

STAFF PERSON: David Benish
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: August 3, 2016

Staff Report: Overview of 1) Projects for 2017 Smart Scale Funding Application Round and 2) Modifications to Transportation Priorities List.

1) Projects for 2017 Smart Scale Funding Application Round

Project funding applications for the second round of Smart Scale are due in September 2016. Staff, in consultation with VDOT and MPO staff, has identified projects that should score well when assessed using the Smart Scale process. These projects were derived from the County Transportation Priorities List (Attachment C), Comprehensive Plan/Regional Transportation Plans, VDOT Studies (including Road Safety Audit), or ongoing VDOT or County/CIP transportation projects.

In April, the Board agreed with requesting funding for the list of projects in Attachment B, projects 1 through 4. Three (3) additional projects have been proposed by staff:

5. Rt. 250 West/Radford Lane/Harris Teeter (Crozet) Sidewalk/ Crosswalk/Traffic Management Improvements – This funding requested to complete construction of pedestrian crossing and traffic management improvements in this area including a potential roundabout. This project also funded with CIP and Revenue Sharing funds. This request would augment existing county and revenue sharing funds to complete the important Rt. 250 crosswalk and traffic management component of this project.

6. Sunset Avenue Improvements and Extension to Southwood & Biscuit Run Park Property – This request is to fund alignment improvements, installation of curb & gutter, bike lanes and sidewalks on existing Sunset Avenue, and to construct a new intersection and road segment from the Sunset Ave./Fifth Street Intersection to Southwood and the Biscuit Run Park property. Funding was requested last year for the improvements to the existing Sunset Avenue only, but the project did not score well enough to be funded. This year's request would be modified to include a new road section recommended in Southern Neighborhoods Plan that would provide for improved access to the Southwood Mobile Home Park area and future Biscuit Run Park. These additions to the scope of the project may improve the project's scoring and would provide for needed improvements to Southwood, benefiting efforts to revitalize that community. Because the timing for this project would be best coordinated with revitalization of Southwood, staff is working with Habitat for Humanity to determine whether this project should be submitted this year or in a future round. Staff is requesting the Board approve applying for funding for this project this year with the understanding that it may not be submitted if it is determined that an application in 2017 would be "premature."

7. Construction of Unbuilt Road Sections of Berkmar Dr. Extended and Innovation Drive/ Lewis and Clark Drive Parallel Road – This request is to construct the two remaining unbuilt sections of the parallel collector road west of the Route 29 corridor north of the Berkmar Drive Extended project currently under construction. This parallel road system provides a local traffic alternative to Rt. 29 and is identified as an important part of the regional road network in both the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan, The County Comprehensive Plan and Places29 Master Plan. This project would support economic development strategies of the County. This is a recently emerging project that is part of potential public-private partnership to improve available of, and access to, industrial/employment sites consistent with the County's Land Use Plan and economic development strategies. Because this is a recently developing project which involves continued

discussion with other partners, staff is requesting the Board approve applying for funding for this project this year with the understanding that it may not be submitted if it is determined that an application in 2017 would be "premature."

Project submitted by MPO:

Projects located in the Metropolitan Planning Organization area (MPO) area can be submitted by either the locality or the MPO. The MPO will be requesting funding for the Free Bridge Road Congestion Management Project. The MPO is proposing to submit one project this year:

1. US Route 250 Free Bridge – Bridge Capacity Improvements including turning lanes at High Street and Route 20 with separated bike/pedestrian improvements across the Rivanna River. Project submission is for Alternatives F and I of the Free Bridge Area Congestion Relief Project of November, 2014 for an estimated cost of \$30,000,000. This proposed project has been approved by the MPO, and MPO has recently approved applying for funding in this upcoming round.

2) Modifications to Transportation Priorities List.

The Transportation Priorities List, Attachment C, has been updated to reflect the latest information for each project. Please note the following regarding the list.

- Projects recommended for funding requests this year are highlighted in yellow
- New projects to the list and substantive modifications to information for existing projects in the list are noted in red print
- The Bridge Projects section is still in need of full updating and will be completed by September
- The *Comments* section for all projects have updated (with the exception of the Bridge section)

Two (2) new projects have been added to the list:

1. Rio Mills Road to Berkmar Drive Connector – to reflect the Board's priority to complete this project to address road and traffic concerns on unpaved Rio Mills Road and Earlysville Road.
2. Rio Road East – Emerging development on Rio Road, from JW Parkway to Melbourne Road, has advanced the need to prioritize this road for study and improvement.

In addition to the two new projects noted above, staff is recommending that the list of sidewalk and bike facility improvement projects that submitted each year with the CIP Sidewalk Program request be added as an addendum to be the Transportation Priority List. This would provide for the full listing of sidewalk and bikeway projects on one list.

Staff will be prepared to discuss project development and priority setting at the August 3 meeting, time permit, but an addition in September or October will be scheduled to discuss the Priority list development further, if necessary.