

# Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

January 2020

## Administrative Activities

- Attended CA-MPO Tech and Policy Board Meetings in October and November
- Attended Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting in November
- Attended monthly VDOT-County Transportation Meetings
- Staff attended VDOT's 2019 Culpeper Land Use Forum in November
- Staff is working on the redevelopment of the Albemarle County Website
- A meeting of the US 250 West Task Force was held on December 2, 2019

## 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 updating the 5<sup>th</sup> & Avon CAC.

## 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.

Based on the 2019 Transportation Priorities List, approved by the Board at the July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Meeting, Staff has begun preparing for the upcoming 2020 Smart Scale Grant Cycle. Preapplications will be due at the end of March and final applications will be due on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Following is a summary of the projects being evaluated for potential applications this round (numbers represent ranking on Albemarle County Transportation Priorities List 2019):

### Albemarle County Applications:

2. **Rt 250 East Corridor Improvements (Pantops)** from the future DDI Interchange at I-64 to the City Limits – This project would include access management, widening to add continuous right turn lanes, and signal technology upgrades. This was previously submitted for funding under HSIP in 2018 but rejected.
6. **Fontaine Ave/29 Bypass Diverging Diamond** – This is a resubmittal of a SMART Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. Project would convert the current interchange into a diverging diamond.
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. Potential options include a roundabout, and R-cut, or a signal.

15. **Rt 20/Rt 53 Intersection improvements** – This is a resubmittal of a SMART Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. Project would convert the intersection into a roundabout.

Thomas Jefferson PDC/Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Applications:

1. **Hydraulic/29 Improvements** – The MPO is taking the lead and coordinating with the City and County on identifying projects based on the results of the Hydraulic/29 Small Area Plan Transportation Improvements to submit for Smart Scale Grants. This is a resubmittal of a SMART Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. Potential projects include a Zan Road overpass over 29 or roundabouts at District and Hillsdale, among other potential improvements that are currently being evaluated by VDOT.
17. **Rio Road/Belvedere Intersection** – Staff is working with VDOT and a stakeholder group to evaluate potential solutions, primarily focused on an R-cut, to address identified traffic issues at this intersection.
35. **US 29 Shared-Use Path** from Seminole Lane North to Carrsbrook Drive – This is a resubmittal of a SMART Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. Project would construct a shared-use path on the east side of US 29.
74. **Fray's Mill/Burnley Station/US29 Intersection Improvements** – This is a resubmittal of a SMART Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. Project would reconstruct this intersection into an R-cut.
82. **I-64/Exit 107 Crozet Park and Ride Lot** – This is a resubmittal of a SMART Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. Project would construct a park and ride lot at the corner of Patterson Mill Lane and US 250 just south of the I-64 interchange. This lot could potentially be served by both the Crozet Connect and the proposed Afton Express.

### [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. The SSYP was approved by the Board in June 2019. In December 2019 staff began working on getting a signed resolution for the utilization of SSYP Countywide Traffic Services funds for the installation and maintenance of two permanent radar devices to be located on Earlysville Road at the intersection of Reas Ford Road.

### [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/Greenbrier Drive Pedestrian Crossing** – This project to construct a new ADA accessible 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

## Transportation Alternatives 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:

- **Berkmar Drive Extension to Airport Road** – Submitted for grant funding in 2019, funding announcements will be made in Spring 2020. Project would complete the Berkmar Drive Extension to Airport Rd and construct a roundabout at the intersection. This project is ranked at #5 in the 2019 Albemarle County Transportation Priority List.
- **Old Lynchburg Road/Moore's Creek Greenway Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements** – Submitted for grant funding in 2019, funding announcements will be made in Spring 2020. Project would construct shared-use path and sidewalk between Sunset Ave, Old Lynchburg Rd, Azalea Park, and Timberland Ln. This project is ranked at #26 in the 2019 Albemarle County Transportation Priority List.
- **Commonwealth Dr./Dominion Dr. Pedestrian Improvements** – Funded in 2018, scoping is now underway to get consultants under contract to begin the engineering and design phase
- **Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – Funded in 2019, staff is working on hiring a consultant for design and setting up a pre-scoping meeting
- **Library Avenue Extension** – Funded in 2019, 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** – Funded in 2018, engineering and design phase are well underway, and construction is planned to begin late 2020/early 2021

### Transportation Alternatives:

- **Tabor/High Streets Sidewalks**– Submitted for grant funding in 2019, funding announcements will be made in Spring 2020. Project would construct sidewalk along Tabor Street to High Street and along High Street to Hilltop Street to meet ADA requirements.
- **Greer/Jouett Bike/Pedestrian Improvements** – Funded in 2018, engineering and design phase well underway with construction expected Spring 2020
- **Cale ES Pedestrian Improvements** – Funded in 2018, engineering and design phase underway with construction expected Summer 2020

## Major Planning Efforts

### 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 bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Rio Road through the planning area. On the development of the form-based code transportation staff 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.

### Avon Street Extended Corridor Study

Line+Grade is under contract as the consultant for this study and met regularly with the CAC and other stakeholders in the development of this plan. A final presentation was given to the 5<sup>th</sup> and Avon CAC in September on the draft plan and the CAC endorsed the plan at their November meeting. The final draft document was presented to the Planning Commission in December and they endorsed the plan. It is scheduled to for a public hearing on the January 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

### 5th Street Extended Corridor STARS Study

This VDOT led study began Phase 1 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. Phase 1 efforts involved stakeholder meetings to identify issues, data collection, and evaluation of conditions. Phase 2 kicked off with a meeting in early December to review Phase 1 efforts, discuss goals, objectives, and evaluation criteria and plan for the community outreach efforts. 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. Phase 2 is expected to be completed in Summer 2020.

### 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 worked on getting the Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan amended to incorporate 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. In November a public hearing was held with the Board and was recommended for approval of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to incorporate 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. In September a public hearing was held by the Albemarle County Planning Commission for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment and was recommended for approval. In November a public hearing was held with the Board and was recommended for approval of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to incorporate this plan.

### Climate Action Plan

Transportation staff lead 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 in the summer. Staff, working with FES, is now working on the draft document of the Community Mobility section of the plan.

## Public Transit Program

- **Regional Transit Partnership** Staff attended the October and December meetings.
- **Smart Mobility Inc. Planning** – Staff is engaged with the group of partners on planning and implementation of cutting-edge mobility technology to improve multi-modal transportation. The initial efforts centered around the pilot autonomous shuttle in Crozet and the group is now 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, grant writing, promotion and future planning.
- **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. There was a route update to accommodate the demand and implemented the capabilities to pay the fee electronically.
- **Afton Express stake holder meeting-** Staff attended the November stakeholder meeting evaluating the potential to implement this service connecting the Staunton Augusta Waynesboro region with the Charlottesville Albemarle region. Discussion at the December Regional Transit Partnership resulted in a recommendation to support a pilot program grant to implement this service. The proposed scenario would include a 5<sup>th</sup> St Station stop in Albemarle County and potential future stops at the Crozet Park and Ride and Martha Jefferson Hospital. This will be coming to the Board for a resolution of support in January.
- **29 Corridor Transit Planning** – Staff has been meeting with JAUNT on potential alternatives for an improved 29 Corridor Commuter, Express, or Rapid Transit Service. The current Park Connect between UVA Grounds and the UVA Research will be discontinued soon and staff is looking at options to roll that service into the existing 29 Express while also providing service to other priority areas of the County.

## 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 was used for a Revenue Sharing application in 2019 which we will know of the results in Spring 2020. 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 was used for a Transportation Alternatives application in 2019 which we will know of the results in Spring 2020.

- **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.
- **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.
- **Ashwood Boulevard Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements (Connection to the Northtown Trail)** – Potential development in this area has required that this project be put on hold until plans for future development are more defined. A consultant previously provided a cost estimate for construction of this Shared-use Path connection which may be used once future development plans are identified.

### 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. Staff is now working with a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Group as well as the Regional Greenways Advisory Group, on planning and implementation of recommendations from the plan.

Recently 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. These VDOT studies, through VDOT on-call consultants, are underway with an estimated spring public meeting to present the draft studies.

### 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. This data will be utilized in the TJPDC's regional One Map effort with the County, the City and UVA. Staff is beginning the merging of data stage with the regional partners.

### 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.
- **999 Rio ZMA** – Staff initially worked to evaluate potential traffic impacts that would result from this potential development which was eventually deferred by the applicant when it went to the Board. A resubmittal is expected and discussions with the developer have begun.



- **Royal Fern ZMA** – Mixed-use development on 5<sup>th</sup> Street Extended. Staff previously reviewed a TIA for the development as well as transportation facility design and has been working with the developer to propose potential solutions to address impacts. The project was not recommended by the Planning Commission and the developer has now submitted a redesign of the development. Staff is currently reviewing the resubmittal and traffic impact analysis.
- **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 is working with the developer to move the project forward.
- **Barnes Lumber development 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.
- **Galaxie Farm ZMA** – Residential development on Route 20 South; staff reviewed transportation design and impacts.
- **Stonefield** – Staff is coordinating developers on a possible rezoning and continued developments as well as connectivity issues and potential implementation of the Hydraulic Small Area Plan 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.

## 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.

- **Rt 250 West** – speeding concerns
- **Ashcroft Neighborhood** – speeding concerns, staff and ACPD will be attending a meeting in January to discuss recent enforcement and future Traffic Calming Process
- **Route 250 East Corridor and Route 22 Intersection** – Merging/lane configuration, congestion concerns
- **Westfield Rd (Rt 1452)** – truck parking/sight distance issue
- **Louisa Rd (Rt 22)** – speeding concerns
- **Hillsdale Drive** - Speeding and intersection safety concerns; traffic calming plan development- VDOT looking into lane configurations and evaluations
- **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
- **Earlysville Road** – Speeding concern; implementation of recommendations from VDOT evaluation; purchase and installation of speed radar signs. See Secondary Six Year Plan section.
- **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 for Miller School Road has now been approved by the Commissioner of Highways and signs have been implemented. Owensville Road was sent back for requesting the agricultural exception of logging trucks which referenced the study not mentioning such exception. Staff is waiting from VDOT a formal notification of rejection for Owensville Rd and will request the Board for further guidance if to request a Through-Truck Restriction as Miller School Road or no restriction at all.

- **Key West Neighborhood** - Speeding Issues and Traffic Calming Process