

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

July 2017

Projects and Assignments

VDOT FY 2018-2023 Six-Year Improvement Plan

Staff has been following the development of FY18-23 SYIP and working with the Virginia Department of Transportation through that process. On April 25, 2017 staff submitted comments and requests related to the Draft SYIP at the Public Hearing on the topic for the Culpeper District. The Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the FY 18-23 SYIP which included funding for the recommended Smart Scale, State of Good Repair, and Highway Safety Improvement Program projects for which Albemarle County, VDOT, and other agencies had requested funding. Following is a list of the major new projects funded through the SYIP:

1. **Profit Rd/Rt 20 Intersection Improvements** - \$4,000,000; PE beginning FY18; CN beginning FY22-23;
2. **I-64 EB Exit 118 on-ramp (removal of cloverleaf)** - \$1,000,000, PE beginning FY18, CN beginning FY19;
3. **I-64 WB Exit 118/NB Rt 29/Fontaine Ave** - \$2,900,000; PE beginning FY22;
4. **US 250/Rt 151 Roundabout** - \$5,800,000; PE beginning FY18;
5. **Exit 124/US 250 Improvements** - \$18,400,000; PE beginning 2022
6. **US 250 Bridge over Little Ivy Creek Replacement** - \$2,918,000; PE underway, CN FY19
7. **Watts Passage Road Bridge over Preddy Creek Replacement** - \$1,780,000; PE FY18, CN FY22
8. **Fontaine Ave Ext Bridge over Morey Creek Replacement** - \$1,900,000; PE in FY18, CN in FY22
9. **James River Road Bridge over Totier Creek Replacement** - \$3,020,000; PE ongoing, CN FY22
10. **Berkmar Drive Rio Mills Connection** - \$3,800,000; PE in FY21;
11. **US 250 /Rt 240 Intersection Improvements**

Albemarle County FY 2018-2023 Secondary Six-Year Plan

Staff has been working with VDOT on the development and approval of the Secondary Six Year Plan. The Plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors at their June 14 meeting. This plan includes funding for the priority paving projects, as well as two additional high priority transportation projects. Following is a list of the major projects funded through the SSYP within FY18:

1. **Completion of the paving of Bunker Hill Road**
2. **Paving Keswick Drive**
3. **Paving Preddy Creek Drive**
4. **Paving Patterson Mill Lane**
5. **Paving a segment of Dick Woods Road**
6. **Complete funding for construction of the Berkmar to Rio Mills Connector**
7. **Funding for a study to design the Berkmar to Lewis & Clark Connection**

The remaining funds for the out years, FY19-FY23, will primarily go to hard surfacing of unpaved secondary roads in the county in the prioritized approved by the Board with some additional money reserved for future construction of the Berkmar to Lewis & Clark Connector.

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 involved with which were identified through the Board's priorities, recommendations from partner agencies including VDOT, the work of the MPO, and to support ongoing projects.

Rio/29 Small Area Plan

Transportation staff has been heavily involved in this small area planning process for the area surrounding the Rio/29 intersection. This process has included an analysis of existing transportation facilities, internal meetings to develop information and a process to involve stakeholders and the public, and public and stakeholder meetings to gather feedback and ideas. Staff has then taken this information and been working to develop potential transportation improvement recommendations that could be funded through any number of identified processes.

Berkmar Drive to Lewis and Clark Drive Connection Project

Transportation staff has been working with VDOT, UVA Foundation representatives, and other Albemarle County Department personnel to identify funding to begin design and engineering studies for this high-priority transportation project. Surplus funds from projects completed under the old Secondary Roads funding program was moved into the Secondary Six Year Plan to be used to begin this process. The County is engaging with one of its on-call consultants under contract to begin scoping this design and engineering study.

US Route 29/Hydraulic/Hillsdale Area Transportation Project

County transportation staff has continued to follow the evaluation of land use and potential transportation improvements in the US 29/Hydraulic area. State 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. The goal of this process is to develop a preferred transportation improvement in time for the Fall 2018 Smart Scale application period. Transportation Staff is attending occasional meetings of the Hydraulic Project Advisory Panel, Public Meetings and Charrettes, and following through involvement on the C-A MPO.

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

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:

- Development of a bicycle and pedestrian facilities inventory in the county to track progress in the improvement of those facilities.
- Update to the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. With an expected completion date of the Plan is June of 2018.
- 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.
- Development of a potential SRTS grant project 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 has been developed and is reviewed and presented at monthly traffic coordination meetings with VDOT, Albemarle County Police Department, and other agencies.

Public Transit Program

- **Regional Transit Partnership Discussions** – Transportation staff continues to be engaged in the development of the Regional Transit Partnership which is intended to improve coordination and planning related to transit in the region. The C-A MPO is currently developing the Memorandum of agreement and Bylaws to organize this Partnership which will begin meeting in the next quarter.
- **Transit Development Plan** – Staff is engaged with JAUNT, CAT, DRPT, and the C-A MPO in the development of the update to the Regional Transit Development Plan. This plan is intended to assess the current transit needs and services in the Region and make recommendations for improvements and new services primarily focusing on the next six years but acknowledging the needs into the future.
- **CAT Transit Stop Improvements.** Staff is working with CAT to make improvements at a number of the most popular transit stops around the county. The improvements include installation of benches or other seating, shelters, or minor alterations in the routing or stop locations to improve safety, convenience, or circulation. The stops have been identified and improvements

recommended. Staff is currently working through the VDOT permitting process or private permissions to make these improvements.

- **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.
 - **Increased Service on Route 10** – The need for increased service on Route 10 in the Pantops has been identified in order to provide transportation choices to residents and employees that work or live in this area just outside of downtown Charlottesville. Staff plans to use the Transit Development Plan process to evaluate potential improvement and funding.

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:

- Arden Place II
- Dunlora Overlook
- Martha Jefferson Apartments
- Wintergreen Farm
- Belvedere

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. Staff presented the initial findings of this process at the May Board meeting. A final priority list will be presented at the August Board which will also include potential funding options for the Board's endorsement.

Public Engagement

Transportation staff has been involved in a number of community meetings to provide the public an opportunity to discuss transportation issues and needs with County staff. These engagement opportunities have included bus tours with the members of the Hydraulic and Rio Community Advisory Committees to visit and learn about ongoing developments and transportation improvements within their respective planning areas. Additionally, staff has held a number of community meetings to discuss ongoing transportation projects and to provide the public an opportunity to voice concerns related to transportation in their community.

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)	Attended the one meeting held this quarter on May 16. Topics included development of the next Long-Range Transportation Plan, the FY 18 Unified Planning and Work Program, the FY18-23 TIP, and general updates on transit and other ongoing programs and projects.
MPO Policy Board (Every other Month)	VDOT, City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle	Attend meetings as staff support	Attended the one meeting held this quarter on May 24, 2017. Topics included development of the next Long-Range Transportation Plan, the FY 18 Unified Planning and Work Program, the FY18-23 TIP, and general updates on transit and other ongoing programs and projects.
MPO CTAC (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 held this quarter but planning an upcoming meeting to discuss some new projects occurring on the Route 250 West Corridor.

Committee/Meetings (Timing)	Entities	Role/Action(s)	Status
TJPDC Rural Transportation Technical Committee (3rd Tuesday every other month)	Designated staff representatives of TJPDC localities and agencies	Committee Member	Attended the one meeting held this quarter on May 16, 2017. Topics included development of the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and upcoming STARS projects.
Rt. 29 Solutions Advisory Committee (PDAP) Project Development Advisory Panel (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
Facilities and Environmental Services Department (FES) Capital Improvements project status meeting (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 April, May, and June meetings to follow status of eleven ongoing sidewalk/pedestrian improvement projects
City of Charlottesville Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (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 the Annual Bike to Work Day and other bicycle project collaboration.
Parks and Recreation Department Coordination Meeting (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 April and May this quarter to discuss ongoing collaboration opportunities. Additional meetings were held related to ongoing collaboration on the Rio Mills boat launch and the Ivy Creek Natural Area access improvement project.

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	Attended meeting on January 13 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 meetings in May and June and discussed local requests, agency priorities, and ongoing traffic and other studies
Community Advisory Committees (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 Pantops CAC and Places 29 - Rio CAC meetings in June to discuss ongoing transportation issues and projects and receive feedback and comments.