

# Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

April 2017

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## Projects and Assignments

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### 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.

Staff recommendations for funding were presented to the CTB based on the scoring and available funding. Five Albemarle County projects were recommended for funding as noted below.

### TJPD/CAMPO Project Submissions

1. **I-64 EB Exit 118 on-ramp**
2. **I-64 WB Exit 118/NB Rt 29/Fontaine Ave** - Total request: \$2,900,000; Recommended for Funding
3. **Exit 124/US 250 Improvements** - Total request: \$18,400,000; Recommended for Funding
4. **Free Bridge/US 250 Improvements**

### Albemarle County Project Submissions

5. **US 250/Rt 151 Intersection Improvements** - Total request: \$4,750,000; Recommended for Funding
6. **US 250 /Rt 240 Intersection Improvements**
7. **Profit Rd/Rt 20 Intersection Improvements** - Total request: \$4,000,000; Recommended for Funding
8. **US 250/Radford Lane Intersection Improvements**
9. **Berkmar Drive Rio Mills Connection** - Total request: \$1,315,810; Recommended for Funding
10. **Meeting St (Berkmar Drive) Extension to Airport Road**
11. **Innovation Drive Extension to Lewis & Clark Drive**

All scoring has been reviewed and verified with no changes to the scores of Albemarle County projects. The CTB is currently reviewing the recommendations and considering potential revisions. The April CTB meeting will be held in the Culpeper District and will be a good opportunity to discuss Albemarle County's needs related to transportation. A public hearing is proposed for April 25<sup>th</sup> in Culpeper to discuss transportation needs and proposals and the Six-Year Plan.

### 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)

The Secretary's office has released the funding scenario for the FY 18 Revenue Sharing projects (applications made in Calendar year 2016) and the funding only allowed awards to those projects that qualified at the Tier 1 level. The Tier 1 level only includes projects that have previously been approved for Revenue Sharing funding. This does not include any projects submitted by Albemarle County.

### Other Major Transportation 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. 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.

A pre-scoping meeting was held with the consultants selected by the state to perform the Land Use Study for the area surrounding the intersection. The timeline for this study runs until October of 2017. The meeting went over the purpose and outcomes of the study, the study area, expectations, assumptions, available data, and a public and advisory meeting schedule. The kick-off meeting for the Hydraulic Planning Advisory Panel was held on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff will continue to participate in the development of this plan.

#### 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. An option being evaluated to potentially improve scoring for this project in a future Smart Scale application would involve the inclusion of a Park and Ride lot near the intersection of the future Eastern Connector and Rt 240.

Staff toured the former ACME site which is currently the location of a site remediation project cleaning up from former illicit hazardous waste disposal. Discussed during the tour were the ongoing cleanup efforts and potential for site improvements to accommodate the Eastern Avenue Extension and potential Park and Ride location.

## 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.

## 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 the following ongoing and future projects related to the development, prioritization, and identification of funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects:

- Assisting the Project Management Division as needed on the following ongoing pedestrian/bicycle improvement projects:
  - Avon Street Extended near Mill Creek Drive
  - 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
  - Ivy Rd near the 29 bypass
  - Old Lynchburg Rd walkway
- Outlining a program to inventory bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the county and track progress in the improvement of those facilities.
- Staff is working with the TJPDC/MPO on the update to the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The first meeting of the technical committee will be held on April 10 and the expected completion date of the Plan is June of 2018.
- Staff has continued to work on development of a potential SRTS grant request for an infrastructure improvement project at Cale E.S. The project would develop a pedestrian crosswalk on Avon and internal sidewalks on school property.
- A second potential SRTS grant project is also being evaluated for Jouett MS and Greer ES. This project was recommended in the 2012 School Travel Plan and 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.
- 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.

## 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 is included as **Attachment A**.

## Public Transit Program

- **Regional Transit Partnership Discussions** - 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. The TJPDC/MPO recently presented the results of this study with the recommendation that a Regional Transit Partnership be formed. The TJPDC/MPO will be presenting the details of this organization to the Board on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Staff also prepared for and presented a transit background to the Board of Supervisors on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Following this presentation, a meeting was scheduled and held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss options with representatives from DRPT.
- **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** – 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.

## 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/discussed this quarter include:

- Barnes Lumber in downtown Crozet
- North Pointe on the east side of US 29 North in the Places 29 Development Area
- Regents School on Old Ivy Road
- Home Occupation special exception for Pilates studio in Crozet
- Brookdale Apartments in the Southern Neighborhood
- Earlysville Business Park
- Avinity Drive Rezoning

## 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 Program (SSYP) which assist the County and VDOT on improvements to Secondary Roadways. Paving programs make up the majority of projects in the SSYP although other items that may be included are Rural Additions, Maintenance, and Traffic Calming. County staff receives requests for paving and other improvements, collects data on the roadway, and prioritizes the projects. Staff has been working on the following items related to this program:

- Advancement of the three highest priority paving projects from last year's SSYP which are planned to begin this summer.
- Data collection and coordination with VDOT to develop an updated *Draft Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads*.
- Development of the Secondary-Six Year Plan Priorities and Recommendations Report being presented at the April 2017 Board meeting.
- Updating the *Unpaved Roads Policies and Review Process*
- Evaluating future funds and opportunities for use of past revenue surpluses.

## US 250 West Corridor

In addition to preparing for, holding, and following up on a US 250 West Task Force Meeting this quarter other ongoing projects include:

**STARS Project** - VDOT has continued to work on the 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. Staff reviewed the crash hotspots with the Route 250 Task Force at a meeting this quarter to open a discussion on potential solutions to safety concerns. 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.

## 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. 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 which will be presented to the Board at the May Board meeting.

## Standing Committees and Meetings/Workgroups

Committee/Meetings (Timing)	Entities	Role/Action(s)	Status
<b>MPO Technical Committee</b> (Every other Month)	VDOT, City of Charlottesville, and other localities	Committee Member (and Vice-Chair)	Attended both meetings held this quarter on January 17 & March 21. Topics included VTRANS 2025 Multimodal Transportation Plan, development of the next Long-Range Transportation Plan, TIP Updates, Regional Transit Study, I-64 Sp@ce Study, Rt 29 Solutions Projects, and general updates on transit and other ongoing programs and projects.
<b>MPO Policy Board</b> (Every other Month)	VDOT, City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle	Attend meetings as staff support	Attended both meetings held this quarter on January 25 & March 22. Topics included development of the next Long-Range Transportation Plan, TIP updates, a variety of ongoing Transit projects, and general updates on transit and other ongoing programs and projects.
<b>MPO CTAC (Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee)</b> (Attend Meetings as needed)	Members appointed by the BOS	Attend meeting as needed based on topics	Did not attend any meetings this quarter
<b>Rt. 250 West Advisory Committee</b> (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.	One meeting was held this quarter on February 14. Topics included replacement of Route 250 bridge over Little Ivy Creek, 250 West Corridor STARS Study, 250/Tillman Intersection Safety Concerns, Smart Scale/HSIP funding updates, 250/Cory Farms pedestrian improvements, a development update, and discussion on future transportation needs/projects

<b>Committee/Meetings (Timing)</b>	<b>Entities</b>	<b>Role/Action(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>TJPDC Rural Transportation Technical Committee</b> (3rd Tuesday every other month)	Designated staff representatives of TJPDC localities and agencies	Committee Member	Attended meetings on January 17 & March 21. Topics included VTRANS 2025 Multimodal Transportation Plan, the development of the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan, The Virginia State Rail Plan, Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the FY 18 Rural Transportation Work Plan.
<b>Rt. 29 Solutions Advisory Committee (PDAP) Project Development Advisory Panel</b> (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	Attended mid-January meeting 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
<b>Facilities and Environmental Services Department (FES) Capital Improvements project status meeting</b> (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 February, and March meetings to follow status of eleven ongoing sidewalk/pedestrian improvement projects
<b>City of Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee</b> (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 Spring Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts.
<b>Parks and Recreation Department Coordination Meeting</b> (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	Met in January, February, and March this quarter to discuss ongoing collaboration opportunities. February was a field trip to evaluate sites along throughout the Crozet development area.

<b>Committee/Meetings</b> (Timing)	<b>Entities</b>	<b>Role/Action(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Regional Transit Study Stakeholder Group</b> (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
<b>City/County/UVA Multi-modal Coordination Meetings</b> (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 January 13 with topics covering transit and bicycle and pedestrian improvements on West Main, Emmet St, and Jefferson Park Ave
<b>VDOT Traffic Meeting</b> (Quarterly)	VDOT Residency and District Staff	Represent the County and keep updated on VDOT programs and projects under development	Attended meetings in November and February and discussed local requests, HSIP project development, agency priorities, and traffic and other studies ongoing
<b>Community Advisory Committees</b> (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 Places 29 North CAC meeting in January and Crozet CAC in February to discuss ongoing transportation issues and projects and receive feedback and comments.