

2025 Legislative Priorities

Virginia Code Amendments

- Expanded authority to use photo speed monitoring devices
- County taxing authority for school division capital projects
- Reimbursement for responding to community threats

Budget Amendments

- State funding for Rivanna Futures project
- State funding for Biscuit Run Park– Monacan Indian Nation Tribute Park Connector Greenway ADA Trail project

Virginia Code Amendments

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 2024 General Assembly session in [HB 20 Photo speed monitoring devices; location](#) (Jones), which was continued to 2025.

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 2024 General Assembly session in [HB 805 Sales and use tax, local; additional tax authorized in counties & cities to support schools](#) (Rasoul) and [SB 14 Sales and use tax, local; additional tax authorized in counties & cities to support schools](#) (McPike), both of which were vetoed.

Reimbursement for responding to community threats

Proposed: Amend [Virginia Code § 15.2-1716.1](#) to eliminate the cap on reimbursement of minute-by-minute costs actually incurred by a locality in responding to terrorism hoax incidents, bomb threats, or malicious activations of fire alarms, and to increase the amount of reimbursement a locality may obtain on a flat fee basis. Such an amendment would authorize the County to amend its recently enacted local ordinance.

Elements: The enabling authority would allow localities to recover, without a cap, actual minute-by-minute costs incurred in responding to such events or—alternatively—to recover a flat fee in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.

Rationale: Authority to increase amounts would allow localities to recover costs incurred as a consequence of malfeasance on the part of a convicted individual and may act as a deterrent to such conduct.

Prior History: This priority was addressed during the 2024 General Assembly session in [HB 147 Terrorism hoax incident, etc.; reimbursement of expenses incurred to localities](#) (Reid), which was left in the Courts of Justice committee.

Budget Amendments

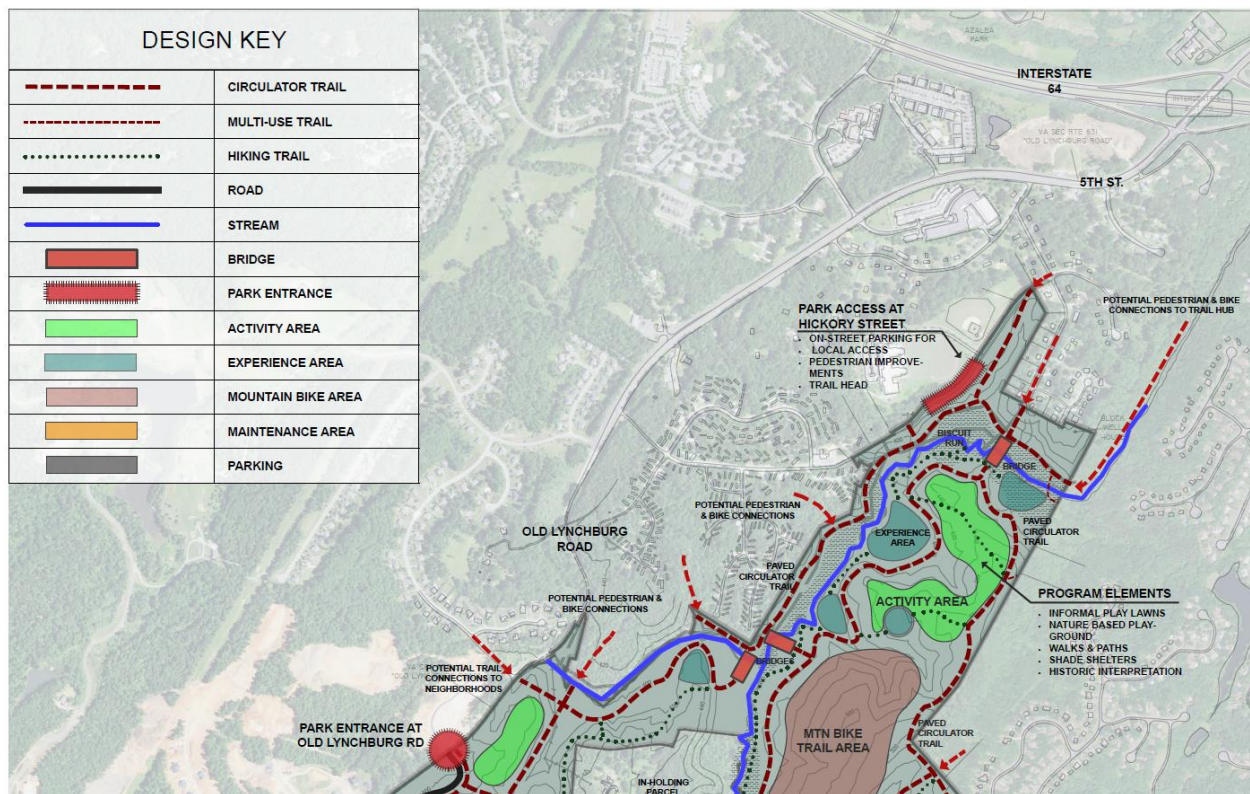
Provide state funding for Rivanna Futures project

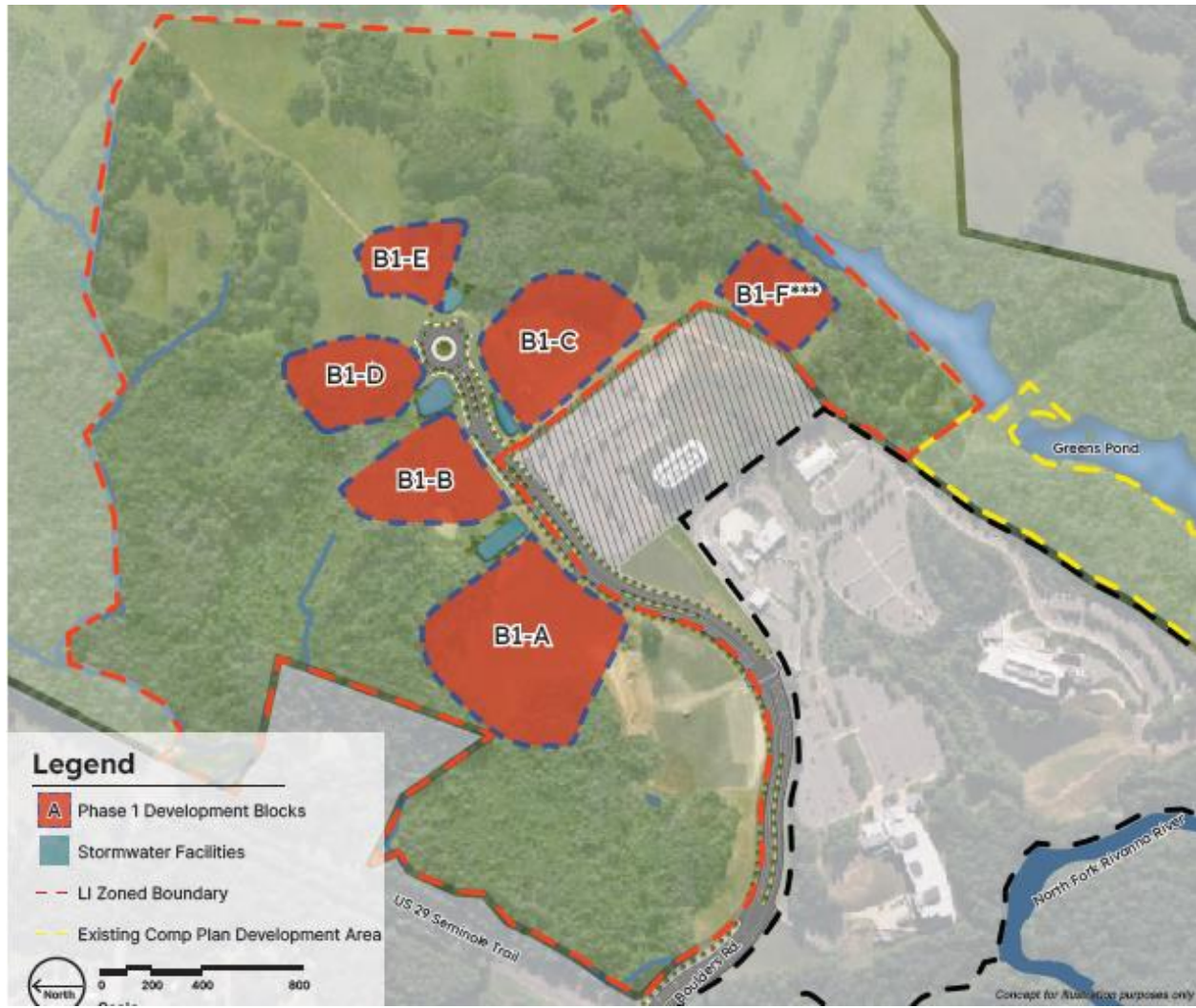
Proposed: Include funding in the state budget to advance site readiness and infrastructure investment for creating an intelligence and national security innovation accelerator adjacent to the U.S. Army’s Rivanna Station located in Albemarle County.

Elements: Albemarle County has purchased approximately 462 acres of land for \$58 million, to foster the development of the Intelligence and National Security Innovation and Acceleration

Campus (INSIAC), which will have significance to the Commonwealth of Virginia and our nation. The County seeks an investment from the state to fund utility, infrastructure, and site work.

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 future expansion of the existing Rivanna Station footprint, as well as new private and academic sector office and research and development spaces in close proximity. Rivanna Station’s expansion 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 more than 800,000 square feet of compatible private sector, non-profit, and education partners and provide food and retail services across more than 150 acres on Route 29 North, the keystone for extending the defense innovation ecosystem in the County.





Provide state funding for Biscuit Run Park – Monacan Indian Nation Tribute Park Connector Greenway ADA Trail project

Proposed: Include \$1,368,000 in funding in the state budget to fund the following element of the state-owned and locally-developed Biscuit Run Park: a one-mile, ADA-accessible paved trail that connects the future Biscuit Run Park’s western entrance to the future Monacan Indian Nation Tribute Park, under development as part of the Southwood Mobile Home Park redevelopment project.

Elements: Biscuit Run Park is currently under construction by Albemarle County. The park land is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and leased to the County for a 99-year term. The Biscuit Run master plan includes a paved circulator trail that runs the perimeter of the 1,200-acre park. The County is expected to open Biscuit Run Park in Fall 2024 with the first phase of park access and the first section of trails, at an estimated cost of more than \$6 million. Other master plan elements, including the park circulator trail, will be developed over several years and based on local budget capacity. The County seeks an investment of 717,498 towards the construction of a one-mile segment of the planned ADA-accessible, paved circulator trail to connect the Southwood

neighborhood's future Monacan Indian Nation Tribute Park to Biscuit Run Park. The trail segment would require two small pedestrian bridges to cross streams in the area.

Rationale: The land comprising Biscuit Run Park was acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2009, initially for development—with no timeline—as a state park. In 2018, the state leased the land to the County for a 99-year term for development, use and occupancy as a County park. Phase 1A of the park is presently under construction and—upon completion—will contain approximately 1,200 acres and draw users from Central Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley and beyond. Planned facilities include, in part, a multi-use trail network including mountain biking and a greenway, and athletic fields. A capital contribution by the state will accelerate the completion and availability of park amenities at this regional recreational facility, fulfilling a need contemplated at the time of the state's initial acquisition of the land.