# Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

October 2026

## Administrative Activities

Staff attended the following meetings:

- Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) Technical Committee and MPO Policy Board meetings in August.
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) Rural Transportation Advisory Committee in August.
- Monthly Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)-County Traffic Engineering meetings; in addition to staff from transportation planning, staff from and FES attended this quarter.
- 2026 VDOT Local Programs Workshop held in Roanoke in September.
- VDOT Monthly Local Administered Project Meeting held virtually (July - September).

## Transportation Planning Efforts

### SMART SCALE 2026

County staff submitted four project funding applications for SMART SCALE Round 7 on July 30th. CA-MPO staff also submitted four applications that are in Albemarle County. The submitted projects are as follows. These projects were previously presented to the Board on March 4th, and the Board adopted a resolution of support on June 17th.

**Albemarle County project applications:**

**A - Barracks Road SB Right Turn Lane at US 29/250 Bypass**
**B - US 250 & Old Trail Drive Intersection Improvements**
**C - US 250 / Rte 601 Roundabout Corridor Improvements**
**D - US 250 / Rte 601 / Canterbury Intersection Improvements**

**CA-MPO project applications:**

**1 - US 29 NB/US 250 EB Ramp Extension/Barracks Road Off-Ramp**
**2 - I-64 - 5th Street Interchange Improvements**
**3 - US 29/250 SB Off-Ramp Extension to Old Ivy Road**
**4 – Old Ivy Rd On-Ramp/Leonard Sandridge Off-Ramp Aux. Lane**

The Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) is currently scoring the applications. OIPI will publish the scores and present a staff-recommended funding scenario to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in January 2027. The CTB will make final funding decisions in June 2027 when they adopt the Six-Year Improvement Program.

## Three Notched Trail Shared Use Path

Albemarle County was awarded just over $2,000,000 in Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funds in 2022 to complete a Master Plan for a future Three Notched Trail Shared Use Path. The plan involves four major planning tasks:

1. Conduct an alternatives analysis of up to three potential alignments for the shared use path;
2. Conduct stakeholder and public engagement to determine a preferred alignment;
3. Reach functional (30%) design for priority sections of the preferred alignment; and
4. Develop an implementation plan for the shared use path that identifies segments of the alignment that would have independent utility if constructed separately.

The selected consultant team of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) and several sub-consultants, including Toole Design and EPR began work in February 2025. Following is a list of the project activities so far:

- The project website (https://engage.albemarle.org/three-notched-trail-master-plan) is live,
- The project's technical committee – composed of representatives from Albemarle County, VDOT, City of Charlottesville, University of Virginia, Nelson County, City of Waynesboro, the Rivanna Trails Foundation, and the Blue Ridge Health District, among others – has met four times, once in mid-March 2025, again in late June 2025, late October 2025, and most recently this April.
- Public input on the three potential alignments including the second public meeting and second online public survey is closed, and all feedback has been reviewed to assist in the selection of the recommended alignment.
- Contact with potentially impacted landowners is underway with a public meeting proposed for late Summer to share the recommended alignment.

Staff is expected to hold a public meeting on the final proposed alignment this fall and then proceed to developing a 30% plan and estimate for portions of the trail this winter.

## Multimodal Transportation Plan

Process design and goal setting for the development of the Multimodal Transportation Plan (MMTP) – a comprehensive forward-thinking look at all modes of transportation across the entire County – is currently underway. The MMTP will examine the current transportation system's needs and deficiencies, how the system could best serve its purpose in the future, and what that system would look like, tying together desired future development patterns with transit, walking, biking, and roadway networks to serve those uses.

Staff are currently developing a community engagement plan, gathering available data, defining MMTP goals, and developing a project website. Public kickoff is anticipated at the end of 2026. It is anticipated that the effort will take three years to complete, at the end of FY2029.

Staff intends to present the project plan to the Planning Commission in October to gain their input.

## VDOT/OIPI Planning Studies

Albemarle County participates in two programs administered by state agencies to conduct planning level transportation studies:

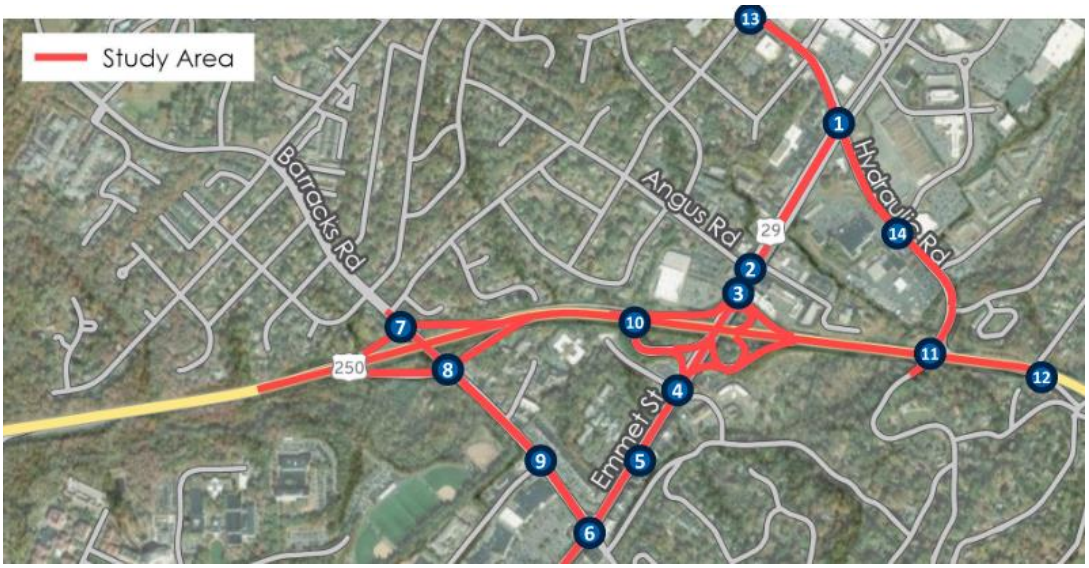
1. The Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) program administered by VDOT
2. The Project Pipeline program administered by OIPI.

The objective of both programs is to develop comprehensive and innovative multimodal transportation solutions to address congestion and safety challenges in the Commonwealth. The goal of the STARS and Project Pipeline programs is to produce project solutions that are good candidates for applications for SMART SCALE, Revenue Sharing, and other transportation funding programs.

**Current Studies:**

**STARS - US 29 Corridor: Hydraulic Road to Woodbrook Road –** A corridor study that examines safety and operations for all road users along US 29 and intersecting roadways between Hydraulic and Woodbrook roads.

**STARS - US 29/250 Bypass Interchange with Emmet Street –** An interchange study that examines safety and operations of the interchange with Emmet Street and the surrounding intersections. See study area in graphic below.




Conceptual improvements have been identified for both US 29 STARS studies listed above. County staff participated in stakeholder meetings to review the advanced alternatives in May 2026. The study team is developing public surveys to get feedback from residents on the advanced alternatives.

**Project Pipeline - 5th Street Corridor -** The purpose of this study of 5th Street from Pinehurst Court to Harris Road is to re-evaluate previous studies and unsuccessful SMART SCALE applications to refine and value engineer solutions that will have better potential for benefits in relation to cost. The study resulted in the concept that CA-MPO applied for funding in Round 7 of SMART SCALE.

**Project Pipeline - US 29/I-64 Exit 118 Interchange -** The purpose of this study, which includes U.S. Route 29 from Teel Lane to north of the Fontaine Avenue interchange, was to resolve the traffic back-up and safety concerns of the dual left-turn lane from U.S. Route 29 southbound to get onto I-64 eastbound. The study also looked at improving the small park and ride lot located on the east side of U.S. Route 29 northbound just south of the interchange on Teal Lane. This study has concluded with no preferred alternatives, however VDOT will continue the study of US 29 at I-64 Exit 118 as a new STARS study with expanded extents and a longer term view, as described below.

**Upcoming Studies:**

VDOT is preparing to kick-off three more studies in Albemarle County starting later this year. One of the studies will be an expansion of the US 29/I-64 Exit 118 Interchange study through the STARS program. The scope will be expanded to consider more comprehensive, longer-term solutions for the Exit 118 interchange. The traffic model extents will include the ramp junctions at the BUS US 250 (Ivy Road) ramps, the Fontaine interchange, the I-64/29 interchange at Exit 118, and the I-64/5$^{th}$ Street interchange at Exit 120 in order to account for impacts at the other interchanges within the area of influence.

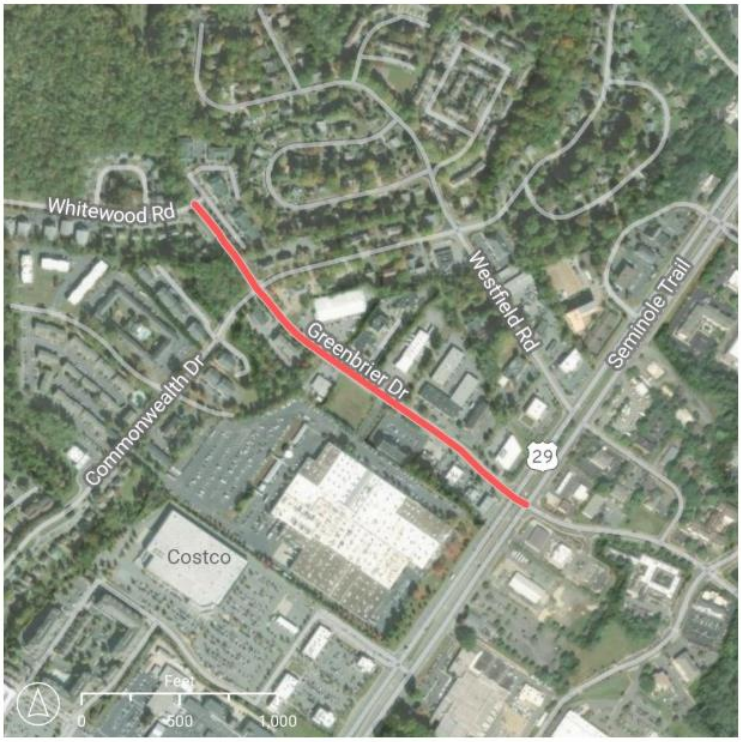
The second study will be a Project Pipeline study focused on the intersection of US 29 and Airport Road. The goals of this study are to improve safety, proactively improve capacity, and identify opportunities for multimodal improvements, including a pedestrian crossing of US 29 in the near vicinity.

The final study will primarily look at Route 29 in Greene County starting at Matthew Mills Road, but it will extend south into Albemarle County to the Route 29/Watts Passage intersection. The goals of this study are to improve safety and proactively improve capacity.

**Roadway Reconfiguration Program:**

Staff has kicked off two studies with VDOT's Traffic and Mobility Planning Division (TMPD) and the consultant team from Michael Baker focused on redesigning two sections of roadway in the County to include bike lanes: Greenbrier Drive from US 29 to Whitewood Road, and South Pantops Drive from Riverbend Drive to State Farm Boulevard. The objective of these studies is to present alternatives that include new striping of the roadways, which is being done in conjunction with the VDOT's repaving of these roads next year.

Preliminary alternatives were delivered in September, with final alternatives being decided in December. Both studies are funded through VDOT, and it is anticipated that the cost of restriping roads will be borne by VDOT as well. These projects will be completed next year when repaving of both roads



happens.

The image on the left shows the Greenbrier Drive project scope; the image on the right shows the South Pantops Drive project scope.

**Park Ridge Drive Traffic Calming Study:**

Staff kicked off a traffic calming study of Park Ridge Drive between Hill Top Street and Lake Tree Lane in March 2026, in accordance with VDOT's traffic calming process for neighborhood streets. Speed and

traffic count data were collected in April 2026. County staff conducted an engineering field review with consultant EPR in June 2026. County staff worked with EPR to develop several potential concepts for traffic calming.

County staff are currently working with VDOT to confirm the appropriateness of Park Ridge Drive for traffic calming per VDOT requirements based on the field review, speed study, and traffic counts so that the process can proceed. The speed data collected in April 2026 is slightly under VDOT's threshold for eligibility.

### Free Bridge Lane Promenade Pilot Program

Per Board direction staff developed a Free Bridge Lane Promenade Pilot Program which concluded in late 2025. After the successful pilot the promenade will become a permanent amenity closed to public vehicular traffic.

Last summer, staff presented a summary of the pilot promenade program to the Board, and the Board instructed staff to begin the discontinuance process with VDOT. Staff had to return to the Board with a new Resolution of Discontinuance on September 2. Staff intend to apply for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant to pursue funding for additional site improvements. On December 18, 2025, staff met with VDOT, ACPR, and the initial project consultants to walk the site and discuss the scope of improvements. Staff have requested a scope of services and fee to complete a feasibility study.

### FY28-34 Secondary Six Year Plan (SSYP)

The SSYP allocates funding for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of roads in the state secondary system – including the hard surfacing of unpaved roads. The SSYP identifies the Telefee and Unpaved District Grant funds for Albemarle County for the upcoming fiscal year and projects allocations of these funds for the following five fiscal years. The SSYP is updated and approved by the Board of Supervisors annually.

There were also changes made to the Rural Rustic Roads process. Now, residents are responsible for collecting signatures and demonstrating support to staff before VDOT conducts a review of the road. Additionally, roads that fail to demonstrate support are recommended to be added to the "Maintained Gravel Roads" list by Board vote and are ineligible to be requested again for six years. The BOS adopted the FY 27 SSYP at the May 20 public hearing and had questions about the process and for the newly proposed Unpaved Road Improvement Program (URIP) process. Staff returned on September 2 to clarify updates on the URIP process.

## Transportation Project Construction

Projects currently in design and/or under construction are listed and described below. Timelines for public hearings (when relevant) and expected construction beginning and completion dates (when available) are listed for each project.

**(SMART)** Funded by SMART SCALE
**(RS)** Funded by Revenue Sharing
**(TA)** Funded by Transportation Alternatives
**(HSIP)** Funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program
**(CIP)** Funded by Albemarle County's Capital Improvement Program

## VDOT Administered

### In Design

**Route 20/Route 53 Intersection Improvements:** This project will convert the intersection into a roundabout and include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. Albemarle County committed $1 million to this project.

This project has been fast-tracked by VDOT and incorporated into the Albemarle Design-Build Bundle #2. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023 (at the National Guard Armory and at The Center at Belvedere), and construction is expected to begin in Fall 2026. **(SMART)**

**I-64/Exit 107 Crozet Park and Ride Lot**: This project will construct a park and ride lot at the corner of Patterson Mill Lane and US 250 just south of the I-64 interchange. Staff are coordinating with Crozet Connect and services to finalize the provision of services for this lot.

A public hearing for this project was held in late January 2024. Construction is expected to finish in Winter 2026. **(SMART)**

**Fontaine Avenue/29 Bypass Improvements:** This project will signalize ramps at Fontaine, close the current left-turn movement from northbound Rt 29 to westbound I-64, and construct a shared use path. This project does not include the construction of a loon near the intersection of Ray C. Hunt and Fontaine.

This project has been incorporated into a bundle to include the Hydraulic Road/District Avenue Roundabout and the City of Charlottesville's Fontaine streetscape project. A public hearing was held in Summer 2025, and construction is expected to begin in Fall 2026. **(SMART)**

**Fifth Street Hub and Trails:** This project will complete a shared use path that connects a commercial space adjacent to Fifth Street to the Fifth Street Station shopping center. This trail would be the first of a planned network of trails in the area to connect pedestrians and bicyclists to commercial and recreational amenities. VDOT has organized a staff-level stakeholder committee to assist in the development of this project; they met in February 2023 and again in July 2023.

A public hearing was held in late 2023, and clearing is expected to begin in Fall 2026. **(SMART)**

**Route 250 East Corridor Improvements:** This project will close the center turn lane with a median between the Route 20 intersection and Rolkin Rd with potential breaks at Hansen Rd, Town & Country Ln, and People Place for limited movements and additional right-turn lanes as necessary. Sidewalk gaps will also be addressed. Albemarle County committed $2 million to this project.

VDOT has bundled this project with Intersection Improvements at Route 20/US 250 to maximize cost efficiencies and minimize disruptions to US 250 corridor users. A public hearing was held in September 2024, and construction is expected to begin in Fall 2026. **(SMART)**

**Intersection Improvements at Route 20/US 250 in Pantops:** The project will rebuild the traffic signal, add additional turn lanes and reallocate other lanes, add a pedestrian crossing of US 250

and crossings of Route 20 and Riverbend Drive, close existing sidewalk gaps approaching the intersection, and update all pedestrian curb ramps in the VDOT right-of-way.

VDOT has bundled this project with Route 250 East Corridor Improvements to maximize cost efficiencies and minimize disruptions to US 250 corridor users. A public hearing was held in September 2024, and construction is expected to begin in Fall 2026. **(SMART)**

**Hydraulic Road/District Avenue Roundabout:** This is a proposed roundabout at the intersection of Hydraulic Road and District Avenue near Stonefield shopping center. This project was part of a previous and more comprehensive SMART SCALE application for the U.S. 29 and Hydraulic Road intersection. It was recommended as part of the Hydraulic/29 Small Area Plan and is identified as a priority project in CAMPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan.

This project has been incorporated into a bundle to include the Fontaine Avenue/29 Bypass Displaced Left-turn and the City of Charlottesville's Fontaine Streetscape project. A Citizen Information Meeting was held in June 2024. The public hearing happened Summer 2025, and construction is expected to begin in Spring 2027. **(SMART)**

**Avon Street Corridor Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: Druid Avenue to Avon Court:** The project will develop a package of multimodal transportation improvements along Avon Street between Druid Ave and Avon Court. Improvements include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, road widening on the west side of Avon Street, installing a drain underground and improving stormwater retention. A public hearing is planned for Fall 2026, and construction is expected to begin in Summer 2028. **(SMART)**

**Eastern Ave South (US 250 across Lickinghole Creek to Cory Farms Road):** This project was awarded funds through the Revenue Sharing program in 2023. Preliminary design work continues, County staff held a public hearing in August and will advertise the Request for Proposal (RFP) in October 2026. The Final engineering and design phase is anticipated to begin in early 2027, with construction starting in late 2028, and finishing in early 2030. **(CIP)**

**Berkmar Drive to Lewis & Clark Drive (Hollymead Town Center to Airport Road)**: This project will construct a new roadway with bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to continue Berkmar Dr to Airport Rd where a roundabout will be constructed to connect to Innovation Dr/Lewis and Clark Drive. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2028. **(RS)**

## In Construction

**Old Lynchburg Road/5$^{th}$ Street Extended Intersection Improvements:** This project will address failing operations at the entrance to the County Office Building on 5$^{th}$ St with a roundabout that includes pedestrian crosswalks. Albemarle County committed $2 million to this project.

This project has been fast-tracked by VDOT and incorporated into the Albemarle Design-Build Bundle #2. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023 (at the National Guard Armory and at The Center at Belvedere), and construction began in late 2025, with expected completion in Fall 2027. **(SMART)**

**Rio Road/John Warner Parkway Intersection Improvements:** This project will construct a roundabout to address identified traffic issues at the intersection and improve pedestrian and bike facilities. Albemarle County committed $2 million to this project.

This project has been fast-tracked by VDOT and incorporated into the Albemarle Design-Build Bundle #2. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September 2023 (at the National Guard Armory and at The Center at Belvedere), and construction began in Spring 2026 with expected completion in fall 2027. **(SMART)**

**Belvedere Boulevard/Rio Road Intersection Improvements:** This project would install a continuous green-T intersection treatment. With the continuous green-T, vehicles traveling along Rio Road would continue through the intersection without stopping. Vehicles turning left onto Rio Road from Belvedere Boulevard would use a channelized receiving lane on Rio Road to merge onto Rio Road eastbound. It is still to be determined whether this intersection treatment will be signalized. This project may include an at-grade pedestrian crossing of Belvedere.

This project has been fast-tracked by VDOT and incorporated into the Albemarle Design-Build Bundle #2. Two public hearings for this project were held in late September (at the National Guard Armory and at The Center at Belvedere), and construction began in Spring 2026 with expected completion in Fall 2027. **(SMART)**

**US 29 Shared Use Path (Seminole Lane North to Carrsbrook Drive):** This project will construct a shared-use path on the east side of US 29 from Seminole Lane to Carrsbrook Drive. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2026. **(SMART)**

## Albemarle County Administered

### In Design

**Library Avenue Extension/ Barnes Lumber Redevelopment** – Right-of-way acquisition for this project is underway, and the project was expected to begin construction by spring 2026. The project has been advertised and bid, bids were higher than expected and staff are considering alternatives and revising the schedule. **(NIFI)**

**Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – This project will design and construct an approximately 1.1 mile long Shared-use Path along Berkmar Drive from the Woodbrook Road intersection to the Hilton Heights Road roundabout. The Right-of-Way phase has begun, and the project is expected to be advertised in early 2027. **(RS)**

**Hydraulic Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements –**This project will design and construct an improved intersection of Whitewood Road, Lambs Road, and Hydraulic Road, right-in-right-out the entrance to High School Center II, construct a Continuous Green T at the intersection of Georgetown Road and Hydraulic Road, and construct a shared-use path from Lambs Road to Georgetown Road on the north side of Hydraulic Road. **(RS)**

### In Construction

**Commonwealth Dr./Dominion Dr. Pedestrian Improvements –** This project will design and construct approximately 2,500 feet of sidewalk on Commonwealth Drive from Hydraulic Road to Peyton Drive (east side); and along Dominion Drive from Commonwealth Drive to US 29 (north

side). Project construction is currently underway and expected to be completed by the end of 2026**. (RS)**

**Old Lynchburg Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – This project would construct an enhanced sidewalk and multiple crosswalks along Old Lynchburg Road between Timberland Park Apartments and the Rivanna Trail trailhead south of Azalea Park to improve pedestrian safety and mobility. This project would include a crosswalk across Old Lynchburg Road (the Apartments are on the west side of the roadway, and the park is on the east side). Funding to complete design has been identified. Construction is currently underway with substantial completion expected in October 2026. **(CIP)**

# Transit

## Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA)

Staff attended the May (Regular), and June (Special called) CARTA Board meetings hosted by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC). At the May meeting the consultant for the Transit Prioritization Study presented the list of consolidated projects that will be prioritized for implementation. At the June meeting, CARTA welcomed several special guests, including Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) Director, Mariia Zimmerman and Grant Sparks, DRPT's Director of Statewide Transit Programs. Mr. Sparks presented an overview of DRPT and the funding programs the Department supports. Additionally, Chet Parsons from Central Virgina Transportation Authority (CVTA) also attended to present an overview of the organization. CARTA meetings will continue to be held bi-monthly.

## Transit Stop Improvements

Staff continue to work with Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) and stakeholders to make improvements to transit stops throughout Albemarle County. CAT is currently expanding service south of Charlottesville on Route 2. City and County staff are coordinating with a jail to have a stop next to their property that is connected to their new front entrance. Albemarle County staff are assisting with stop location, stakeholder input, and communication with property owners about installing more stops. Improvements include the installation of shelters, benches or other seating, and/or minor alterations to routing or stop locations that are intended to improve safety and/or convenience for transit users.

Other transit stop improvement efforts may be coordinated with other transportation planning/construction projects – such as improvements to Commonwealth Drive transit stops. These improvements may be coordinated with proposed developments that can offer additional stop locations or amenities. Additional sites for new stop amenities will be prioritized based on ridership and partnership potential in coordination with CAT.

## Microtransit Service

Charlottesville Area Transit has been operating MicroCAT, a microtransit service throughout the Places 29 and Pantops Development Areas, since October 30th, 2023. The service was initially funded through a pilot program grant from the Department of Rail and Public Transit and a County local match for two years. CAT has contracted with VIA as the provider for this service. Ridership quickly increased before reaching the relative maximum number of weekly rides possible under the current contract amount. The County, VIA, and CAT have been meeting regularly to review operations and plan for the potential future

of the service. As part of the annual budget discussions the Board has provisioned for the continuation of the service through the end of FY27.

## 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 (TIA) 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:

- **North Pointe Rezoning and TIA** – Rezoning proposal in the northern part of the Places 29 Development Area across US 29 from North Fork. This would amend a Rezoning to remove some commercial square footage and add residential units. It was approved by the BOS on April 1, 2026. Staff is currently awaiting site plan submittals.
- **Belvedere Rezoning and Site Development Plan for Phase IV** – Rezoning to amend proffers from Belvedere Neighborhood Model District and develop the Phase IV by-right section for residential uses. It is currently under review by staff.
- **Attain on 5th** – A proposal to rezone the Cavalier Crossing Apartments on 5th Street Extended from R-10 to PRD to increase the number of units from 144 to 309 units. Attain on 5th would move away from a student housing model and would focus on being a standard multi-family model. This project has gone to the Planning Commission and will be scheduled for the Board later this year.
- **Rubin Lane** – A rezoning adjacent to the Holly Hills development, proposals include multifamily housing or townhomes, or single-family detached homes. Staff are currently reviewing the proposal.
- **Hollymead Town Center** – A rezoning for the rest of the previously applied for Hollymead Town Center was submitted this spring. The new rezoning proposes the addition of 1,500 to 2,400 housing units and between 150,000 and 350,000 square feet of commercial space across 139 acres. Staff is currently awaiting resubmittal
- **Gander North Residences** – This residential rezoning would span the undeveloped spaces along US 29 by Carrsbrook Road. The proposal is between 80 and 237 residential units including amenities. Gander North is going to the Board later this year
- **Mimosa Drive** – This proposed rezoning would add a maximum of 375 residential units adjacent to Fontaine Avenue and the City of Charlottesville. Staff is awaiting resubmittal
- **Cornerstone Village** – This proposed rezoning would add between 42 and 147 residential units along Berkmar Drive Ext. in the location where the funded Berkmar Drive/Airport Road expansion is planned. Staff are currently reviewing the proposal.
- **1195 Seminole Trail** – This rezoning is a new submittal of what was formerly known as "1193 Seminole Trail" ZMA202300001. This project would add up to 165 residential units and between 4,000 and 10,000 square feet of commercial space at the Cville Oriential location. Staff are currently reviewing the proposal.

## Reported Transportation Issues

Staff have been engaged in addressing local concerns related to a variety of transportation issues. Staff have 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 monthly traffic coordination meetings with VDOT, Albemarle County Police Department, and other agencies. The following is a list of the primary issues staff has been working on in this quarter.

All speeding concerns should be directed to ACPD using their website: Have a traffic safety concern? | Albemarle County, VA. Speeding complaints will no longer be documented by CDD unless ACPD finds a significant speeding concern, in which case CDD, ACPD, and VDOT will follow the approved process to pursue potential traffic calming solutions.