

COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Secondary-Six Year Plan Priorities and Recommendations Report

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors May 21, 2025

**VDOT Secondary Six-Year Plan Background**

The 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 set at \$1,207,087.

- **TeleFee Funds** – Funded through fees that utility companies pay for infrastructure within VDOT right-of-way; can be used for a broad range of secondary road construction, maintenance, and improvements. There is tentatively \$243,266 available for FY 26.
- **District Grant Unpaved Funds** – must be used for hard surfacing of unpaved state secondary roads with greater than 50 vehicles per day. There is tentatively \$963,821 available for FY 26.

**Attachment B** is the 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 (RR) 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 a RR, several criteria must be met:

1. The Board of Supervisors must adopt a resolution declaring the road to be a RR;
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;
5. The daily traffic volume must be under 1500 vehicles.

For roads with traffic volumes greater than 400 vehicles per day, an 18-foot pavement width is desirable and some typical segment 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 C**) outlines the process for the submission, review, prioritization, and construction associated with the paving of unpaved roads in the County. This document has been updated following the Board's direction at its April 2 Work Session. These proposed updates clarify how paving requests are to be submitted and reviewed by staff. The proposed changes include a requirement that requests for paving be accompanied with documented support from two-thirds of the occupied property owners that would be directly impacted by the hard-surfacing before VDOT validates the requested road for paving. Those requesting paving would be responsible to obtain and document sufficient support.

The Board also directed staff to draft a toolkit for residents to use when requesting that a road be paved. The *Rural Rustic Paving Resident Toolkit* (**Attachment D**) explains the process by which a resident can reach out to County staff, document signatures from neighbors, and finally submit the signatures to demonstrate support to County staff. Signature submissions must be requested by November 1 and submitted by February 1 for VDOT to have time to validate the road for paving before being added to the draft SSYP of that fiscal year. Staff is seeking Board feedback on this Toolkit before it is used with future SSYP projects.

Additionally, the proposed updates to the Policy document include a description and clarification on how the "Unpaved Road Sections Removed by the Board of Supervisors" list is to be used. The Board can vote to place any unpaved road on this list for a minimum of six years, after

which the Board could reconsider a request to pave the road. The proposed updates to the *Albemarle County Unpaved Road Policies and Review Process* are subject to the Board's approval.

The *Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads (Attachment E)* is a listing of all Secondary Roads that have been requested to be paved by the public, County departments, or the Board of Supervisors.

Following is a list of 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.

- Sutherland Road Segment 2 (Rt. 697) – This section of road to be paved is in addition to the section that is slated to be paved through the adopted FY 25 SSYP. The remaining 0.2 section will require a resolution. The project is estimated to cost \$195,000.
- Blair Park Road (Rt. 707) – This project has received the required signatures to start preliminary engineering following a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. The project is estimated to cost \$110,000.
- Starlight Road (Rt. 813) - This project has received the required signatures to start preliminary engineering following a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. The project is estimated to cost \$125,000.
- Burton Lane (Rt. 856) - This project has received the required signatures to start preliminary engineering following a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. The project is estimated to cost \$105,000.
- Burton Road (Rt. 711) - This project was recommended to be added to the FY 26 SSYP for paving based on a demonstration of support and specific circumstances described at the Board's April 2 Work Session. Preliminary engineering may start following a resolution from the Board of Supervisors. The project is estimated to cost \$75,000.
- Bleak House Road (Rt. 662) - This is a newly requested road. Because more than 1/3 of affected households opposed paving, this project is not recommended for paving. Instead, this segment is recommended to be placed on the "Unpaved Road Sections Removed by the Board of Supervisors" list based on the updated policy.
- Pea Ridge Road (Rt. 766) - This is a newly requested road. Because more than 1/3 of affected households opposed paving, this project is not recommended for paving. Instead, this segment is recommended to be placed on the "Unpaved Road Sections Removed by the Board of Supervisors" list based on the updated policy.
- Fosters Branch Road (Rt. 746) - This newly-requested road does not yet have the necessary number of owner signatures, though it has met VDOT feasibility standards to be considered for Rural Rustic Paving. Therefore, this project is recommended to be placed on the "Requested and Validated Roads for Future SSYPs" to allow the requestor time to obtain the necessary signatures. If those signatures are not received by February 1, 2026, this road will be recommended for consideration to be placed on the "Unpaved Road Sections Removed by the Board of Supervisors" list based on the updated policy.
- Sharon Road (Rt. 723) - This newly-requested road does not yet have the necessary number of owner signatures, though it has met VDOT feasibility standards to be considered for Rural Rustic Paving. Therefore, this project is recommended to be placed on the "Requested and Validated Roads for Future SSYPs" to allow the requestor time to

obtain the necessary signatures. If those signatures are not received by February 1, 2026, this road will be recommended for consideration to be placed on the “Unpaved Road Sections Removed by the Board of Supervisors” list based on the updated policy.

The *Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads* also contains the proposed list of roads on the “Unpaved Road Sections Removed by the Board of Supervisors.” This list contains the roads that were previously on the list as well as the roads proposed to be added to that list as described above. Based on the updated policy, staff is recommending that the Board confirm that these roads should remain on the “Unpaved Road Sections Removed by the Board of Supervisors” for the next six years.

### **SSYP Project Updates**

- Rio Mills Connector – This connector road from Rio Mills Road to Berkmar Road is complete and remains on the SSYP as it moves through the close-out process. It was funded by a mix of Smart Scale and Telefee funds.
- Henderson Ln (Rt 805) – This road was added to the SSYP for paving in FY24. Preliminary work on the road is completed and it is now ready for hard-surfacing, which is expected to be completed during Summer 2025.
- Sutherland Rd Segment 1 (Rt 697) – This segment of the road was funded in the FY25 SSYP and preliminary site work was completed before the project was put on hold to await the approval of Segment 2 to allow the paving work to be completed together following approval of the FY26 SSYP.
- Glendower Rd (Rt 713) – Glendower Rd Segments 1 and 2 have preliminary work underway now and are planned to be paved during Summer 2025.
- Stony Point Pass Segment 2 – This second segment of Stony Point Pass extends the paved section an additional 0.2 miles from where the previous paving ended. This request was supported by the Board in the FY25 SSYP. Paving is expected to be completed during Summer 2025.
- Berkmar Drive Extended Project- This extension to Airport Road and associated roundabout are using Telefee funds through FY25 totaling \$2,288,226, along with Revenue Sharing and local funds. The County was awarded additional Revenue Sharing funds that will address most of the funding shortfall for the project. Additional Telefee funds will need to be appropriated in future years to cover the remaining shortfall of approximately \$2M.

### **Recommendations**

Staff recommends approval of the Draft FY 26-31 SSYP (Attachment B), which includes the following recommended projects: completion of paving of Henderson Ln (Rt 805), Sutherland Rd Segment 2 (Rt 697), Glendower Rd Segment 1 and 2 (Rt 713), and Stony Point Pass Segment 2 (Rt 600). The FY 26-31 SSYP also adds Blair Park Road (Rt. 707), Starlight Road (Rt. 813), Burton Road (Rt. 711), and Burton Lane (Rt. 856) as new RR paving projects.

Staff also recommends that the Board approve the proposed *Albemarle County Unpaved Road Policies and Review Process*, which has been updated to incorporate Board recommendations

from its April 2 Work Session, as described above.

Staff finally recommends that the Board approve the proposed *Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads* which includes the “Unpaved Road Sections Removed by the Board of Supervisors” list, based on Board recommendations from its April 2 Work Session.

### **Attachments**

- Attachment B: FY 26 - 31 SSYP
- Attachment C: Updated Albemarle County Unpaved Road Policies and Review Process
- Attachment D: Draft Rural Rustic Resident Paving Toolkit
- Attachment E: Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads