

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

October 2017

Projects and Assignments

FY 18 Albemarle County Transportation Priorities List

At the August Board of Supervisors Meeting transportation staff presented the proposed Albemarle County Transportation Priorities has annually updated a list of transportation priorities to be used as the basis for identification of priority transportation projects to advance through planning, design, engineering, and construction. This effort insures that staff and fiscal resources are properly focused to address the highest transportation priorities in an efficient manner. The identified projects are candidates for State or Federal Grant/Funding Programs and/or additions to the Capital Improvement Program. Transportation staff is currently collecting data on transportation needs, evaluating those needs through a performance based process, and scoring these projects. This effort will result in an update to the transportation priorities list and an associated report. Staff presented the initial findings of this process at the May Board meeting. A final priority list will be presented at the August Board which will also include potential funding options for the Board's endorsement.

Albemarle County Capital Improvements Program Requests

Based on the Albemarle County Transportation Priorities List that the Board has accepted, staff reviewed the projects in light of the potential funding sources and project readiness and submitted requests for CIP funding or to the Capital Needs Program. The projects submitted required a more well-defined description, proposed schedule, and detailed cost estimates, which were all developed. The following projects were submitted for the Capital Improvement Program Funding:

1. Route 20/US 250 Intersection Improvement
2. Northtown Trail
3. Sunset Avenue Extended Improvements – Country Green Road to Yellowstone Drive
4. Route 20 South (Scottsville Road) Improvements – City Line to Mill Creek Drive
5. Albemarle County Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Construction Program – Various pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects from the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Transportation Priority List located throughout the county
6. Eastern Avenue Southern Connection (Phase 1-Linckhole Creek Bridge)

Capital Needs Program Requests included the following:

1. US 29/Rio Road Small Area Plan Project Implementation
2. Priority Transportation Projects

Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative

The Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative (NIFI) included numerous projects related to transportation and requiring transportation staff involvement. Involvement included working with

consultants, county staff, and CAC representatives to help develop projects. These included the following:

- Cale Elementary School Crosswalk
- School-Pedestrian Connections (Albemarle-Jouett-Greer)
- The Crozet Square Improvements
- East Rio Road Pedestrian Connections
- Northtown Trail
- Avon Street Extended Corridor Study
- 250 Walkability Improvements
- Free Bridge pedestrian underpass

Safe Routes to School Grants

Staff is working with the schools to develop two projects to submit for Safe Routes to School Grants through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. Both of these projects are also proposed NIFI projects. The Cale E.S. Crosswalk includes construction of a mid-block crossing of Avon St Extended in front of Cale E.S. and sidewalks connecting from the road frontage to the school entry. The Jouett/Greer Shared-use Path includes construction of a 10-ft shared-use path from the intersection of Hydraulic and Lambs Road running adjacent to Lambs Road and then Lambs Lane to the existing pedestrian paths in front of Greer E.S. and Jouett M.S. The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program requires a 20% match from the locality and the due date for these grant applications is November 1.

Revenue Sharing Grants

Staff is working to prepare three projects for Revenue Sharing applications this year including the following:

1. Berkmar Drive Shared-use Path – This is a proposed project to continue the newly constructed Shared-use Path as part of the Berkmar Extended Project southward to connect to Rio Road.
2. Commonwealth Drive/Dominion Drive Sidewalks – Commonwealth Drive from Hydraulic to Peyton, and from Commonwealth Circle to Dominion Drive, Dominion Drive from Commonwealth Drive to Route 29.

Revenue Sharing Grants require a 50/50 match between local and state funds with an application due on November 1.

Berkmar Drive to Lewis and Clark Drive Connection Project

Transportation staff has continued working with VDOT, UVA Foundation representatives, and other Albemarle County Department personnel to advance this priority transportation project. Meetings have been held with the stakeholders and consultant to develop and approve a project scope and cost. This project has required additional attention because of proposed changes to the Smart Scale Program that would remove the portion of this project within the UVA Foundation property not eligible for funding under that program. Staff has been in discussions with the Secretary's office and other officials in an attempt to convince them of the need for this project and a potential exception to the new eligibility requirements.

C-A MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan

As the Albemarle County Representative on the C-A MPO Technical Advisory Committee staff has been working with MPO staff on the update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (MPO LRTP). Staff has been involved in project development through the development and refinement of traffic analysis zones which are the units used in the transportation modeling process, the development of the goals, objectives, and evaluation criteria by which the projects will be selected and prioritized, and the submission of candidate projects for inclusion in the MPO LRTP assessment.

Southwood

The redevelopment of the Southwood Mobile Home Park is a significant development project for the County. Transportation staff has been involved attending meetings and reviewing preliminary concepts for the transportation system development. This includes a project kickoff meeting as well as the project overview meeting with the Virginia delegate and Senator as well as internal coordination meetings, meetings with the developer to review proposals for transportation among others. Staff will continue to remain involved throughout the entire process to insure that the County's transportation goals are being met and the developments residents are well served.

Rio/29 Small Area Plan

Transportation staff has been heavily involved in this small area planning process for the area surrounding the Rio/29 intersection. This process has included an analysis of existing transportation facilities, internal meetings to develop information and a process to involve stakeholders and the public, and public and stakeholder meetings to gather feedback and ideas. Staff has then taken this information and been working to develop potential transportation improvement recommendations that could be funded through any number of identified processes.

US Route 29/Hydraulic/Hillsdale Area Transportation Project

County transportation staff has continued to follow the evaluation of land use and potential transportation improvements in the US 29/Hydraulic area. State funding has been directed to look at potential improvements for the Hydraulic Road/US Route 29 Intersection as the next phase of the Route 29 Solutions projects. The goal of this process is to develop a preferred transportation improvement in time for the Fall 2018 Smart Scale application period. Transportation Staff is attending occasional meetings of the Hydraulic Project Advisory Panel, Public Meetings and Charrettes, and following through involvement on the C-A MPO.

Rural Transportation Long-Range Plan

Through the TJPDC and the Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, staff is engaged in the update to the Rural Transportation Long-Range Plan evaluating long term transportation needs for areas of Albemarle County outside the MPO. The process began in late calendar year 2017 and is proposed to be completed in fiscal year 2018. Albemarle County has assisted in the development of Goals and Objectives for the plan that match the Goals and Objectives for the Rural Areas of the County and submitted and reviewed a list of projects under consideration for inclusion in the plan.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Transportation planning staff has been focused on the following ongoing and future projects related to the development, prioritization, and identification of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects:

- Development of a bicycle and pedestrian facilities inventory in the county to track progress in the improvement of those facilities. Staff is working with the Hydraulic CAC and VDOT to prioritize sidewalk maintenance work within the older urban neighborhoods. Many of these sidewalks are in need of maintenance and improvements to meet connectivity needs that were not addressed when the neighborhoods were first developed. Staff has begun to identify locations where future investment will be necessary to address safety and improve connectivity. Neighborhood 1 within the Places 29 Development Area is seen as an important area in need of these improvements.
- Update to the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. With an expected completion date of the Plan is June of 2018.

Local Issues

Staff has been engaged in addressing local concerns related to a variety of transportation issues. Previously the Board has requested information on highways eligible for thru-truck restrictions however many factors are considered when evaluating these issues and a comprehensive list is not feasible. Staff evaluates these requests on an individual basis as requests/concerns are brought to our attention.

Staff has instituted a documentation process to track these ongoing issues and keep a record of the complaints. This includes collecting relevant data and reporting through proper channels as appropriate. A tracking list of these complaints/issues has been developed and is reviewed and presented at monthly traffic coordination meetings with VDOT, Albemarle County Police Department, and other agencies.

Public Transit Program

- **Regional Transit Partnership Discussions** – The Memorandum of Agreement is now in place formalizing the Regional Transit Partnership (RTP) which is intended to improve coordination and planning related to transit in the region. The RTP has held an initial meeting to discuss the upcoming work that the RTP will be engaged in. The first formal meeting of the RTP will be held October.
- **Transit Development Plan** – Staff is engaged with JAUNT, CAT, DRPT, and the C-A MPO in the development of the update to the Regional Transit Development Plan. This plan is intended to assess the current transit needs and services in the Region and make recommendations for improvements and new services primarily focusing on the next six years but acknowledging the needs into the future. Albemarle County is currently developing a list of transit needs to submit to the consultants developing the plan.
- **CAT Transit Stop Improvements.** Staff is working with CAT to make improvements at a number of the most popular transit stops around the county. The improvements include installation of benches, shelters, or minor alterations in the routing or stop locations to improve safety, convenience, or circulation. The stops have been identified and improvements recommended. Staff is currently working through the VDOT permitting process or private permissions to make these improvements.
- **New or Improved Service** - Staff and the Board have identified areas where improved or new service is desired through the various Comprehensive, Master, and Long-Range Planning documents, as well as through specific direction of the Board, related to transportation

priorities and needs. Areas where new service or improvements were discussed or evaluated this quarter include the following:

- **Avon Street Extended** – CAT had previously been asked to evaluate the cost and potential service structure to connect the Southern Neighborhoods to the City of Charlottesville.
- **Hollymead/Route 29 Transit Priority** – In addition to the Route 29 Express Service currently operated by JAUNT, CAT had previously been asked to evaluate the cost and potential service structure to connect the Hollymead area to the City of Charlottesville.
- **Crozet Commuter Service** – Staff continued to meet with JAUNT and UVA partners to work on the planned commuter bus service between Crozet and Charlottesville. Service is proposed to begin in August. Route planning including timing and potential stops is ongoing but the focus is on linking downtown Crozet with UVA. The need for an improved Crozet area Park and Ride has been identified with this program.
- **Increased Service on Route 10** – The need for increased service on Route 10 in the Pantops has been identified in order to provide transportation choices to residents and employees that work or live in this area just outside of downtown Charlottesville. Staff plans to use the Transit Development Plan process to evaluate potential improvement and funding.

Local Development Projects

Transportation staff reviews and comments on transportation issues related to projects submitted for Zoning Map Amendments, Special Use Permits, and Site Development Plans. These are based on project submittals with the transportation staff's role 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.

Standing Committees and Meetings/Workgroups

Committee/Meetings (Timing)	Entities	Role/Action(s)	Status
MPO Technical Committee (Every other Month)	VDOT, City of Charlottesville, and other localities	Committee Member (and Chair)	Attended the one meeting held this quarter on September 19. Topics included development of the next Long-Range Transportation Plan, and general updates on transit and other ongoing programs and projects. Albemarle County staff was elected Chair of the Committee

Committee/Meetings (Timing)	Entities	Role/Action(s)	Status
MPO Policy Board (Every other Month)	VDOT, City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle	Attend meetings as staff support	Attended the two meetings held this quarter on July 26 and September 27. Topics included development of the next Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Regional Transit Partnership Updates to the Transportation Improvement Program, and general updates on other ongoing programs and projects. The September Meeting was a joint CA MPO and SAWMPO Meeting.
MPO CTAC (Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee) (Attend Meetings as needed)	Members appointed by the BOS	Attend meeting as needed based on topics	Did not attend any meetings this quarter
Rt. 250 West Advisory Committee (As needed, likely on a quarterly schedule)	Members appointed by the BOS	Staff support to provide information on transportation related projects on the Rt 250 West Corridor to the Committee in their advisory role.	No meetings held this quarter but planning an upcoming meeting to discuss some new projects occurring on the Route 250 West Corridor.
TJPDC Rural Transportation Technical Committee (3rd Tuesday every other month)	Designated staff representatives of TJPDC localities and agencies	Committee Member	Attended two meetings held this quarter on July 18 and September 19. Topics included development of the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and upcoming STARS projects.
Rt. 29 Solutions Advisory Committee (PDAP) Project Development Advisory Panel (monthly)	Members of the business community, VDOT, City of Charlottesville, County of Albemarle and the Southern Law Environmental Center	Attend Meetings and provide staff support to community and committee	Did not attend any meetings this quarter
Facilities and Environmental Services Department (FES) Capital Improvements project status meeting (monthly)	Members of various departments that deal with the CIP	Provide updates on ongoing transportation related CIP projects and meet as needed to develop future projects	Attended July, August, and September meetings to follow status of eleven ongoing sidewalk/pedestrian improvement projects

Committee/Meetings (Timing)	Entities	Role/Action(s)	Status
City of Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (monthly)	City appointed citizens	Attend intermittently as a guest to improve communication between the city and county on regional bicycle and pedestrian issues and projects	Did not attend a meeting this quarter but continued communicating with the City Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator on projects and citizen requests including discussions on improved facilities to connect to the Avon Street Corridor, the Woolen Mills area, and the Old Lynchburg Road area.
Parks and Recreation Department Coordination Meeting (monthly)	Transportation Planner and Parks and Recreation Staff	Meeting to coordinate activities between recreation and transportation including bicycle and pedestrian trails/paths/lanes and greenways and recreation access opportunities	No formal meetings were held this quarter but continued to discuss ongoing collaboration opportunities informally.
City/County/UVA Multi-modal Coordination Meetings (Third Friday every other Month)	County/City/UVA Transportation Staff	Represent the County interests related to multi-modal transportation planning and operations	Attended meeting on September 8 with topics covering transit and bicycle and pedestrian improvements on West Main, Emmet St, and Jefferson Park Ave
VDOT Traffic Meeting (Quarterly)	VDOT Residency and District Staff	Represent the County and keep updated on VDOT programs and projects under development	Attended meetings in July, August, and September and discussed local requests, agency priorities, and ongoing traffic and other studies
Community Advisory Committees (CACs meet monthly, transportation staff attends as needed or requested)	Appointed citizens, Board Representatives, Planning Commission representatives, County staff	The CACs provide assistance, feedback, and input to County staff and the Board of Supervisors on community and county efforts related to implementation and support of the adopted Master Plan	Attended the Fifth and Avon CAC meetings in September to discuss the Cale ES pedestrian crosswalk project projects and receive feedback and comments.