

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

January 2017

Standing Committees and Meetings/Workgroups

Committee/Meeting s	Entities	Role/Action(s)	Status
MPO Technical Committee (Every other Month)	VDOT, City of Charlottesville, and other localities	Committee Member (and Vice-Chair)	Attended only meeting held this quarter on November 15. Topics covered included SMART SCALE update, development of the next Long-Range Transportation Plan, status of the ongoing transit organizational study, and regional travel demand modeling
MPO Policy Board (Every other Month)	VDOT, City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle	Attend meetings as staff support	No meetings were held this quarter
MPO CTAC (MPO 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 were held this quarter. However, email updates were provided on the ongoing STARS project and field visit to which members were invited, the 250 bridge over Little Ivy Creek Replacement for which a meeting was held and members were invited, and the issues regarding safety at the Tillman/250 intersection for which a meeting was held that members were invited to
TJPDC Rural Transportation Technical Committee (3rd Tuesday every other month)	Designated staff representatives of TJPDC localities and agencies	Committee Member	Attended meeting on November 15 th . Topics covered include the VDOT Rural Transportation Consulting Process, the development of the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Jefferson Area Bike Plan Update, and the Committee Bylaws

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Rt. 29 Solutions Advisory Committee (PDAP) Project Development Advisory Panel (Every other Thursday)	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 mid-November and mid-December meetings to hear status of ongoing and future Route 29 Solutions projects. 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	Attended October, November, and December meetings to follow status of eleven ongoing sidewalk/pedestrian improvement 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	Did not attend a meeting this quarter but continued communicating with the City Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator on projects and citizen requests including efforts to catalog unreported bicycle and pedestrian crashes.
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 November and December this quarter to discuss ongoing collaboration opportunities. December meeting was a field trip to evaluate sites along the Rivanna River, Avon Street, and the Fifth Street Station Parkway.
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	Did not meet this quarter but continued coordinating on the status of the project with staff from the MPO

Committee/Meetings	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	Attended meeting on October 21 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 meeting in November and discussed local requests, HSIP project development, agency priorities, and traffic and other studies ongoing
Community Advisory Committees (CACs meet monthly, transportation staff attends as needed or requested)	Appointed citizens, Board Representatives, Planning Commission representatives, County staff	CACs provide assistance, feedback, and input to County staff and the Board on community and county efforts related to implementation and support of the adopted Master Plan	Attended the Fifth & Avon CAC meeting in November and Hydraulic CAC in December to discuss ongoing transportation issues and projects and receive feedback and comments.

*Additional project details provided below

Projects and Assignments

2016 Smart Scale Applications

Applications for project funding through the second round of Smart Scale were submitted in September. Based on prior discussions with the Board of Supervisors, County and MPO staff moved forward with submissions for the projects listed below. These projects were identified through previous prioritization efforts, Board direction, and ability to compete for funding. All submitted projects were screened into the Smart Scale scoring process.

Statewide there were 436 applications totaling \$9.25 billion in funds. The Culpeper District had 35 applications totaling \$330 million. There is approximately \$700 – 750 million available through the Statewide High Priority Project program and \$24.5 – 27.5 million available in the Culpeper District program.

TJPD/CAMPO Project Submissions

1. **I-64 Exit 118**
2. **Fontaine Ave**
3. **Exit 124/US 250 Improvements**
4. **Free Bridge/US 250 Improvements**

Albemarle County Project Submissions

5. **US 250/Rt 151 Intersection Improvements**
6. **US 250 /Rt 240 Intersection Improvements**
7. **Profit Rd/Rt 20 Intersection Improvements**
8. **US 250/Radford Lane Intersection Improvements**
9. **Berkmar Drive Rio Mills Connection**
10. **Meeting St (Berkmar Drive) Extension to Airport Road**
11. **Innovation Drive Extension to Lewis & Clark Drive**

Revenue Sharing Applications 2016

Applications for funding under the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program were submitted in November. Based on prior discussions with the Board of Supervisors, County 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.

- **Preliminary Engineering (to fully design and engineer) Meeting St (Berkmar Drive) Extension to Airport Road and Innovation Drive Extension to Lewis & Clark Drive**
- **Avon Street Extended Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements**
- **Pedestrian Crosswalk of US 250 East in the Pantops Area** (This project was subsequently proposed to be added to the existing sidewalk project on State Farm Boulevard and is going through the review and approval process currently with expected construction Spring 2017)

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.

US Route 29/Hydraulic/Hillsdale Area Transportation Development – County transportation staff has continued to work with the MPO on initiating the evaluation of potential transportation improvements in this area. The State has agreed to redirect available, existing funds to begin to look at potential improvements for the Hydraulic Road/US Route 29 Intersection as the next phase of the Route 29 Solutions projects.

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. Staff has also looked into the potential to improve the scoring in a future Smart Scale application round through inclusion of a Park and Ride lot at the intersection of the future Eastern Connector and Rt 240.

US 250 East Improvements – Staff has begun to examine potential opportunities to fund future improvements 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 including a pedestrian crossing of US 250
- Rio Road from Dunlora to Pen Park
- South Pantops Dr/State Farm Boulevard including a pedestrian crossing of US 250
- 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.

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 Station 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.
- **SRTS Project for Jouett MS and Greer ES** – Recommended in the School Travel Plan completed in 2012, the first Phase of improvements calls for construction of bicycle and pedestrian improvements to connect from the Greer/Jouett campus along Lambs Ln and Lambs Rd to Hydraulic Rd.
- **Maintenance of Sidewalks and other facilities within the County's older urban neighborhoods** – Many of the transportation facilities within the County's older neighborhoods are in need of maintenance as well as 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.

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 at this time as requests/concerns are brought to our attention. This quarter's local issues include the following:

- **Rheas Ford Rd thru-truck restrictions** – Provided a brief assessment of and responses to 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 and speeding issues** – Continued discussion of the implementation of traffic calming measures with community members and VDOT.
- **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.
- **Carrsbrook Neighborhood speeding issues** – Staff has continued discussion regarding potential traffic calming measures.
- **Routes 22 and 231 (Louisa Rd and Gordonsville Rd) Speeding and Truck Length Restrictions** – Evaluating local concerns related to speeding and truck lengths.
- **White Hall Road Speeding and Truck Traffic issues**
- **Esmont Road Speeding issues**
- **Lockwood Dr Parking issues**

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.
 - **Hollymead** – 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.
 - **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. There is an additional concern regarding traffic levels during operating hours at this location. Staff has been working with the Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes to identify potential solutions.

- **Crozet Commuter Service** – Staff met with JAUNT and UVA partners to discuss the potential commuter bus service between Crozet and Charlottesville. Initial proposal is to serve UVA staff and faculty but looking to expand to all residents in the future. The need for an improved Crozet area Park and Ride is identified with this program.

Development Review

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. Major projects reviewed this quarter include:

- Barnes Lumber (Crozet)
- North Pointe (Places 29)
- Woolen Mills (Southern Neighborhood)
- Riverside Village (Pantops)
- Regents School (Samuel Miller)
- Foothills Daily (Crozet)
- Adelaide (Crozet)
- Brookhill (Places 29)

Development of the Secondary Six-Year Improvement Program

The County receives State funds under a number of programs that are organized into the Secondary Six-Year Improvement Program (SSYIP). These funds assist the County and VDOT on improvements to Secondary Roadways. The programs primarily include Rural Rustic Roads and other paving programs as well as Rural Additions, Maintenance, and Traffic Calming. County staff receives requests for paving and other improvements, collects data on the roadway, and prioritizes the projects. These will be presented to the Board in early Spring for approval in the SSYIP.

On projects that have come up for paving, adjacent landowners will be notified and afforded the opportunity to comment prior to the adoption of final Board Resolution requesting the paving. This year three new projects are scheduled to be paved and landowners have been notified. Resolutions will be requested in February. The three projects are:

- Keswick Road (Rivanna District)
- Preddy Creek Road (Rivanna District)
- Patterson Mill Lane (Samuel Miller District)

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 Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the Regional Transit Study.

US 250 West Corridor

STARS Project - VDOT has initiated a STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) Program project for the US 250 West Corridor between US 29 and Route 240 in Albemarle County. This program is intended to develop solutions to reduce crashes and congestion bottlenecks using a data-driven approach. A field visit occurred in November to evaluate on-the-ground safety issues and begin to formulate recommendations for improvements. The next step will be the development of a report on the safety conditions which will be presented to stakeholders.

Tillman/250 Intersection – Attended a community meeting to discuss safety issues at intersection of Tillman and 250. Staff and VDOT have continued to follow up on potential improvements and will wrap some recommendations into the STARS Report.

Little Ivy Creek Bridge Replacement – Replacement of the US 250 Bridge over Little Ivy Creek will occur in Summer 2018. Community outreach on this project is underway with a public design meeting scheduled for January 10.

Charlottesville-Albemarle Transportation MOU

Staff has been working in 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.

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. Staff is currently working on an interim update which will be presented to the Board in the late Spring to reaffirm existing priorities. A future Board work session will likely be needed to discuss this process.