

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

July 2019

Administrative Activities

- Continued assistance on the Biscuit Run Park Master Plan Project Team - Evaluating funding options for soft opening
- Attended CA-MPO Tech Meeting in May and Policy Board Meetings in April and May
- Attended Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting in May

Albemarle County FY 2019-2024 Secondary Six-Year Plan (SSYP)

The SSYP allocates funding for the 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. This quarter included both a work session and a final County approval of the Albemarle County SSYP. Staff and VDOT coordinated on the draft of the Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads to include those requested to be paved by the public, county departments, or other agencies. The approved plan included the following:

- Continue to advance with top paving priorities:
 - Dick Woods Rd portion
 - North Garden Lane
 - Coles Rolling Road (both segments)
- Removal from the paving list:
 - Burton Lane
 - Stoney Point Pass
 - Via Lane

Albemarle County Transportation Priorities

County staff continues to 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.

Staff has been working on the update for the 2019 Transportation Priorities List and held a work session with the Board at the April 3rd 2019 meeting and a final approval of the Priorities List at the July 3rd 2019 Meeting.

Following is a summary of the top projects and work currently underway to advance them.

1. **Hydraulic/29 Improvements:** Submitted for SMART Scale Funding in 2018 grant cycle but rejected for funding. C-A MPO is working with VDOT and the PDAP to determine next steps. Potential 2020 SMART Scale application.

2. **Rt 250 East Widening (Pantops)** - From Rolkin Rd to City Limits: Submitted for funding under HSIP in 2018 but rejected. Potential 2020 SMART Scale application.
3. **Rt 20/US 250 Intersection improvement:** Funded through SMART Scale in the 2018 grant application cycle. Funding is expected to be available in 2023.
4. **Hillsdale Dr Extension and Realignment** - Mall Dr to Rio Rd: This project was a catalyst project recommendation from the Rio29Small Area Plan. Additional work will be necessary to develop a concept and cost estimate.
5. **Berkmar to Lewis & Clark Connector** - From Hollymead Town Center to Airport Road, Airport Rd Roundabout: Project is currently at 60% design and some funds have been identified but staff has recommended this as the first priority for the Revenue Sharing application cycle in 2019
6. **Fontaine Ave/29 Bypass Diverging Diamond:** Submitted for a SMART Scale grant in the 2018 application cycle but was rejected for funding. Likely a resubmittal for a SMART Scale grant in the 2020 application cycle
7. **Old Lynchburg Rd/5th St Extended Intersection Improvements** – A VDOT led STARS Corridor Study is currently underway to identify concepts and cost to improve this intersection.
8. **Eastern Ave South** - From US 250 across Lickinghole Creek to existing stub out at Westhall: Staff has recommended this as the second priority for the Revenue Sharing application cycle in 2019
9. **Pedestrian Improvements on US 250 East** - between Free Bridge and State Farm Blvd: This project was a recommendation from the Pantops Master Plan. Improved pedestrian access beneath Free Bridge was a recently completed project through the NIFI program Study needed to identify concepts and cost
10. **Avon Street Extended Improvements** - From City Limits to Rt 20: The Avon Corridor Study is currently underway (funded through NIFI) to identify multimodal improvement concepts and cost estimates for some of the preferred projects identified in that study. (See Other Major Transportation Processes below)

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 Pedestrian Connections** – This project to construct a new pedestrian crossing of Rio Rd at Greenbrier Dr is expected to go to construction soon is and being managed by FES Department
- **Avon Street Extended Corridor Study**- See Other Major Transportation Processes below
- **Free Bridge Pedestrian Underpass**– This project improving pedestrian access beneath Free Bridge and aesthetic improvements is complete.

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

The following projects were awarded funding under the Transportation Alternatives (Safe Routes to School) and Revenue Sharing Grant programs for FY18. Following is a brief update on the submitted projects:

Revenue Sharing:

- **Commonwealth Dr./Dominion Dr. Pedestrian Improvements** - Scoping underway to get consultants under contract to begin the engineering and design phase
- **Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – Working on hiring a consultant for design and setting up a pre-scoping meeting
- **Library Avenue Extension** – engineering and design phase underway through private developer and construction is planned to begin late 2020/early 2021
- **Crozet Square** – engineering and design phase are well underway and construction is planned to begin late 2020/early 2021

Transportation Alternatives:

- **Greer/Jouett Bike/Pedestrian Improvements** – engineering and design phase well underway with construction expected Spring 2020
- **Cale ES Pedestrian Improvements** - Engineering and design phase underway with construction expected Summer 2020

Other Major Transportation Planning Processes

Rio/29 Small Area Plan

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. Staff is working with a consultant on the development of conceptual designs and cost estimates for these projects. Additionally, transportation staff is involved in development of the form-based code zoning amendments as they relate to streets and other transportation related features recommended in the plan.

Avon Street Extended Corridor Study

Line+Grade is under contract as the consultant for this study and have been meeting regularly with the CAC and other stakeholders in the development of this plan. Draft recommendations have been developed and presented for feedback. A public meeting to present the recommendations was held in May and comments from that meeting are currently being evaluated and incorporated into the designs as appropriate. The study is expected to be complete by September and will come to the Board for approval soon after that. Funding from the Quality of Life project described below is expected to be used to leverage grants to implement some of the recommendations from this plan.

5th Street Extended Corridor STARS Study

A kick-off meeting for this study was held in June with the stakeholder team to discuss the corridor and identified issues to be considered in the Corridor Study. A second meeting is planned for the end of July which will include a site visit to Corridor to look at the congestion and safety hot spots and begin to identify potential solutions. The plan should be completed in Spring of 2020. The result of the plan should 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.

C-A MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan

Staff has continued to work with the C-A MPO on the update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The plan along with the constrained and vision list of projects has been adopted by the MPO Policy Board following multiple Public Hearings. In May the plan was presented to the Albemarle County Planning Commission for information and will be doing the same with the Board of Supervisors soon with the goal of eventually amending the comprehensive plan to reference this plan.

Rural Transportation Long-Range Plan

Through the TJPDC and the Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, staff has updated the Rural Transportation Long-Range Plan which evaluates long-term transportation needs for areas of Albemarle County outside the MPO. The Plan has been approved by the TJPDC Commission. TJPDC will be presenting the plan to the Planning Commission and then the Board for endorsement and a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

Pantops Master Plan

Staff has been involved in the Pantops Master Plan update process through evaluating the existing transportation system, reviewing recommendations, and preparing presentations on the transportation processes, funding, regulatory environment, and existing data. The Pantops Master Plan was approved in June by the Board of Supervisors. Staff is now evaluating the specific recommended improvements from the plan to determine the next steps forward.

Climate Action Plan

Transportation staff have been leading the Community Mobility sub-group of the Climate Action Plan. A group of stakeholders have been assembled and are meeting approximately monthly to develop goals, actions, and strategies designed to decrease transportation's role in greenhouse gas emissions. Work has included research, data collection and presentations at the Climate Mondays series.

Public Transit Program

- **Transit Development Plan** – Approval of the update to the Regional Transit Development Plan was put on hold following the resignation of the Director of CAT and the policy changes related to Transit Development Plans that the VA DRPT has instituted. It appears now that instead of approving the Transit Development Plan that was drafted a new plan will be developed under the new DRPT guidelines for what is being referred to as a Transit Strategic Plan. This plan is intended to assess the current transit needs and services in the Region and make recommendations for improvements and new services and needs into the future.
- **CAT Transit Stop Improvements (Sense of Place Program)** - Staff has been working with CAT and a group of other stakeholders to make improvements at select transit stops around the county. Previously the improvements would include installation of benches or other seating, shelters, or minor alterations in the routing or stop locations to improve safety, convenience, or circulation. The stakeholder group, led by Supervisor McKeel, is now looking at the possibility of working with artists to bring aesthetic improvements, including artist's works, in as part of the program. The initial phase will work on the Stonefield stops and then expand to other stops in the urban ring.
- **Regional Transit Partnership** Staff attended meetings in April, May, and June.
- **Smart Mobility Inc. (Perrone Robotics/JAUNT/Albemarle County Central Virginia Autonomous Shuttle) Planning** – Staff is engaged with the group of partners on planning and implementation of the pilot autonomous shuttle in Crozet and planning for future opportunities to deploy the innovative transit strategy. Involvement includes a seat on the Board of SMI and assistance in development of

route planning, confidence testing, funding, promotion and future planning. The initial launch of the pilot occurred on July 9, 2019.

- **Crozet Express Transit Service** – Staff continues to work with JAUNT on the development of the proposed express commuter transit service between Crozet and Charlottesville. The Board has identified funding for the service and draft routing and schedule has been developed. Staff is currently identifying stops and securing agreements to allow the service to make those stops.

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** – The consultant’s evaluation on these improvements have provided information that will be used for a proposed Revenue Sharing application in 2019. Staff has been working with the City of Charlottesville on a partnership for funding and future maintenance of the project.
- **Avon Street Extended Shared-Use Path** – 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 will be developed. Once complete, a decision on funding will be made to either submit a grant application or fund directly through the CIP.
- **Tabor Street, High Street, and Hilltop Street Sidewalks** – The consultant’s evaluation on these improvements have provided information that is being evaluated for a potential Transportation Alternatives application in 2019.
- **Rio Road Shared-Use Path** – This project is currently on hold awaiting a study by VDOT to evaluate potential vehicular improvements to the Belvedere Blvd. /Rio Rd. intersection. Additionally, a development project recently submitted proposes to construct a portion of this Shared-use Path extension. Once the details of those projects are determined this project will be reevaluated.
- **Berkmar Drive Shared-use Path** – 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 (Connection to the Northtown Trail)** – A consultant has provided a cost estimate for construction of this Shared-use Path connection. The project is currently awaiting a final decision on how to move forward with the funding for it.

Other Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

- Staff continues 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.
- **Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan** – Staff completed work with the TJPDC/CA-MPO on the update to the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The plan was adopted by TJPDC and the MPO in January. In May the Planning Commission approved a Comprehensive Plan amendment to

incorporate the Plan and in July the Board also approved this as a comprehensive Plan Amendment. Staff is now working with a regional planning group on implementation of some of the recommendations from the plan.

- 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 have been 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.

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:

- **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. This included site visits with Supervisors and Commissioners and a work session with the PC this quarter.
- **Barnes Lumber** – 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. Preliminary designs for the Library Ave connection and general road system are currently in review. Staff expects a ZMA application for the development project in the coming year. Weekly team member meetings are held and
- **Galaxie Farm** – Residential development on Route 20 South; developer is in discussions on potential land swap for road construction.
- **Belvedere** – multiple applications under review for new residential phases and the Senior Center at Belvedere. Staff is also in discussions on potential rezonings for future development phases and addressing issues with the previous rezonings.
- **Woolen Mills Redevelopment (Willowtree)** – Staff is working with multiple departments on multi-modal connectivity plans for this redevelopment project.
- **Stonefield** – Staff is coordinating with developer on a possible rezoning to the residential portion of Stonefield and connectivity issues.
- **Wetzel Property** – Staff has reviewed a Transportation Impact Analysis submitted by a potential developer for the site. No application has been submitted.
- **University of Virginia Foundation North Fork Research Park** – Staff continues to work with the UVAF on the development of the road connection between Innovation Dr and Lewis and Clark Dr as well as potential future development of the research park.
- **Proffit Road ZMA** - Staff has reviewed the Transportation Impact Analysis for this residential development off Proffit Road.
- **West Rio Road Mixed Use development** – Staff has been working with the developer of this site to insure County transportation needs identified in the Rio/29 Small Area Plan are addressed.

- **Brookhill** – Staff has been working with the Brookhill developer on the proffer amendment related to the road connection between Berkmar Dr and Rio Mills Rd and other transportation related issues within the development.
- **Peabody School** – Special Use permit for increasing the size of the private school near Avon St Ext and Southern Pkwy
- **Martha Jefferson Hospital Apartments** – Staff has been working with the developer on pedestrian accessibility around the site.

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.

- **Airport Rd Roundabout** - Driver confusion
- **Reynovia Dr**- Speeding concerns
- **Rolling Hill Rd**- Safety concerns with private road
- **Ivy Farm Dr**- speeding concerns
- **Briarwood Subdivision**- Speeding concerns
- **Lego Dr**- Speeding concerns
- **Rt 250 Crozet**- Pedestrian safety and speeding concerns
- **Miller School Road and Owensville Road Through-truck restrictions** – The Board of Supervisors has approved Resolutions requesting the Commonwealth Transportation Board institute Through-Truck Restrictions on these roads. The request has been sent to VDOT for review.
- **Park Ridge Road** - Speeding and traffic level concerns, proposed to begin traffic calming process with residents
- **Commonwealth Dr** - Pedestrian crosswalks to support transit
- **Pen Park Road** - Speeding Concerns
- **White Mountain Road** - Road conditions and drainage issues
- **Stony Point/US 250 East** - Request to eliminate 250 E Bound U-turn
- **Fontana Neighborhood** - Traffic calming update
- **Greenbrier/Hillsdale** - Traffic Calming Process
- **Key West Neighborhood** - Speeding Issues and Traffic Calming Process
- **Orchard Drive** – speeding concerns
- **Poplar Glen community**- Ivy Rd & Stillfried Ln Intersection improvements
- **Redfields Rd & Nettle Ct/Pebble Hill Ct Intersection** – Intersection safety concern