study would 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. And 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.

### Microtransit Service

Charlottesville Area Transit has been operating MicroCAT, a microtransit service throughout the Places 29 and Pantops Development Areas, since October 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.
- Seig Property Rezoning and TIA – Rezoning proposal for a mixed-use development including 1,100 residential units, 300,000 square feet of non-residential uses located on the southwest quadrant of I-64 and US 29. The proposal was approved by the Planning Commission in December 2025 with a 5 to 2 vote.
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> – A proposal to rezone the Cavalier Crossing Apartments on 5<sup>th</sup> Street Extended from R-10 to PRD to increase the number of units from 144 to 309 units. Attain on 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.

A note that as of March 2024, all speeding concerns will 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** – Ongoing concerns with speeding and safety on Park Ridge Rd on Crozet have resulted ACPD traffic enforcement efforts and continued evaluation of solutions by County staff. Speed studies have demonstrated that speeding is an ongoing issue on the road. VDOT and County staff have agreed that this issue meets the warrants to pursue a traffic calming plan based on VDOT requirements. Staff has received a scope of services and fee to perform this traffic calming study which will include engineering evaluations and public engagement resulting in recommendations for both physical and non-physical traffic calming improvements including cost estimates for implementation. Procurement staff are finalizing the contract and staff expects to kick-off the study by the end of January.
- **Pen Park Road** – Staff continue to receive concerns regarding speeding and the lack of pedestrian/bicycle facilities on Pen Park Road. Speed studies have been conducted that have identified some speeding issues, but it has not been excessive and does not reach the level to qualify for the VDOT Traffic Calming Program. Staff continue to evaluate the potential for pedestrian and bike improvements on the road.