

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

January 2019

Administrative Activities

- Continued assistance on the Biscuit Run Park Master Plan Project Team
- Attended CA-MPO Tech and Policy Board Meetings in October and November
- Attended the Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting in November
- Held discussions with the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Greene County on potential for Scenic Byways designations in Albemarle County.

Albemarle County Transportation Priorities

County staff continues to work to advance the projects on the 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. Local sources of funding are available for any phase of a project, primarily through the Albemarle County Capital Improvement Program.

Staff has begun working on the update for the 2019 Transportation Priorities List which will be brought to the Board in the Spring of 2019. In preparation of this update, Staff has prepared **Attachment A** as an update on all projects from the 2018 Transportation Priorities list including information on how each project will be evaluated in the 2019 update.

Following is a summary of work currently underway to advance the projects from the 2018 through the major funding programs.

2018 Albemarle County Smart Scale Applications

Smart Scale applications were submitted for the following projects in Albemarle County on August 8th 2018. The Commonwealth Transportation Board expects to release scores in mid-January.

Albemarle County Applications

1. **Route 20 (Stoney Point Road)/US 250 Richmond Road Intersection Improvements**
2. **Berkmar Drive to Airport Road Connection**
3. **Route 20 South (Scottsville Road) Improvements at Route 53 (Thomas Jefferson Parkway)**
4. **Rio Road East/Pen Park Road Roundabout**

CA-MPO Applications

5. **Hydraulic/29 Improvement Project** - Three applications submitted for components of this project
6. **Barracks Road/SB 250/29 Bypass Ramp Right Turn Lane**

TJPD Applications

7. **Fontaine Ave/US 29 Bypass Interchange Improvements**
8. **US 29 Shared-Use Path to Carrsbrook Drive**
9. **Park and Ride Lot at Exit 107**
10. **Frays Mill/US 29 Intersection Improvement**

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 Transportation Alternatives below
- **Albemarle-Jouett-Greer School-Pedestrian Connections** - See Transportation Alternatives below
- **Crozet Square Improvements**- See Revenue Sharing below
- **East Rio Road Pedestrian Connections** – This project to construct a new pedestrian crossing of Rio Rd at Greenbrier Dr is expected to go to construction soon and is being managed by FES Department
- **Avon Street Extended Corridor Study**- See 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 following projects were awarded funding under the Transportation Alternatives (Safe Routes to School) and Revenue Sharing Grant programs for FY18. Following is a brief update on the submitted projects:

Revenue Sharing:

- **Commonwealth Dr./Dominion Dr. Pedestrian Improvements** - Activity underway to get consultants under contract to begin the engineering and design phase
- **Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – funding not available until July 2019
- **Library Avenue Extension** – engineering and design phase well underway through private developer
- **Crozet Square** – engineering and design phase well underway

Transportation Alternatives:

- **Greer/Jouett Bike/Pedestrian Improvements** – engineering and design phase well underway
- **Cale ES Pedestrian Improvements** - Activity is underway to get consultants under contract to begin the engineering and design phase

Other Major Transportation Planning Processes

Ivy Creek Natural Area Entrance Roadway Safety Assessment

Consultants have prepared a first draft of a report on the potential solutions to the identified safety issues at the entrance to the Ivy Creek Foundation Natural Area. After evaluating a number of options the recommendation from the study is that a phased approach to improvements be undertaken. The first phase would be to apply for recreation access funds to upgrade the existing entrance road to state standards including vegetation clearing for improved sight distance on Earlysville Road. The cost of this improvement is estimated to be approximately \$235,000. This could also be enhanced through new signage alerting drivers of the entrance before they reach it. Once this phase is complete the county could begin seeking state funds to install a left turn lane into the entrance from Earlysville Road. The estimate for this second phase is approximately \$2,955,000.

Staff would like to bring this report and suggestions to the Ivy Creek Natural Area Board to gauge support for the improvements before engaging with VDOT on the Recreation Access Grant Funding. Eventually Resolutions from both the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County will be necessary for this grant.

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 quarter included continued work on the traffic and transportation planning efforts in preparation for the Planning Commission meeting in November and the Board meeting and final approval in December. Staff is now beginning work on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment related to the Plan.

Avon Street Extended Corridor Study

Line+Grade is now under contract as the consultant for this study. The timeline, scope, and cost have been developed and approved. Staff and the consultants have held two meetings with the 5th and Avon CAC to identify concerns and issues in the corridor.

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.

C-A MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan

Staff has continued to work with the C-A MPO on the update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The identification and assessment of projects and scenarios is underway now with the goal of developing a draft constrained list of projects which will be recommended in the plan.

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 Plan has now been approved by the TJPDC Commission and discussions on potential adoption by the Board into the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan are forthcoming.

Pantops Master Plan

Staff has been involved in the Pantops Master Plan update process. Multiple public meetings have been held with transportation being a major focus of discussions. 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. The final plan should be available in early 2019.
- **CAT Transit Stop Improvements.** Staff has been working with CAT to make improvements at a number of the most heavily used 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. Construction is nearly complete on the Phase 1 improvements and Phase 2 will be beginning in the upcoming year.

- **Regional Transit Partnership** Staff attended meeting in October.
- **Perrone Robotics/JAUNT/Albemarle County Central Virginia Autonomous Shuttle Planning** – Staff is engaged with the group of partners on planning and implementation of the proposed pilot autonomous shuttle in Crozet and planning for future opportunities to deploy the innovative transit strategy.
- **Crozet Express Transit Service** – Staff continues to work with JAUNT to explore opportunities to offer express commuter transit service between Crozet and Charlottesville.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

- **Quality of Life Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects**– This list of projects has had funding directed to them through the CIP and staff is now working on development of conceptual designs and cost estimates for them. Once that information is available a schedule will be developed for advancement and completion of the projects. Following is a list of the recommended projects:
 - Old Lynchburg Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement
 - Avon Street Extended Shared-Use Path
 - Tabor Street, High Street, and Hilltop Street Sidewalks
 - Rio Road Shared-Use Path (Segment of the Northtown Trail)
 - Berkmar Drive Shared-use Path (Segment of the Northtown Trail)
 - Ashwood Boulevard Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (Connection to the Northtown Trail)
- Continued work on the Development of a bicycle and pedestrian facilities inventory in the county to track progress in the improvement of those facilities and develop program to organize and update bicycle and pedestrian network GIS data.
- 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 early 2019.
- 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.

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.

Transportation staff's role is 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:

- **Southwood** - The redevelopment of the Southwood Mobile Home Park is a significant development project for the County. Staff is currently reviewing the second submittal of the application and Traffic

Impact Analysis and 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.

- **Barnes Lumber** - Attended meetings with County officials, VDOT and developers of the Barnes Lumber related to the Library Avenue Extension Project and TIA. Preliminary designs for the Library Ave connection and general road system are currently in review. Staff expects a ZMA application for the development project in the coming year.
- **Arden Place II** – Arden Place II is a rezoning submitted within the Rio/29 Small Area Plan. Staff held meetings with VDOT and developers to go over potential transportation solutions and scope the required TIA for the development.
- **Eco Village** – Residential development on Rio Road East
- **Galaxie Farm** – Residential development on Route 20 South; developer is in discussions on potential land swap for road construction.
- **Belvedere** – multiple applications under review for new residential phases and the Senior Center at Belvedere. Staff is also in discussions on potential rezonings for future development phases and addressing issues with the previous rezonings.
- **Woolen Mills Redevelopment (Willowtree)** – Staff is working with multiple departments on multi-modal connectivity plans for this redevelopment project.
- **Stonefield** – Staff is coordinating with developer on a possible rezoning to the residential portion of Stonefield and connectivity issues.
- **Wetzel Property** – Staff has reviewed a Transportation Impact Analysis submitted by a potential developer for the site. No application has been submitted.
- **University of Virginia Foundation North Fork Research Park** – Staff continues to work with the UVAF on the development of the road connection between Innovation Dr and Lewis and Clark Dr as well as potential future development of the research park.
- **Proffit Road ZMA** - Staff has reviewed the Transportation Impact Analysis for this residential development off Proffit Road.
- **West Rio Road Mixed Use development** – Staff has been working with the developer of this site to insure County transportation needs identified in the Rio/29 Small Area Plan are addressed.
- **Brookhill** – Staff has been working with the Brookhill developer on the proffer amendment related to the road connection between Berkmar Dr and Rio Mills Rd and other transportation related issues within the development.
- **Peabody School** – Special Use permit for increasing the size of the private school near Avon St Ext and Southern Pkwy
- **Martha Jefferson Hospital Apartments** – Staff has been working with the developer on pedestrian accessibility around the site.

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 bi-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.

- **Cory Farms Subdivision** - Speeding Concerns

- **Dudley Mountain Road/Red Hill Road intersection concerns** - VDOT reviewing vegetation clearing
- **Earlsville Road at Rutledge** – Speeding and safety concerns
- **Free Union Road** - Safety Concerns
- **Gillums Ridge RR Crossing Quiet Zone**- Staff has worked with the Board member and Buckingham Branch RR to discuss implementation of a railroad crossing quiet zone at Gillums Ridge Road.
- **Greenbrier Dr** - pedestrian connectivity and crossings
- **Markwood Rd near Buck Mountain Rd Intersection** - speeding concerns
- **Miller School Road and Owensville Road Through-truck restrictions** – The Board of Supervisors has approved Resolutions requesting the Commonwealth Transportation Board institute Through-Truck Restrictions on these roads. The request has been sent to VDOT for review.
- **Morgantown Rd off Ivy Rd**- speeding concerns
- **Park Ridge Road** - Speeding and traffic level concerns, proposed to begin traffic calming process with residents
- **Commonwealth Dr** - Pedestrian crosswalks to support transit
- **Pen Park Road** - Speeding Concerns
- **Proffitt Rd** - Pedestrian crossing to Baker-Butler Elementary School
- **St George Ave** - Speeding and cut-through traffic concerns
- **White Mountain Road** - Current road conditions and drainage issues, VDOT is addressing drainage
- **Dick Woods Road** - heavy truck traffic
- **Berkmar Dr, Timberwood Dr, & Towncenter Dr** –overgrown vegetation
- **Stony Point/US 250 East** - Request to eliminate 250 E Bound U-turn
- **Esmont Road** – Request for a speed reduction
- **Fontana Neighborhood** - Traffic calming update
- **Glenmore Way/Piper Way** - Intersections concerns
- **Greenbrier/Hillsdale** - Traffic Calming Process
- **Key West Neighborhood** - Speeding Issues and Traffic Calming Process
- **Old Ballard Road** - bridge and alignment concerns
- **Old Brook Road** - sight distance issues
- **Orchard Drive** – speeding concerns
- **Out of Bounds Subdivision**- parking concerns
- **Poplar Glen community**- Ivy Rd & Stillfried Ln Intersection improvements
- **Redfields Rd & Nettle Ct/Pebble Hill Ct Intersection**
- **Roach Ridge off Buffalo River Rd**- Speed limit sign request (dirt road)
- **Timber meadows and Timberwood Pkwy** - speed concerns
- **Westfield Road** - parking and sight distance concerns

Attachment A – 2018 Albemarle Transportation Priorities Update