

# Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

October 2020

## Administrative Activities

- Attended CA-MPO Tech Committee and Policy Board Meetings in July and September
- Attended Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting in July and September
- Attended monthly VDOT-County Transportation Meetings
- Attended Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meetings
- Staff has been working on the redevelopment of the Albemarle County Website

## 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 been preparing for the 2020 Smart Scale Grant Cycle for the past eight months. Final applications were submitted on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Following is a summary of the projects that were submitted for applications this round based on Board meetings in June and August (numbers represent ranking on Albemarle County Transportation Priorities List 2019):

### **Albemarle County Smart Scale Applications:**

**#2. Rt 250 East Widening (Pantops) - From I-64 interchange to City Limits:** This proposal is to close the center turn lane with a median between the Rt 20 intersection and Rolkin Rd with potential breaks at Hansen Rd, Town & Country Ln, and People Place for limited movements and additional right-turn lanes as necessary. Sidewalk gaps will also be addressed.

**#7. Old Lynchburg Rd/5th St Ext Intersection Improvements:** The 5<sup>th</sup> St Extended Corridor is currently being evaluated through a VDOT STARS study which identifies safety, congestion, and multi-modal issues and recommends a series of short and long-term solutions. Previous studies related to Transportation Impact Analysis performed in support of developments have identified this failing intersection for a potential roundabout including pedestrian crosswalk facilities.

**#15. Rt 20/Rt 53 Intersection improvements:** This project was submitted for SMART Scale funding in 2018 but rejected. The proposal would convert the intersection into a roundabout and include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

**#14. Rio Road/John Warner Parkway Intersection:** Based on Board and citizen concerns, and related to ongoing development in the Rio Rd Corridor, this project was added to the prioritization process and ranked high. Staff has been working with VDOT and stakeholders to evaluate potential solutions, primarily focused on a roundabout, to address identified traffic issues at this intersection and improve pedestrian and bike facilities.

The county is also beginning the Rio Road Corridor Study evaluating this improvement in consideration of a potential R-cut at the Belvedere/Rio Rd intersection.

#### **Thomas Jefferson PDC/Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Applications:**

**#1. Hydraulic/29 Intersection Improvements:** Following the rejection for Smart Scale funding in the 2018 application cycle, staff have continued to work with the C-A MPO and VDOT to re-evaluate the project to identify scaled back alternatives that address the major issues at the intersection. The major features of the new alternative include removal of the left-turns from Hydraulic to US 29, a pedestrian bridge over US 29, a new transit station, and a Roundabout at the Hydraulic/Hillsdale intersection. The C-A MPO submitted this as an application in the 2020 cycle. \$18 million in funding is still available from VDOT which is being used to buy down the cost of the project.

**#6. Fontaine Ave/29 Bypass Displaced Left-turn:** Another project that was denied funding through Smart Scale in 2018, this was resubmitted in 2020. The project would reconstruct the existing traditional unsignalized diamond interchange to a partially displaced left-turn intersection also accommodating U-turns that would allow closure of the current left turn movement from northbound Rt 29 to westbound I-64. A Shared-use Path is proposed through the segment as well.

**#35. US 29 Shared-Use Path - From Seminole Lane North to Carrsbrook Drive:** This project was submitted as a Smart Scale application for 2020 and is a resubmittal of a SMART Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. The project would construct a shared-use path on the east side of US 29.

**#74. Fray's Mill/Burnley Station/US29 Intersection Improvements:** This project is a resubmittal of a Smart Scale application from 2018 that was rejected for funding. The project would reconstruct this intersection into an R-cut to address safety and operational issues. Staff has worked heavily to address public concerns related to this proposal. This potential project experienced enormous public feedback with concerns of operations and safety. The CA-MPO held an open public forum with VDOT providing an overview and answering questions for stakeholders and residents. This project was submitted as a Smart Scale application for 2020.

**#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. The 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 transit lines.

#### **Albemarle County FY 21-26 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. The FY 21-26 SSYP work session was scheduled for April 1, 2020 but an informational report was submitted instead as a result of the need to reduce agenda items because of the coronavirus outbreak. The public hearing was held on May 20, 2020 which supported the proposed FY21-26 SSYP and Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Road. Through the SSYP and supported by Resolutions, the Rural Rustic Roads to be paved FY21 are Wesley Chapel Road and Reservoir Road. Additionally, staff has been working with VDOT on the installation and maintenance of two permanent radar devices to be located on Earlysville Road at the intersection of Reas Ford Road which will be funded through the SSYP Countywide Traffic Services line item which were installed in June 2020. Additionally, an LED stop sign, the first in the Culpeper District, was placed on Reas Ford Rd at the intersection.

#### **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** – Managed by FES Department, this project to construct a new ADA accessible pedestrian crossing of Rio Rd at Greenbrier Dr has started construction with an expected completion date of Fall 2020.

### Transportation Alternatives and Revenue Sharing Grants

The following projects were either awarded funding in FY 17 or submitted for funding in FY 18 under the Transportation Alternatives (Safe Routes to School) or Revenue Sharing Grant programs. Staff was informed by the State that projects submitted in FY 18 would not be funded in FY 21 because the State has delayed the Six Year Plan as a result of Covid-19. Following is a brief update on the submitted projects:

#### Revenue Sharing:

- **Berkmar Drive Extension to Airport Road** – Submitted for grant funding in 2019. Project would complete the Berkmar Drive Extension to Airport Rd and construct a roundabout at the intersection including bicycle and pedestrian connections. 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. 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** – Project proposes to construct continuous sidewalks on Commonwealth Dr from Hydraulic Rd to Dominion Dr and Dominion Dr from Commonwealth Dr to Rt 29. This project was funded in 2018, and a consultant is now under contract on design. Staff has been reviewing potential design options presented by the consultant to determine a preferred design alternative prior to going to public meetings expected this fall to present the project.
- **Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – This project, which was funded in 2019 through Revenue Sharing, would extend the shared-use path on Berkmar Dr from Hilton Heights Rd to just south of Woodbrook Dr. A second phase of this project, funded through the Quality of Life effort, would extend it to Rio Rd. A consultant is now under contract for design and engineering and public meetings will be held this Winter Spring to discuss the alternatives.
- **Library Avenue Extension** – Funded in 2019, staff has been working closely 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. The 60% design was submitted to VDOTY for review this quarter. Construction remains planned to begin mid-2021.
- **Crozet Square** – Funded in 2018, this project will reconstruct Crozet Square and Oak St to improve traffic flow and parking. Engineering and design phase are underway, and construction is planned to begin mid-2021.

## Transportation Alternatives:

- **Tabor/High Streets Sidewalks**– Submitted for grant funding in 2019. 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, the project would construct sidewalk and shared-use paths to connect from Hydraulic Rd to Greer ES. Engineering and design phase well underway with construction expected Winter 2020-21.
- **Cale ES Pedestrian Improvements** – Funded in 2018, this project will construct a pedestrian crossing of Avon St and connections to the front of Cale ES. The engineering and design phase is underway with construction expected Winter 2020-21.

## Major Planning Efforts

### Rio Corridor Study

Staff has begun working with a consultant on the scope for a corridor study to evaluate transportation in the Rio Corridor from US 29 to the City Line. The consultant is expected to be underway in the next Quarter with public meetings occurring shortly after.

### Crozet Master Plan

Staff has been working on the update to the Crozet Master Plan. Transportation involvement has included data collection on existing conditions and proposed projects and assisting in the development of public outreach on transportation issues. A consultant is underway on a transportation study for the overall Crozet street system to identify future conditions and recommend improvements. Operational data for current and 2045 conditions is being organized to be presented to the CAC in October as part of the Master Plan update.

### Broadway Blueprint

Staff continues to work on a team evaluating potential development and redevelopment of this corridor associated with the Woolen Mills Development. Staff continued to evaluate and propose potential future efforts to enhance this corridor. This quarter internal staff meetings were held as well as a meeting with City of Charlottesville staff to discuss the project.

### 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 Parks and Recreation in coordination with VDOT for the design of the park entrance located at Avon St Ext and Scottsville Rd.

### 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. 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.

## 5th Street Extended Corridor STARS Study

This VDOT led study is expected to be completed this fall. Public meetings were held at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avon CAC and at Southwood in February and virtually in June to review the preliminary recommendations along with an online survey to evaluate results and recommendations. 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.

## Rivanna River Corridor Plan

Albemarle County is participating in this planning effort with the City of Charlottesville and being managed by the TJPDC to develop a Corridor Plan for the Rivanna River through Albemarle County but primarily focused on the segment along the County/City Line. Staff attended a Technical Team meeting this quarter on this project and have been working with County staff and the City for a draft Vision Statement for a future Stakeholder meeting planned for Fall 2020. Evaluation of a potential bridge crossing the Rivanna River has been combined with this process

## Climate Action Plan

Transportation staff lead the Community Mobility sub-group of the Climate Action Plan. This quarter, transportation staff has been working with FES to finalize the draft Phase 1 document focusing on Community Mobility while also scoping on Phase 2 of the plan.

## Public Transit Program

- **CAT Transit Stop Improvements** - Staff has been working with CAT and stakeholders to make improvements at select transit stops around the county. Improvements include installation of benches or other seating, shelters, or minor alterations in the routing or stop locations to improve safety, convenience, or circulation. Much of this work is also being coordinated with proposed developments that can offer stop locations or amenities
- **Regional Transit Partnership** Staff the August meeting of the partnership.

## 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. Currently all projects except the Berkmar Drive Shared-use Path have been put on hold awaiting a funding re-evaluation to account for the COVID shutdown and its economic impacts. Following is a list of the recommended projects:

- **Old Lynchburg Road/Moore's Creek Greenway Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement (Samuel Miller District)** – This project proposes to construct a Shared-Use path along Moore's Creek between Sunset Ave to Old Lynchburg Road then down Old Lynchburg to Azalea Park connecting to the existing Shared-use Path in the Park. Additionally, a sidewalk would be constructed from the Shared-use path south on Old Lynchburg to connect to the existing sidewalks on the south side of the I-64 overpass. This project was submitted for Revenue Sharing funding in 2019 and is awaiting the delayed notification on funding.

- **Avon Street Extended Shared-Use Path (Scottsville District)** – 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 or Transportation Alternatives Grant in 2021.
- **Tabor Street, High Street, and Hilltop Street Sidewalks (White Hall District)** – The consultant’s evaluation on these improvements have provided information that was used for a Transportation Alternatives application in 2019 and is awaiting the delayed notification on funding.
- **Rio Road Shared-Use Path (Rio District)** – This project was previously put on hold awaiting a study by VDOT to evaluate potential vehicular improvements to the Belvedere Blvd/Rio Rd intersection. Additionally, a development project was recently approved which proposed to construct a large portion of this Shared-use Path extension. Staff is recommending moving the QoL funding previously identified to this project to different project not yet identified with consideration given to projects in the Jouett District.
- **Berkmar Drive Shared-use Path (Rio District)** – 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 (Rivanna District)** – A consultant previously provided a cost estimate for construction of this Shared-use Path connection. However, there has been a pre-application meeting for a development in this area that may consider constructing this connection as part of the development. Staff is recommending moving the QoL funding previously identified to this project to a different project not yet identified with consideration given to projects in the Rivanna District.
- **Solomon Road/Inglewood Drive Sidewalks** – Staff has been evaluating the potential to supplant one of the undefined Quality of Life projects with a proposal for sidewalk additions in this area of the Urban Neighborhoods. VDOT and County staff are currently evaluating this possibility.

### Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Staff participates in a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Group, made up of representatives from the City, the TJPDC, and UVA, and 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 met monthly through this quarter with the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Group focused on the following projects:

- Work with VDOT to evaluate two potential implementation projects from the plan. These VDOT studies are being completed through their on-call consultants with public meetings and draft reports. .
  - The Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge in the area of Riverview Park, Woolen Mills and Pantops which is now being considered through the Rivanna River Corridor Study and is expected to be complete Fall 2020, and
  - Bicycle and pedestrian connections along Route 20 to connect the City to Monticello which was complete Spring 2020. This project was proposed as a potential Smart Scale application in 2020 however following the June Board it was determined to remove this from the potential



applications and work to develop the proposal further with additional public outreach efforts before moving forward. It is unknown at this time how this project will be re-evaluated

- 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. This data will be utilized in the TJPDC's regional One Map effort with the County, the City and UVA. Staff is currently involved in the merging of data with the regional partners which has not been made available to the public yet.

## 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:

- **ZMA202000009 Forest Lakes Self Storage**- Looking into trip generation of proposed uses and square footage to show how the maximum traffic impact will remain within the allowed 3,230 trips per day according to the traffic proffer.
- **ZMA202000006 Spring Hill Village Proffer Amendment**- Reviewing proffer amendment and impacts on reducing Rt 20 entrance to no northbound left turns and for a pedestrian path along Rt 20 rather than a sidewalk. This project was supported by the Board of Supervisors on September 16, 2020.
- SDP201900062 Georgetown/Hydraulic Professional Offices
- **ZMA202000007 RST Residences** – Review of the proposal and Traffic Impacts of this residential rezoning on US 29.
- **Brookhill Development**
  - **SUB201800115 Brookhill Road Plans** – Road plan review for this mixed-use development
- **SUB201900156 Rivanna Village Phase II Road Plans** – Road plan review for this residential development
- **SDP202000005 1895 Avon St Extended (Albemarle Limousine)**
- **ZMA201900010 3223 Proffit Rd, Amendment** – Amends previously approved rezoning for residential development to revise internal road network and buildable areas/lot sizes to reduce overall density from 109 units to 80 units.
- **ZMA201900004 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 SDP** – Staff is reviewing an updated TIA submitted with the Site Development Plan requesting an increase in student enrollment in accord with the approved proffer.

- **Albemarle Business Campus (Royal Fern) ZMA** – Mixed-use development on 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Staff comments due 04/15/2020
- **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. Monthly meetings with the developer help to continue to coordinate on this work. Review of the Initial Site Development Plan occurred this quarter.
- **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. Staff is preparing for 60% designs for the Library Ave connection and overall road system are currently in review.
- **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. This project was deferred by the Board of Supervisors on May 6, 2020.

## 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.

- Westhall Dr speed concerns
- Penn Park Rd pedestrian trespassing concerns
- Fontana Dr speed concerns
- Abington Pl parking concerns
- Old Trail Dr/Upland Dr- speed concerns
- Redfields Courtyard parking
- Orchard Dr speed/cut through concerns
- Louisa Rd speed and hidden driveway concerns
- Rolling Rd/Secretarys Rd/Jefferson Mill Rd intersection signage concerns
- Whippoorwill Hollow – speed/cut through traffic concerns
- Huntington Rd speed concerns
- Colonial Dr speed concerns
- Ivy Farm Dr speed concerns
- Dick Woods Rd (near Ivy Material) through truck restriction request; Dick Woods Rd from 151- speed limit reduction request- Study confirmed reduction. Waiting on signatures then for VDOT to implement new signage.
- Briairwood speed concerns
- Reynovia Dr speed concerns



- Cory Farms speeding concerns
- Hyland Ridge speeding concerns
- Hillsdale Drive - Speeding and intersection safety concerns; traffic calming plan developed. VDOT looking into implementation of traffic calming modifications.
- Berkmar Dr truck parking concerns
- 29 S sign clutter study
- Ashcroft traffic calming request- currently allowing recent traffic calming implementations by County, VDOT, ACPD (speed reduction on Lego Dr from 35 mph to 25 mph, recent police enforcement and speed study) be given a 6-9 month timeframe to allow for analysis or any needed modifications and steps towards an official traffic calming study. After 6 months, staff has been informed of continued speed concerns after traffic calming implementations, VDOT's speed reduction from 25 mph to 35 mph and ACPD's increased enforcement and speed study.
- **Earlysville Road** – Speeding/safety concerns; purchase and installation of speed radar signs and LED stop sign by VDOT. The use of Countywide Traffic Services funds (apportioned out of previous Telefee funds) from the SSYP for the installation and maintenance of two permanent, post-mounted, radar feedback devices at the intersection of Earlysville Road and Reas Ford Road. Radars and LED stop sign were installed in June 2020. Re-evaluating study of mini roundabout for low cost solutions.
- **Miller School Road and Owensville Road Through-truck restrictions** – The Board of Supervisors previously approved Resolutions requesting the Commonwealth Transportation Board institute Through –Tractor-Trailer Restrictions on these roads. The request has now been approved by the Commissioner of Highways for Miller School Road for a through-truck restriction and signs have been implemented stating a No Trough Truck Restriction. Owensville Road was rejected because of the agricultural exception of logging trucks. Staff presented this to the Board in May, and it was determined that the County would no longer proceed with this Through Truck Restriction request for Owensville Road. For Miller School Road, VDOT is requesting the County to amend the study demonstrating a through truck restriction is not necessary and likewise supporting a through tractor-trailer restriction. Staff is working with VDOT to address these steps.
- **Greenbrier Dr/Hillsdale Dr Traffic Calming and Safety Study** – Staff and VDOT are working with a stakeholder group to address safety and speeding concerns in the vicinity of this intersection. Currently a number of short-term and long-term improvements are being evaluated including removal of turn lanes through pavement markings, moving stop bars, pedestrian crosswalk improvements, and a low construction roundabout. As of September 2020, VDOT is re-evaluating the Tier 1 and Tier 2 traffic calming recommendations for future funding and implementation.