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Memorandum

To: Planning Commission
From: Kevin McDermott, Principal Planner- Transportation
Division: Planning
Date: December 10, 2019
Subject: Avon Street Extended Corridor Plan

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 (CAC)s 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.

Summary:

Line + Grade, along with County planning Staff, attended each CAC meeting between December 2018 and March 2019 to collaboratively develop a Vision for Avon Street Extended Corridor. The project limits were the City Line to the North and Route 20 to the South. The process developed 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 included:

- 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. The specific representation of this intersection is not determined but staff will present options to the Planning Commission at the work session.

At the November 5th and Avon Community Advisory Committee meeting. The CAC voted to endorse the plan to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The Draft Plan is included as Attachment A along with select Appendices.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends that the Commission review the attached Plan and provide direction to staff on the questions below.

- Are the proposed Recommendations consistent with community feedback and the Comprehensive Plan's objectives? Are any topics missing?
- Does the Commission have any questions or concerns about the Plan?

The Planning Commission is welcome to endorse this plan to the Board of Supervisors if it feels it is appropriate.

Attachment:

Attachment A- [Avon Street Extended Corridor Plan R\(e\)vision \(Narrative and Select Appendices\)](#)