

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

April 2019

Administrative Activities

- Continued assistance on the Biscuit Run Park Master Plan Project Team - Evaluating funding options for soft opening
- Attended CA-MPO Tech and Policy Board Meetings in February and March
- Attended Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meetings in January and March
- Submitted request to Virginia Department of Transportation & the Department of Conservation and Recreation for Scenic Byways designations of Routes 240 and 810 which will be evaluated late spring 2019.
- North Garden Lane as RRR approved by Board
- Attended UVA Transportation Academy Training for Data Driven Public Engagement on February 27th

Albemarle County FY 2019-2024 Secondary Six-Year Plan (SSYP)

The SSYP allocates funding for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of roads in the state secondary system. The funds allocated to Albemarle County through the SSYP include state and federal funds for a variety of road improvement programs. The SSYP for Albemarle County is updated and approved annually and identifies the specific funding source, use, and levels allocated for the immediate fiscal year. The SSYP also identifies projected funding allocations for the next five fiscal years. Staff working with VDOT on the draft of the Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads to include those requested to be paved by the public, county departments, or other agencies. The following were unpaved road requests from 2018 which will be presented to Board in May for approval of SSYP.

- Rt 784 Burnt Mill Rd
- Rt 805 Henderson Ln
- Rt 702 Reservoir Rd
- Rt 668 Fox Mountain Rd
- Rt 672 Via Ln
- Rt 737 Mountain Vista Rd

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 draft form at the April 3rd 2019 meeting.

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 ten projects in Albemarle County however no projects were funded. Staff will be reevaluating how to move forward on these projects through the Transportation Priorities work.

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 is and 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 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 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. The signage improvements have been initiated and should be installed this Spring/Summer. 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 will be meeting with VDOT representatives to discuss the potential Recreation Access Fund Grant for this project and how it relates to a grant request for Biscuit Run. Once that is determined we would like to bring this report and suggestions to the Ivy Creek Natural Area Board to gauge support for the improvements before submitting the Recreation Access Grant Funding request. Eventually Resolutions from both the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County will be necessary for this grant.

[Rio/29 Small Area Plan](#)

Transportation staff continues to be involved in this small area planning process for the area surrounding the Rio/29 intersection. This quarter included continued work on the catalyst transportation projects recommended in the implementation plan. Staff is working with a consultant on the development of conceptual designs and cost estimates for these projects. Additionally, staff is involved in zoning amendments recommended in the plan.

[Avon Street Extended Corridor Study](#)

Line+Grade is under contract as the consultant for this study and have been meeting regularly with the CAC and other stakeholders in the development of this plan. Initial recommendations have been presented for feedback and are currently being refined. A public meeting to present the recommendations is expected in the May/June timeframe. Funding from the Quality of Life project described below is expected to be used to leverage grants to implement some of the recommendations from this plan.

[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 draft plan along with the constrained and vision list of projects is currently under review. MPO staff will be presenting information on this plan at upcoming planning commission and Board meetings with the goal of eventually amending the comprehensive plan to reference this plan.

[Rural Transportation Long-Range Plan](#)

Through the TJPDC and the Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, staff has updated the Rural Transportation Long-Range Plan which evaluates long-term transportation needs for areas of Albemarle County outside the MPO. The Plan has been approved by the TJPDC Commission. TJPDC will be presenting the plan this summer to the Planning Commission and then the Board for endorsement and a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

[Pantops Master Plan](#)

Staff has been involved in the Pantops Master Plan update process through evaluating the existing transportation system, reviewing recommendations, and preparing presentations on the transportation processes, funding, regulatory environment, and existing data. Currently staff is evaluating the specific improvements that are being recommended in the draft plan and providing cost estimates for those projects. Coordination with VDOT on the approval of those recommendations has also begun.

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 complete on the Phase 1 improvements and Phase 2 will be beginning in the upcoming year.
- **Regional Transit Partnership** Staff attended meetings in February and March.
- **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. Staff have provided route planning and crash analysis in support of the project.
- **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** – A consultant has been hired to evaluate this project and develop conceptual designs and cost estimates. Once complete a decision on funding will be made to either submit a grant application or fund directly through the CIP.
- **Avon Street Extended Shared-Use Path** – Through the Avon Corridor Study a recommendation for the specific improvements to be made with this funding and a conceptual design and cost estimate for that project will be developed. Once complete, a decision on funding will be made to either submit a grant application or fund directly through the CIP.
- **Tabor Street, High Street, and Hilltop Street Sidewalks** – A consultant has been hired to evaluate this project and develop conceptual designs and cost estimates. Once complete a decision on funding will be made to either submit a grant application or fund directly through the CIP.
- **Rio Road Shared-Use Path** – This project is currently on hold awaiting a study by VDOT to evaluate potential vehicular improvements to the Belvedere Blvd. /Rio Rd. intersection. Additionally, a development project recently submitted proposes to construct a portion of this Shared-use Path extension. Once the details of those projects are determined this project will be reevaluated.

- **Berkmar Drive Shared-use Path** – This project will be combined for the design and construction phase with the previously funded Shared-use Path that was discussed under the Revenue Sharing projects above. The project will begin engineering summer of 2019.
- **Ashwood Boulevard Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (Connection to the Northtown Trail)** – A consultant has provided a cost estimate for construction of this Shared-use Path connection. That estimate is currently being reviewed and once verified a decision on funding and potential schedule will be made to advance the project.

Other Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

- Staff continues on development of a bicycle and pedestrian facilities inventory in the county to track progress in the improvement of those facilities and proposed infrastructure. This also includes development of a program to organize and update bicycle and pedestrian network GIS data. The original data was inventoried by TJPDC and staff is now editing and formatting it to the County's transportation standards. The format consists of standardizing Shared-Use Paths, Bike Infrastructure, Pedestrian Infrastructure and Trail data.
- **Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan** – Staff continued to work with the TJPDC/CA-MPO on the update to the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan which was adopted by TJPDC and the MPO in January. It will be presented to the Planning Commission in May as a Public Hearing and then to the Board to adopt the plan into our Comprehensive Plan. 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.

- **Airport Rd Roundabout** - Driver confusion
- **Reynovia Dr**- Speeding concerns
- **Rolling Hill Rd**- Safety concerns with private road
- **Ivy Farm Dr**- speeding concerns
- **Briarwood Subdivision**- Speeding concerns
- **Lego Dr**- Speeding concerns
- **Rt 250 Crozet**- Pedestrian safety and 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.
- **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
- **White Mountain Road** - Road conditions and drainage issues
- **Stony Point/US 250 East** - Request to eliminate 250 E Bound U-turn
- **Fontana Neighborhood** - Traffic calming update
- **Greenbrier/Hillsdale** - Traffic Calming Process
- **Key West Neighborhood** - Speeding Issues and Traffic Calming Process
- **Orchard Drive** – speeding concerns
- **Poplar Glen community**- Ivy Rd & Stillfried Ln Intersection improvements
- **Redfields Rd & Nettle Ct/Pebble Hill Ct Intersection** – Intersection safety concern