

# COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE

## TRANSMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### SUMMARY OF PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b> Avon Street Extended Corridor Plan	<b>AGENDA DATE:</b> 1/15/2020
<b>SUBJECT/PROPOSAL/REQUEST:</b> Work Session to review and discuss the Avon Street Extended Corridor Plan	<b>STAFF CONTACT(S):</b> Filardo, Benish, McDermott
	<b>PRESENTER (S):</b> Kevin McDermott

#### BACKGROUND:

In 2017 the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors approved the Neighborhood Improvement Funding Initiative. This program directed FY 16 funds to the County's Development Areas through an inclusive, community-driven process that allowed the Community Advisory Committees (CACs) to identify small-scale, quality of life improvement projects for their community. The 5th and Avon CAC decided to use a portion of their allotted funds to undertake a Corridor Study for the Avon Street Extended Corridor. The Board of Supervisors approved this project with the hope that the format could serve as a model for future corridor studies and with the understanding that this plan would not result in a Master Plan update for the Development Area. The intent was for the plan to result in transportation related recommendations to address specific issues or needs in the corridor which would inform potential grant applications for improvements and a future Master Plan update.

Through interactive exercises with the CAC, specific issues were identified that the community felt important for the Corridor Plan to address. These included: lack of consistent bicycle and pedestrian facilities, lack of a cohesive theme, both in the corridor and in the adjacent land uses, traffic calming needs, and poor operations at specific side-street movements.

In late Summer of 2018, the firm of Line + Grade Civil Engineering was contracted to develop the plan.

#### DISCUSSION:

Line + Grade, along with County planning Staff, attended each CAC meeting between December 2018 and March 2019 to collaboratively develop a Vision for the Avon Street Extended Corridor. The project limits were the City Line to the North and Route 20 to the South. The process allowed a high level of community interaction to inform recommendations. The initial recommendations were presented to the broader public at a meeting in May of 2019. Following that meeting, the input received resulted in some adjustments to the overall recommendations and the identification of three priority projects to focus on. These priority projects include:

- Pedestrian, bicycle, landscaping, and traffic calming improvements between Mill Creek Drive and the Army National Guard Site.
- Pedestrian and bicycle improvements between the Army National Guard Site and 5th Street Station Parkway, including a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-64.
- Intersection improvements at Mill Creek Drive and Avon Street Extended recommended as a roundabout to address pedestrian and vehicular safety issues, vehicular operations, and traffic calming.

The final plan was presented at the CAC meeting in September 2019 with additional outreach inviting the public to attend. One issue that was discussed at that meeting was the new entrance to Biscuit Run. This

entrance is being designed through a separate process for the Biscuit Run Master Plan and so it was determined that the Avon Street Extended Corridor Plan should be careful in its representation of this design. Staff and the CAC decided to remove this from the limits of the Corridor Plan to leave the final design open to the results of the Biscuit Run Master Plan design process.

At the November 5th Avon Community Advisory Committee meeting the CAC voted unanimously to endorse the plan to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

At the December 10th Planning Commission Meeting the plan was unanimously endorsed for forwarding to the Board for its approval. Members of the public were given the opportunity to comment on the plan. The Planning Commission had minor clarifications and recommendations that it desired to see in the plan which have now been made. The Planning Commission Staff Report is included as Attachment A and the Draft plan presented to the Planning Commission is Attachment A1. Minutes from the Planning Commission Meeting are also included as Attachment B

The Revised Draft Plan is included as Attachment C.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommends that the Board review the attached Revised Draft Plan (Attachment C) and provide direction to staff on the following questions:

Are the proposed Recommendations consistent with community feedback and the Comprehensive Plan's objectives? Are any topics missing?

Does the Board have any questions or concerns about the Plan?

The Board is welcome to endorse this plan now if it feels it is appropriate or, if desired, staff can make any requested changes and return with the Final Draft for approval at a later date.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A – Planning Commission Staff Report

A1 – Draft Avon Street Extended Corridor Plan (Re)Vision dated November 2019

B – Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

C – Revised Avon Street Extended Corridor Plan R(e)vision dated January 2019