

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

October 2019

Administrative Activities

- Attended CA-MPO Tech Meeting in May and Policy Board Meetings in April and May
- Attended Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting in May
- Maintenance agreements between developers and VDOT requiring County backing – Staff has been working internally within Community Development and with FES and the County Attorney's Office to develop standards and a process to approve and back agreements with VDOT to remove State responsibility for maintenance of certain facilities located within Public road rights-of-way. These facilities may include utilities and pedestrian facilities.
- Attended monthly VDOT-County Transportation Meetings
- Staff attended a VDOT Local Programs Workshop and received certification to Administer VDOT funded Local Projects for the County.

Entrance Corridors

Transportation staff has been working with Architecture Review Board staff and the County Attorneys to address the issue of the previously identified Entrance Corridors not being eligible as a result of not meeting the Arterial roadway criteria. Staff work focused on a variety of options and has discussed potential re-designation of some of these routes as Arterials by FHWA. This has included meetings with VDOT planners and other stakeholders.

Albemarle County Transportation Priorities

County staff continues 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 finalized the 2019 Transportation Priorities List which was approved by the Board at the July 3rd 2019 Meeting.

Following is a summary of the top projects and work currently underway to advance them.

1. **Hydraulic/29 Improvements:** Submitted for SMART Scale Funding in 2018 grant cycle but rejected for funding. Staff is working with the C-A MPO and VDOT on options to break-up the project and address key components in a manner that would create a more successful grant application in the 2020 SMART Scale submission round.
2. **Rt 250 East Widening (Pantops)** - From Rolkin Rd to City Limits: Submitted for funding under HSIP in 2018 but rejected. Potential 2020 SMART Scale application.
3. **Rt 20/US 250 Intersection improvement:** Funded through SMART Scale in the 2018 grant application cycle. Funding is expected to be available in 2023.

4. **Hillsdale Dr Extension and Realignment** - Mall Dr to Rio Rd: This project was a catalyst project recommendation from the Rio29Small Area Plan. Additional work will be necessary to develop a concept and cost estimate. Evaluating this project as a potential Revenue Sharing project in 2021.
5. **Berkmar to Lewis & Clark Connector** - From Hollymead Town Center to Airport Road, Airport Rd Roundabout: Project is currently at 60% design and some funds have been identified through the VDOT Secondary Six Year Program. This project is proposed to be submitted for Revenue Sharing in 2019.
6. **Fontaine Ave/29 Bypass Diverging Diamond**: Submitted for a SMART Scale grant in the 2018 application cycle but was rejected for funding. Likely a resubmittal for a SMART Scale grant in the 2020 application cycle
7. **Old Lynchburg Rd/5th St Extended Intersection Improvements** – A VDOT led STARS Corridor Study is currently underway to identify concepts and cost to improve this intersection.
8. **Eastern Ave South** - From US 250 across Lickinghole Creek to existing stub out at Westhall. This project is proposed to be submitted for Revenue Sharing in 2019.
9. **Pedestrian Improvements on US 250 East** - between Free Bridge and State Farm Blvd: This project was a recommendation from the Pantops Master Plan. Improved pedestrian access beneath Free Bridge was a recently completed project through the NIFI program. A study is needed to identify concepts and cost of additional crossings.
10. **Avon Street Extended Improvements** - From City Limits to Rt 20: The Avon Corridor Study is currently underway (funded through NIFI) to identify multimodal improvement concepts and cost estimates for some of the preferred projects identified in that study. (See Other Major Transportation Planning Processes below)

Albemarle County Capital Improvement Program Update

Staff has been working with the Office of Management and Budget on the next five-year update to the Capital Improvement Program. This work has involved development of a potential funding schedule and cost estimates to advance the County's Transportation Priorities. Staff has been participating in meetings and developing reports to further this initiative.

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 including the hard surfacing of unpaved roads in the Secondary System. Following approval of the SSYP in June, staff began working on getting a signed resolution approving the hard-surfacing of Coles Rolling Road through the Rural Rustic Road Paving Program. This process involved sending notification letters to all landowners along the road informing them of the proposed project and inviting questions and comments. The Resolution was presented to the Board at the August 21 Board Meeting and approved.

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 improving pedestrian access beneath Free Bridge and aesthetic improvements is complete.

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** - Scoping underway to get consultants under contract to begin the engineering and design phase
- **Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – Working on hiring a consultant for design and setting up a pre-scoping meeting
- **Library Avenue Extension** – Staff has been working with the private developer designing this project and VDOT through the engineering and design phase. This has involved numerous public and project team meetings to determine design requirements that meet VDOT standards. Construction remains planned to begin late 2020/early 2021.
- **Crozet Square** – engineering and design phase are well underway and construction is planned to begin late 2020/early 2021

Transportation Alternatives:

- **Greer/Jouett Bike/Pedestrian Improvements** – engineering and design phase well underway with construction expected Spring 2020
- **Cale ES Pedestrian Improvements** - Engineering and design phase underway with construction expected Summer 2020

Other Transportation Priorities

- **Rio Road/Belvedere Traffic Issues** – Staff has been working with VDOT and a stakeholder group to evaluate potential solutions to address identified traffic issues at this intersection. Multiple meetings have been held to discuss this issue.

Transportation/County Planning

Biscuit Run Park

Staff continued providing transportation assistance on the Biscuit Run Park Master Plan Project Team. Work this quarter involved preparation for grant submissions to fund transportation aspects of the development. This was primarily focused on Recreation Access Program funding to support the Phase 1-a opening. Staff is preparing that grant submission and working with VDOT program administrators.

Rio/29 Small Area Plan/Form-based Code

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 and work on the development of the form-based code as it relates to streets and transportation. Staff is working with a consultant on the development of conceptual designs and

cost estimates for the catalyst projects. On the development of the form based code transportation staff is has provided research on existing form-based code features related to transportation and streets and identified areas where these improvements could be incorporated into the code. Staff presented on these issues to the Planning Commission in September.

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. Draft recommendations have been developed and presented for feedback. Following the May public meeting and public comment period, staff has worked to prioritize projects and incorporate recommendations. A final presentation was given to the 5th and Avon CAC in September on the draft plan. The final document is being prepared and will be presented to the CAC and the Planning Commission for endorsement in October-November before coming to the Board. No Comprehensive Plan update is proposed at this time but staff will be looking for Board endorsement of the plan.

5th Street Extended Corridor STARS Study

This VDOT led study began with a kick-off meeting in June with the stakeholder team and a second meeting was held in July that consisted of a site visit to the corridor. These meetings were to identify issues in the corridor and to look at potential solutions to address those issues. The plan should be completed in Spring of 2020. The result of the plan will be to identify specific short and long-term safety and operational improvements for the corridor from Harris Road to the end of the four-lane section on Old Lynchburg Road.

C-A MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan

The C-A MPO update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) along with the constrained and vision list of projects has been adopted by the MPO Policy Board following multiple Public Hearings and is now complete. Staff is working on getting the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan amended to incorporate the plan. A public hearing was held with the Planning commission in The plan. In September a public hearing was held by the Albemarle County Planning Commission for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and was recommended for approval. This will be coming to the Board of Supervisors later this year for the same request.

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. In September a public hearing was held by the Albemarle County Planning Commission for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and was recommended for approval. This will be coming to the Board of Supervisors later this year for the same request.

Climate Action Plan

Transportation staff have been leading the Community Mobility sub-group of the Climate Action Plan. This sub-group of stakeholders were meeting monthly to develop goals, actions, and strategies designed to decrease transportations role in greenhouse gas emissions. Work has included research, data collection and presentations at the Climate Mondays series. Staff is now working on the development of the Community Mobility section of the plan.

Public Transit Program

- **CAT Transit Stop Improvements (Sense of Place Program)** - Staff has been working with CAT and a group of other stakeholders to make improvements at select transit stops around the county.

Previously the improvements would include installation of benches or other seating, shelters, or minor alterations in the routing or stop locations to improve safety, convenience, or circulation. The stakeholder group, led by Supervisor McKeel, is now working to bring in artists to make aesthetic improvements, including artist's works, to select bus stops. The initial phase will work on the Stonefield stops but discussions have been ongoing as to the potential to expand to other stops in the urban ring.

- **Regional Transit Partnership** Staff attended the only meeting this quarter held in August.
- **Smart Mobility Inc. Planning** – Staff is engaged with the group of partners on planning and implementation of the pilot autonomous shuttle in Crozet and planning for future opportunities to deploy innovative transit strategies. Involvement includes a seat on the Board of SMI and assistance in development of route planning, confidence testing, funding, promotion and future planning. The initial launch of the pilot occurred on July 9, 2019.
- **Crozet Express Transit Service** – Staff has been working with JAUNT on the express commuter transit service between Crozet and Charlottesville. The service began in August and has had steady ridership.

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/Moore's Creek Greenway Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement** – The consultant's evaluation on these improvements have provided information that is being used for a Revenue Sharing application in 2019. Staff has been working with the City of Charlottesville on a partnership for funding and future maintenance of the project. The project has been expanded to include a greenway connection along Moore's Creek to Sunset Ave and bridge repairs on the Sunset Ave Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge
- **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 has been developed. Staff is considering this for a Revenue Sharing Grant in 2021.
- **Tabor Street, High Street, and Hilltop Street Sidewalks** – The consultant's evaluation on these improvements have provided information that is being used for a Transportation Alternatives application in 2019.
- **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. Pre-scoping on the project has now begun with a potential consultant team for the design.
- **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. The project is currently awaiting a final decision on how to move forward with the funding for it.

Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Staff completed work with the TJPDC/CA-MPO on the update to the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The plan was adopted by TJPDC and the MPO in January. In July the Board approved the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to incorporate this plan. Staff is now working with a regional planning group as well as the Regional Greenways Advisory Group, which is an outgrowth of a grant received by the Piedmont Environmental Coalition and the CA-MPO on planning and implementation of the recommendations from the plan.

- Staff has partnered with VDOT to evaluate two potential implementation projects from this plan. They are a Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge in the area of Riverview Park, Woolen Mills and Pantops, and bicycle and pedestrian connections along Route 20 to connect the City to Monticello.

Other Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

- Staff continues 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.

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:

- **Breezy Hill ZMA** – Residential development on Rt 250 in Rivanna Village. Staff reviewed the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA), provided comments, and worked with the applicant to propose potential solutions to address impacts.
- **Regent's School SUP** – Staff reviewed the TIA and worked with the applicant to propose potential solutions to address impacts. The SP was approved by the PC in August and the Board in September.
- **999 Rio ZMA** – Staff worked to evaluate potential traffic impacts that would result from this potential development
- **Royal Fern ZMA** – Mixed-use development on 5th Street Extended. Staff is reviewing a TIA for the development as well as transportation facility design and working with the developer to propose potential solutions to address impacts.
- **Southwood** - The redevelopment of the Southwood Mobile Home Park is a significant development project for the County. Staff continues to review information submitted for the project and providing comments and reports to the applicant, staff and elected and appointed officials as necessary. This included site visits with Supervisors and Commissioners. The ZMA was approved by the Board at the August 21 meeting.
- **Barnes Lumber ZMA and Library Ave design**– Staff continues to attend meetings with County officials, VDOT, and developers of the Barnes Lumber related to the Library Avenue Extension Project, the proposed rezoning of the property, and necessary traffic analysis and improvements. Preliminary

designs for the Library Ave connection and general road system are currently in review. The ZMA was approved by the Board at the August 21 meeting.

- **Galaxie Farm ZMA** – Residential development on Route 20 South; staff is reviewing transportation design and impacts.
- **Stonefield** – Staff is coordinating developers on a possible rezonings and continued developments as well as connectivity issues and potential implementation of the Hydraulic SAP and transportation improvements.
- **Parkway Place ZMA** – Staff has reviewed a Transportation Impact Analysis submitted by a developer for the site and discussed necessary transportation facility improvements as well as potential ways to address identified impacts.
- **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.

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.

- **Hillsdale Drive** - Speeding and intersection safety concerns; traffic calming plan development
- **Ortman Road** - Speeding concerns
- **Sugar Hollow Road** - Parking concerns
- **Free Union Road** – Speeding concerns; speed study requested
- **Fox Mountain Road** – Maintenance concerns and paving request
- **Buck Mountain Road** – Speeding concerns; speed study requested
- **Willow Lake Drive** – Speeding concerns
- **Earlysville Road** – Speeding concern; implementation of recommendations from VDOT evaluation; purchase and installation of speed radar signs
- **Ivy Farm Dr**- speeding concerns
- **Miller School Road and Owensville Road Through-truck restrictions** – The Board of Supervisors previously approved Resolutions requesting the Commonwealth Transportation Board institute Through-Truck Restrictions on these roads. The request has now been approved by the Commissioner of Highways and staff is working with VDOT on the signing plan.
- **Key West Neighborhood** - Speeding Issues and Traffic Calming Process