

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

July 2018

Administrative Activities

- Attended the Rio CAC Meeting on 4/26/2018 to present on ongoing and proposed transportation projects in their district including the potential Smart Scale application for the Rio Road and Pen Park Road intersection.
- Attended the Commonwealth Transportation Board Spring Meeting on 5/7/2018 and provided comments on the proposed project funding and future County needs.
- Attended the VDOT Land Use Forum on 5/10/2018 and participated in a panel discussion on improving interactions between VDOT, the locality, and developers in application proceedings
- Researched Entrance Corridors in communities throughout Virginia and potential enabling legislation.
- Attended CA-MPO Tech Committee meeting on 5/15/2018 and Policy Board Meeting on 5/23/2018
- Attended TJPDC Rural Transportation Technical Committee Meeting on 5/15/2018
- Attended VDOT Traffic Meeting on 5/23/2018
- Organized and held a Route 250 West Task Force Meeting on 6/26/2018
- Assisted on the Biscuit Run Master Planning Process Kick-off Meeting on 6/19/2018 to present on Access and Connectivity Issues.

Albemarle County Transportation Priorities

County staff continues to work to advance the projects in the approved 2018 Albemarle County Transportation Priorities list. Advancement constitutes planning, funding, design and engineering, construction, or implementation of the project. The typical methods to advance these projects are through the biennial grant programs administered by the State and Federal transportation Agencies such as Smart Scale, Revenue Sharing, and Transportation Alternatives, among others. Separate pots of funding are also available through State and Federal sources for planning studies. Local sources of funding are available for any phase of a project, primarily through the Albemarle County Capital Improvement Program. Following is a summary of work currently underway to advance the projects through the major funding programs.

2018 Albemarle County Smart Scale Applications

The Smart Scale Grant program, which provides State and Federal funds for the design/engineering, right-of-way, and construction of transportation projects, is on a biennial cycle with application period open in the even numbered years. The pre-application period closed on June 1 and staff is now working on the development of the full application submittal for the candidate projects with a due date of August 1. Each entity has four available applications they are able to submit. The following projects, listed in priority order, have been identified as the Smart Scale grant 2018 applications for projects within Albemarle County by each agency:

Albemarle County Applications

1. **Route 20 (Stoney Point Road)/US 250 Richmond Road Intersection Improvements** - Project would add and reallocate lanes at the intersection to improve operations and safety at this key intersection. Additional improvements include closing gaps in the sidewalk network and constructing new signals to allow improved signalization.

2. **Berkmar Drive to Airport Road Connection** – Extend Berkmar Drive (formerly Meeting Street) north from Timberwood Blvd to Airport Road. Intersection at Airport Road may be reconstructed to a roundabout. Project would include sidewalks and bike lanes.

The design and engineering process for this project is already underway through a partnership between VDOT, UVA Foundation, and Albemarle County. The initial intent of beginning the design process was to improve its scoring potential in a Smart Scale application and bring the project to construction more rapidly. The UVA Foundation has now decided to move forward with construction on their own using the designs developed by the County. Staff is actively working on the design process and the Smart Scale grant with the intent of securing funding for this important project.

3. **Route 20 South (Scottsville Road) Improvements at Route 53 (Thomas Jefferson Parkway)** – Project intends to improve safety, operations, and bicycle and pedestrian access in the Route 20 Corridor through the Route 53 intersection. VDOT is currently evaluating potential improvement scenarios to determine the best options for cost to benefit ratio. These may include conversion of the intersection to a roundabout.
4. **Rio Road East/Pen Park Road Roundabout** – Convert intersection of Rio Road East and Pen Park Road from signalized 4-way intersection to a mini-roundabout including pedestrian facilities and traffic calming measures.

CA-MPO Applications

The Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization will be submitting three applications for components of the Hydraulic/29 Improvement Project.

5. **Barracks Road/SB 250/29 Bypass Ramp Right Turn Lane** – Project would realign lanes on eastbound Barracks Road to accommodate a right turn lane onto the SB 29 Bypass. Other elements included would be closure of the median to prevent some left turn movements and inclusion of a sidewalk along Barracks.

TJPDC Applications

7. **Fontaine Ave/US 29 Bypass Interchange Improvements** – Reconstruct Fontaine Ave at the US 29 Bypass Interchange to a diverging diamond interchange.
8. **US 29 Shared-Use Path to Carrsbrook Drive** – Construct a shared-use path from Seminole Lane, just south of the Rivanna River to Carrsbrook Drive. This project is a segment of Northtown Trail.
9. **Park and Ride Lot at Exit 107** - This project was not on First Tier Transportation Priority List but was identified as a need through the CA-MPO SHRP2 Interstate 64 Corridor Study. The proposal would add a new park and ride on the south side of the interchange.
10. **Frays Mill/US 29 Intersection Improvement** – Reconstruct this intersection into a possible R-cut intersection to improve safety.

Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative

The Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative (NIFI) included numerous projects related to transportation and the approved transportation priorities, which continues to require varying levels of transportation staff involvement. The transportation related projects that were ultimately selected by the CACs and the Board for funding through NIFI included the following:

- Cale Elementary School Crosswalk - See additional details under Transportation Alternatives below

- School-Pedestrian Connections (Albemarle-Jouett-Greer) - See additional details under Transportation Alternatives below
- The Crozet Square Improvements- See additional details under Revenue Sharing below
- East Rio Road Pedestrian Connections – This project is underway and being managed by FES Department
- Avon Street Extended Corridor Study- See additional details under Other Major Transportation Processes below
- Free Bridge pedestrian underpass– This project is underway and being managed by FES Department

Transportation Alternatives (Safe Routes to School) and Revenue Sharing Grants

The County was awarded funding for all submitted projects under the Transportation Alternatives (Safe Routes to School) and Revenue Sharing Grant programs. Funds will begin to be available late this summer to enter into design and engineering contracts at which time schedules that are more definitive will be developed through completion of the projects. Development and selection of the projects was based on Board direction, CAC guidance, and the work of county staff and consultant teams through the NIFI program. Following is a description of the submitted projects:

Revenue Sharing:

- **Commonwealth Dr./Dominion Dr. Pedestrian Improvements (FY20 funding)** - This project will construct three segments of sidewalk: 1) on Commonwealth from Hydraulic to Peyton Place, 2) on Commonwealth Dr from Commonwealth Circle to Dominion Dr., and 3) on Dominion Dr from Commonwealth Dr to US 29. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$3,336,224
- **Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** - This project will construct a Shared-use Path from Woodbrook Drive to Hilton Heights Road to connect to the new Shared-Use Path on Berkmar Extended. It would be approximately 1.1 miles long and cost \$2,690,026. This project builds on the success of the new Berkmar Extended Bicycle and Pedestrian Path and is also an important segment of the Northtown Trail, which is ranked at #2 in the County's Transportation Priority List and was also on the list of top-ranked NIFI projects for the Rio Community Advisory Committee (CAC).
- **Library Avenue Extension** - This project will extend Library Avenue from its current terminus through the Barnes Lumber property to connect to Hilltop Street in Parkside Village and Crozet Square. This is being proposed as a partnership with the developer of the Barnes Lumber property in which the developer would provide the local match necessary for the Revenue Sharing Program. The project is ranked at #11 on the County's Transportation Priorities and would be a catalyst for the redevelopment of downtown Crozet including the desired office and retail development that is envisioned in the Crozet Master Plan. Staff continues to work with the developer of the Barnes Lumber site to enable this project and the rezoning and other development processes to move this project forward and to define roles and responsibilities. Cost for the transportation project is \$4,986,700.
- **Crozet Square** - This project was initiated as a NIFI project with the \$200,000 in Crozet's NIFI funds making up a portion of the required local match for Revenue Sharing. The total cost exceeded the amount available from NIFI and so the remainder comes from the Transportation Revenue Sharing Program CIP funds. The project involves the reconstruction of Crozet Square to improve operations, parking, and pedestrian facilities and connect to the proposed road system of the Barnes Lumber Development. Crozet Square would be a one-way in road from Crozet Avenue and connect to an improved Oak and High Streets. Cost for the project is \$1,510,000.

Transportation Alternatives:

- **Greer/Jouett Bike/Pedestrian Improvements** - This project will construct a shared-use path from the Hydraulic Rd/Lambs Rd intersection to the Greer/Jouett School complex to provide a safe walking and bicycling connection for students, staff, and visitors to those schools. The total length of the path would be just under a half of a mile at a cost of \$700,000 with NIFI (Hydraulic CAC) contributing \$195,000.
- **Cale ES Pedestrian Improvements** - This project will construct a pedestrian crossing of Avon St Extended in front of Cale Elementary and internal sidewalks to connect from the road to the entrance of the school. The total cost of the project is \$512,000 with NIFI (5th and Avon CAC) contributing \$125,000.

Miscellaneous

- Attended a meeting with County officials and developers of the Foothills property in Crozet to discuss potential opportunities for funding and construction of the Eastern Avenue Southern Connection across Lickinghole Creek. This project is a potential Revenue Sharing application for 2019 if funding is available.
- Received Board Resolution approving a segment of Dick Woods Road as a Rural Rustic Road to allow hard-surfacing of the segment to commence. Property owner notifications were completed in the previous quarter.
- Attended a meeting with Martha Jefferson Hospital staff, VDOT and County representatives to discuss the upcoming I-64/US250 Interchange Project, which will reconstruct this interchange into a diverging diamond.

Other Major Transportation Planning Processes

VDOT/Albemarle County Secondary Six-Year Improvement Plan

Staff finalized the annual update of the Secondary Six Year Plan including a Board work session on Secondary Road and unpaved road priorities. The Board approved the Plan at the Public Hearing held on 6/13/2018.

Rivanna River Corridor Plan

Multiple meetings were held this quarter to review the results of Phase 1 of this study and begin to develop the scope for Phase 2. The project is evaluating opportunities to improve regional engagement with the Rivanna River focusing on coordination between the City and County.

5th Street Extended Corridor STARS Study

Staff began working with VDOT on development of the scope for this upcoming project. The intent is to examine the corridor from Harris Road to the end of the four-lane section for long and short-term safety and operational improvements. Additional information on this project will be shared when available.

Avon Street Extended Corridor Study

Staff has been working to identify a consultant and develop a timeline and scope for completion of the Avon Street Corridor Study. Addressing these issues has been a topic at the 5th and Avon CAC meetings in the months of May and June and in July we expect to have a consultant in attendance to fully flesh out these issues and prepare a scope and cost for the project.

C-A MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan

As the Albemarle County Representative on the C-A MPO Technical Advisory Committee, staff has been working with MPO on the update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Staff has been involved in the project through the development and refinement of traffic analysis zones (TAZ), which are the units used in the transportation modeling process, the development of the goals, objectives, and evaluation criteria by which the projects will be selected and prioritized, and the submission of candidate projects for inclusion in the LRTP assessment. Staff has also been engaged in providing future growth scenarios for the MPO to use in the modeling process. This process has consisted of estimating existing and future population and employment growth by TAZ and providing that information for the modeling process.

Southwood

The redevelopment of the Southwood Mobile Home Park is a significant development project for the County. Transportation staff has been involved attending meetings and reviewing preliminary concepts for the transportation system development. Staff has reviewed the application and Traffic Impact Analysis and provided comments and held a comment resolution meeting. A TIA update is underway to evaluate some additional factors. Staff has also been working with the funding team to identify potential grant opportunities to develop the road system. Staff will continue to remain involved throughout the entire process to insure that the County's transportation goals are being met and the development's residents are well served.

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. Staff has used this information to develop potential transportation improvement recommendations that could be funded through any number of identified processes. Recently as part of the planning process a series of internal Studios have been held to assist in the development of the final plan. This has also included a meeting with VDOT to go over potential transportation solutions and meetings with local developers to discuss opportunities.

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 2018 Smart Scale application period. A recommended alternative has been selected and is currently being developed into three separate Smart Scale application packages. Additional information on this project is available on the Route 29 Solutions website.

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 2016. The draft Recommendations were presented to the Board of Supervisors at their 5/9/2018 Board meeting. The Plan will be approved by the TJPDC Commission and the Board may then decide to adopt it into the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan.

Pantops Master Plan

Staff has been involved in the Pantops Master Plan update process. Multiple public meetings have been held including one to specifically discuss transportation needs for the region and one to discuss potential project recommendations and prioritization. Staff has been engaged in evaluating the existing transportation system reviewing recommendations from a variety of sources and preparing presentations on the transportation processes, funding, regulatory environment, and existing data.

Public Transit Program

- **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. The Draft plan is under review and includes many of the recommendations for service improvements previously identified in various Comprehensive, Master, and Long-Range Planning documents, as well as through specific direction of the Board such as extension of service in the Avon Street Extended Corridor and improved service to Pantops.
- **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. A VDOT permit was finalized for the Phase 1 improvements in May.
- Staff attended Regional Transit Partnership Meetings held on 4/25/2018 and 6/27/2018

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

- **Potential Bond Referendum for Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects**– Staff worked to develop information for the Board to assist in the decision on a potential Bond Referendum, which would include a number of Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects. This included identifying priorities, reviewing cost estimates and organizing descriptions and maps of the potential projects for presentation to the Board.
- Continued work on the 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** – Staff continues to work with the TJPDC/CA-MPO on the update to the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan with an expected completion date in late 2018.
- Discussions have continued with a new advocacy group that is working to develop the Three Notch'd Trail which would connect Crozet to Charlottesville in the vicinity of US 250. Staff is assisting in defining the potential project and identifying sources of funding.
- Staff is engaged in the Regional Greenways Advisory Group, which is an outgrowth of a grant received by the Piedmont Environmental Coalition and the CA-MPO to plan and promote greenways throughout the region. A number of meetings both among the committee and for the public have been held. Recommendations from this process will be included in the Jefferson Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- Staff is working with VDOT on the development of a conceptual design and cost estimate for a sidewalk connection on Old Lynchburg Road beneath I-64 to connect to the City.

Local 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. 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:

- Woolen Mills Redevelopment
- Belvedere Phase IV
- Southwood (See discussion under Other Major Transportation Planning Processes)
- Keswick
- Hansen Road Church and Office Building
- Breezy Hill
- Lighthouse Industries and Avon Court Economic Development Access Program
- Hollymead Town Center Area C
- Birdwood/Boars Head/UVA Foundation
- Willow Glen
- Brookhill
- Galaxie Farms
- Peabody School
- Westminster Canterbury
- Martha Jefferson Apartments

Local Transportation Issues

Staff has been engaged in addressing local concerns related to a variety of transportation issues. Staff has 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. Following is a list of the primary issues staff has been working on in this quarter.

- **Miller School Road and Owensville Road Through-truck restrictions** – Staff has reviewed the draft Study and provided comments. Once those comments are addressed staff will begin the outreach phase of the process.
- Heather Glenn on-street parking issues
- **Ivy Creek Natural Area Recreation Access program** – Staff is working with VDOT on a conceptual design and cost estimate on this in preparation for a potential recreation access grant application.
- Speeding in the Key West Neighborhood
- Park Ridge Road transportation concerns
- Cory Farms neighborhood traffic concerns
- Gillums Ridge RR crossing quiet zone