

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

October 2016

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 Vice-Chair	Currently attending meetings on a regular basis as scheduled (first meeting on Sept 20). Initial work on upcoming development of the next LRTP for the MPO, Smart Scale projects, and the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan*
MPO Policy Board	Every other Month	VDOT, City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle	Attend meetings as staff support	Currently attending meetings on a regular basis as scheduled (first meeting on Sept 28)
MPO CTAC (MPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee)	Attend Meetings as needed	Members appointed by the BOS	Attend meeting as needed based on topics	Active and Ongoing
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 Rte. 250 west corridor to the Committee in their advisory role.	Met on 09/08/2016 and updated Committee on the 3 potential Smart Scale Grant projects to be submitted within the 250 West Corridor, the STARS project, the 250 bridge over Little Ivy Creek Replacement, and status of the Sidewalk project near Radford Lane*
TJPDC Rural Transportation Technical Committee	3rd Tuesday every other month	Designated staff representatives of TJPDC localities and agencies	Committee Member	Currently attending meetings on a regular basis as scheduled (first meeting on Sept 20)

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Rt. 29 Solutions Advisory Committee (PDAP) Project Development Advisory Panel	Every other Thursday (bi-weekly)	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	Attended meetings in early August and mid-September to hear status of ongoing Route 29 projects and take a tour of the Berkmar Dr Project. Will remain involved through current projects and assist in the development of future projects
Facilities and Environmental Services Department (FES) Capital Improvements project status meeting	Once a month	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	Following nine ongoing sidewalk/pedestrian improvement projects and evaluating next year's candidate projects*
City of Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee	Once a Month	City appointed citizens	Attend intermittently as a guest to improve communication between the city and county on regional bicycle and pedestrian issues and projects	Attended in September and discussed maintenance issues and potential coordination on a number of upcoming projects*
Parks and Recreation Department Coordination Meeting	Once a Month	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	Met in September to discuss ongoing work to provide recreation access and amenities in conjunction with the Berkmar Bridge and Rio Mills Rd/ Rivanna River access and connections to the Southern Neighborhoods from the City
Regional Transit Study Stakeholder Group	As needed	Representatives from CAT, MPO/TJPDC, UVA, DRPT, City and County	Represent the County's interests in this ongoing Study to evaluate the options to better coordinate regional public transit programs	Met on September 21 to hear updates on this ongoing Study process. Results of the survey and updated timeline were shared. Should be complete in November and go to PAC in February

Committee/Meetings	Timing	Entities	Role/Action(s)	Status
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	Meeting scheduled for October 21
VDOT Traffic Meeting	Monthly	VDOT Residency and District Staff	Represent the County and keep updated on VDOT programs and projects under development	Attended first meeting in August and discussed local requests, HSIP project development, agency priorities

*Additional project details provided below

Projects and Assignments

2016 Smart Scale Applications

Applications for the second round of Smart Scale submissions were due on September 30th. Based on prior discussions with the Board of Supervisors, most recently at the August 3rd Board Meeting, County and MPO staff moved forward with submissions for the projects described below. These projects were identified through previous prioritization efforts, Board direction, and ability to compete for funding. Two previously discussed projects were broken up into two separate projects each to improve scoring potential. Resolutions are not required from the Board on these submissions. Projects can be removed at any time at the Board's discretion.

TJPD/CAMPO Project Submissions

- 1. I-64 Exit 118** - The proposal for Exit 118 includes a "partial cloverleaf loop ramp conversion." This would result in a southbound left-turn on 29/250 and closure of the southwest loop of the interchange. This would be a cost-effective way to improve safety, eliminating weaving movements within the interchange.
- 2. Fontaine Ave** - This improvement would include an additional lane on the northbound side of 29/250 that takes motorist onto Fontaine Avenue. This is a cost-effective way to minimize weaving and improve safety.
- 3. Exit 124/US 250 Improvements** - For the Shadwell Exit, MPO staff are preparing an application for a diverging diamond on US250. This approach will minimize potential conflicts between vehicles and provided the most cost-effective option for improving safety. VDOT staff prepared the concept, in response to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

4. Free Bridge/US 250 Improvements - The Free Bridge proposal includes several different components as follows:

- a. Intersection improvements at US 250/Rt 20 and US250/East High Street;
- b. Additional lanes on the existing deck of Free Bridge;
- c. An exclusive lane for the Locust Grove ramp; and
- d. A new bike and pedestrian bridge across the river.

Albemarle County Project Submissions

- 5. US 250/Rt 151 Intersection Improvements** - Project would reconstruct the intersection of US 250 and Route 151 to address safety at this high traffic intersection through installation of a roundabout. Total request: \$6,450,000.
- 6. US 250 /Rt 240 Intersection Improvements** - Project would reconstruct the intersection of US 250, Route 240, and Route 680 to address safety at this high traffic intersection through installation of a roundabout. Total request: \$8,600,000.
- 7. Profit Rd/Rt 20 Intersection Improvements** - Project would reconstruct the intersection of Routes 20 (Stony Point Road) and 649 (Profit Road) to address safety at this high traffic intersection through installation of left turn lanes. Total request: \$4,500,000.
- 8. US 250/Radford Lane Intersection Improvements** - Project would construct a roundabout and pedestrian crossing at the intersection of US 250, Radford Lane, and the entrance to the Blue Ridge Shopping Center to improve traffic management and pedestrian safety. Total request: \$7,250,000.
- 9. Berkmar Drive Rio Mills Connection** - Project would construct a 1/4 mile, 2-lane roadway connecting the existing Rio Mills Road to Berkmar Drive Extended (under construction) to address the use of a deficient unpaved road by trucks and other local through traffic on Earlysville Road and improve network connectivity in the area. Total request: \$4,150,000.
- 10. Meeting St (Berkmar Drive) Extension to Airport Road** - Project would construct a new roadway extension from the current stub out of Meeting St (Berkmar Dr) to Airport Rd. Total request: \$7,950,000.
- 11. Innovation Drive Extension to Lewis & Clark Drive** - Project would construct a new roadway extension from the current stub out of Innovation Drive to the existing Lewis & Clarke Dr. Total request: \$11,000,000.

Other Major Highway Projects

Transportation staff has engaged in discussions on additional projects to evaluate the potential to advance planning, design, and construction work through a variety of methods including CIP, Revenue Sharing, HSIP, future Smart Scale, etc. Following is a description of the highway projects that staff has been discussing which were identified through the Board's priorities, recommendations from partner agencies including VDOT, the work of the MPO, and to support ongoing projects.

Preliminary Engineering on Meeting St (Berkmar Drive) Extension to Airport Road/ Innovation Drive Extension to Lewis & Clark Drive – This Smart Scale application is recommended to have PE funded through the CIP Revenue Sharing application. Smart Scale funding will not be available until 2021 so funding the PE through the CIP and Revenue Sharing program will allow construction to begin as early as 2021 depending on a funding award.

US Route 29/Hydraulic/Hillsdale Area Transportation Development – County transportation staff has held discussions through the MPO TAC and individually with MPO staff on initiating an evaluation of transportation resources in this area. MPO staff supports redirecting available, existing funds to begin to look at potential improvements for the Hydraulic Road/US Route 29 Intersection.

Crozet Eastern Connector – Connections between the segments currently being constructed by developers and the existing highway system are being evaluated to determine potential location, design, and funding opportunities, as well as the connections to the existing and proposed transportation network.

US 250 East Improvements – Staff has begun to examine potential opportunities to fund the proposed widening of US 250 East between I-64 and Rivanna Village.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities and planning are an important part of the County's transportation system. Transportation planning staff has been focused on a number of ongoing and future projects in order to assist in the development, prioritization, and identification of funding for these projects.

Current Sidewalk Construction Projects

- Avon Street Extended
- US 250 West near Radford Lane
- Rio Road from Dunlora to Pen Park
- South Pantops Dr/State Farm Boulevard
- Barracks Rd near Georgetown Rd and Hessian Hills
- Hydraulic Rd west of Stonefield
- Crozet Ave North
- Ivy Rd near the bypass
- Old Lynchburg Rd Walkway

Proposed Near-term Projects

- **SRTS Project for Cale E.S.** – Pedestrian crosswalk on Avon and internal sidewalks on school property.
- **Avon Street Extended Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – Construction of a multi-use trail or sidewalks and on-street bike facilities from the southern City line to existing/under construction facilities near Mill Creek Dr.
- **Pedestrian Crosswalk of US 250 East in the Pantops Area** – Investigating potential for different locations with most likely location at State Farm Blvd connecting to the current sidewalk project.

Additional Projects for Consideration

- **Pen Park Dr pedestrian Improvements (Rio Rd to Pen Park)** – This was removed from the Rio Rd sidewalk project currently in development but still a priority to connect Pen Park. Looking at alternatives to address VDOT/Rivanna Water and Sewer issues and maintenance concerns.
- **Avon St Extended Pedestrian and Bike Improvements (5th St Parkway to City)** – Improvements could be coordinated with the City to provide connections, in addition to those planned and programmed, for the Southern Neighborhoods around Avon Street Extended all the way into the City.

Local Issues

Staff has been engaged in addressing local concerns related to a variety of transportation issues including the following:

- **Rheas Ford Rd thru-truck restrictions** – Provided a brief assessment of the issues to concerned neighborhood representatives. Staff’s assessment recommended delaying consideration until after the completion of the 29 Solutions projects.
- **Batesville/Plank Road thru truck restriction and speeding issues** – Discussion to implement traffic calming measures which will require community support (75% of affected neighbors) and a Board Resolution for design exception waiver. Met with concerned residents and VDOT to discuss options.
- **Rural Rustic Road Paving Program** – Staff receives and responds to requests for information on current and future paving projects under this program.
- **Secondary Street Acceptance Program** – Staff receives and responds to requests for information on the need to identify and follow through with the acceptance of private roads into the public maintenance program under this program.

Public Transit Program

- **Communication/Coordination with Transit Providers** - There is a desire to improve communications between the County (including both the Board of Supervisors and Community Development staff) and the various transit providers in the region. Staff has reached out to the Director of CAT to open discussions and provided an assessment of potential options to Board members represented on the MPO. Additionally, the County is participating in the Regional Transit Study to identify ways to improve transit service delivery and planning overall.
- **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 are being evaluated 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.
 - **Hollymeade** – 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 Hollymeade area to the City of Charlottesville.
 - **Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry** – Transportation staff has been in contact with the Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes in an attempt to address the need for transit service to their new location on Lamb’s Road. Pantry averages about 1500-1600 clients monthly since moving to this location, which is a drop from around 1700 clients. CAT was asked about potential service but sees no possibility for a deviation of Route 5 because of an already tight schedule. Potential for a shuttle is being evaluated however, this is a high cost solution. Staff has been working with the Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes to identify potential solutions.

Charlottesville –Albemarle MPO

Staff is involved in a number of projects being developed by the MPO as well as attending meetings of the MPO TAC, Policy Board, and sub-committees as needed. Current projects include the update of the MPO LRTP, the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the Regional Transit Study.

STARS Project: US 250 (Ivy Road) Corridor Improvement Study

VDOT has initiated a STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) Program project for the US 250 West Corridor in Albemarle County. This program is intended to develop solutions to reduce crashes and congestion bottlenecks using a data-driven approach. An initial meeting has been held and the project is currently in the data collection phase with a field visit planned for mid-October.

Development Review

On an as needed basis, transportation staff provides assistance with Community Development Department's reviews of 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 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.

Charlottesville-Albemarle Transportation MOU

Staff has been asked to assist in the coordination of transportation programs with the City of Charlottesville as it relates to the MOU signed between the County and City in October of last year. Areas where this coordination is occurring include public transit, including access to the Charlottesville Regional Airport, signage and traffic control, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. Staff has been in contact with the program heads related to these areas in the City and setting up processes to facilitate improved coordination and identifying areas where there has been improved coordination in the recent past.

Woodbrook Elementary School Traffic Impact Study

Staff has provided assistance to Albemarle County Schools Department in the development of the scope and technical support related to the Woodbrook Elementary School Traffic Impact Assessment being conducted in response citizen concerns surrounding the expansion of this school.

Transportation Project Prioritization

The Board 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. These projects are either candidates for State or Federal Grant/Funding Programs or as additions to the Capital Improvement Program. Transportation staff has begun evaluating a potential performance based system to rank these projects throughout the county to insure that staff and fiscal resources are properly focused to address the highest transportation priorities in an efficient manner. Over the next year and a half, staff intends to present a potential system of metrics by which all types of transportation projects can be uniformly scored and ranked to provide the Board with the best possible information in order to determine which projects it would like to put efforts toward. Once in place, this

system will be reviewed and updated regularly to identify projects to submit grant applications for, or to put local resources toward.

Scenic Byway designation

Staff has received interest from Greene County on potential Scenic Byway designation on Rt 810 from Crozet, through Stanardsville, and then out Rt 230 to Madison.

VTRANS Needs Assessment

Staff has been working with the State Secretary of Transportation's office on the registration of Albemarle County's Development Areas as Designated Growth Areas for the purposes of statewide planning and to become eligible for future grant funding opportunities.