

2024 Legislative Priorities

1. Provide state funding for Rivanna Futures project
2. Grant the County taxing authority for school division capital projects
3. Expand the authority to use photo speed monitoring devices

Priority No. 1: provide state funding for Rivanna Futures project

Proposed: Include \$58 million in funding in the biennial state budget for this economic development project adjacent to the U.S. Army's existing Rivanna Station.

Elements: The County has contracted to purchase approximately 462 acres of real property for \$58 million, on which it will develop the Intelligence and National Security Innovation and Acceleration Campus (INSIAC). The County seeks a matching investment from the state of \$58 million to fund site acquisition, road construction, site development to Tier 4 readiness under the Virginia Business Ready Sites program and branding.

Rationale: INSIAC will be a center for agencies, and academic and private sector partners, focused on intelligence and national security collaboration and innovation on a 50-acre expansion of the existing Rivanna Station. Phase 1 is estimated to generate 873 new jobs with a median income of \$81,000, \$2.2 million in annual state tax revenue and \$135 million in total economic impact. Future phases will house compatible businesses, non-profits, and education partners and provide food and retail services across 150-180 acres on Route 29 North, the keystone for extending the defense innovation ecosystem in the County.

Priority No. 2: grant the County taxing authority for school division capital projects

Proposed: Amend [Title 58.1, Subtitle I, Chapter 6 of the Code of Virginia](#) to make Albemarle County eligible to levy an additional 1% retail sales tax for the purpose of funding school division capital projects.

Elements: Either amend [Virginia Code § 58.1-602](#) to designate Albemarle County, in addition to other previously designated cities and counties, as a “qualifying locality” with such authority, or amend [Virginia Code § 58.1-605.1](#) to provide such authority to all cities and counties. In either case, the imposition of such a tax would require approval in a local referendum and would be subject to expiration no more than 20 years after the board's initiation of the referendum.

Rationale: The County lacks a dedicated funding mechanism for school construction and renovation projects. Such projects are largely funded presently by existing tax revenues and proceeds of bond issues. Additional taxing authority would generate revenues dedicated solely to school division capital projects, providing further fiscal capacity and flexibility to the County.

Prior History: This priority was addressed during the 2023 General Assembly session in [HB 2316 \(Bourne\)](#), which failed in committee and [SB 1287 \(Deeds\)](#), which passed in the Senate before failing in House committee.

Priority No. 3: expand the authority to use photo speed monitoring devices

Proposed: Amend [Virginia Code §§ 46.2-882](#) and [46.2-882.1](#) to enable the use of photo speed monitoring devices on segments of secondary roads where speeding has been identified as a problem.

Elements: The enabling authority would be implemented by ordinance and would apply only to segments of secondary roads having posted speeds of 35 miles per hour or higher which are selected based on speeding, crash, and fatality data supporting the need for additional enforcement against speeding. In addition, the selected road segments would be required to have signs posted informing drivers that such devices are being used to monitor speed.

Rationale: This initiative would give localities the option to use photo speed monitoring devices as an enforcement tool on designated segments of secondary roads where speeding is prevalent. Using such devices would promote public safety by providing broader enforcement of speed limits and safety of law enforcement officers, who might otherwise be required to make traffic stops on potentially dangerous road segments (e.g., segments without shoulders or with limited sight distance). Additionally, the use of technology where human intervention is unnecessary would allow law enforcement officers to do other critical police work.

Prior History: This priority was addressed during the 2023 General Assembly session in [HB2119 \(Hudson\)](#), which failed in committee.