

Transportation Planning Quarterly Report

July 2021

Administrative Activities

- Attended Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) Tech Committee and Policy Board Meetings in May and June
- Attended Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting in May
- Attended monthly Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)-County Transportation Meetings
- A public hearing to designate Routes 240 & 810 as Virginia Byways was set at the May 19 Board of Supervisors Meeting and the public hearing will be held at the July 7 meeting.

Entrance Corridor Fixes

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors voted at their February 3, 2021 meeting in support of submitting a request for changes to the functional classification system on five highway segments in the County. The application request was also endorsed by the CA-MPO at the March 24, 2021 meeting. Staff is finalizing the application materials to VDOT for the request of the functional classification changes from Major Collector to Minor Arterial for the following road segments:

- Avon Street Extended (Route 742) - Entire segment (City limits to Route 20)
- Barracks Road (Route 654) - City limits to Georgetown Road
- Thomas Jefferson Parkway (Route 53) - Entire segment (Rt. 20 to Fluvanna County line; an alternative is Rt. 20 to Rt. 795)
- Richmond Road (Route 250 East) - Route 22 to Fluvanna County line
- Old Lynchburg Road (Route 631) - Sunset Ave (Route 781) to Hickory Street

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.

At the May 19 Board Meeting staff presented an update on the projects from the 2019 Transportation Priorities List, approved by the Board at the July 3rd, 2019 Meeting. The update included the following funding programs and information. (Numbers represent ranking on Albemarle County Transportation Priorities List 2019)

Smart Scale

2022 Applications

Staff is currently working with the CA-MPO, the TJPDC, and VDOT to develop projects for potential 2022 Smart Scale applications. The following projects have been discussed as possible submissions:

#1. District Avenue Roundabout – This project was initially a component of the recommended Hydraulic/29 Intersection Improvements package which failed to get funding in 2018 Smart Scale application. It was removed from the 2020 application but is now being considered for a 2022 Smart Scale application by the CA-MPO.

#4. Hillsdale Drive Extension and Realignment Phase 1: Mall Drive to Rio Road – Recommended in the Rio29 Small Area Plan, this project proposes to construct a new public roadway along the eastern boundary of the Fashion Square Mall property from Mall Dr to Rio Rd, a roundabout at the new intersection with Rio Rd with a connection to a realigned Putt-Putt Place. This project is currently being further evaluated through the Rio Rd Corridor Study. Additional study is likely necessary prior to being submitted for construction funding. This additional study should be considered for potential Transportation Leveraging Funds through the CIP.

#9. US 250 Corridor Improvements – Hansen Rd to Peter Jefferson Parkway: This potential project was identified as a VTRANS Need and is recommended for study under the VTRANS Multimodal Project Pipeline program. This process would evaluate the segment for a variety of potential improvements to address identified multimodal transportation needs. Possible improvements could include park and ride and transit improvements, intersection operations, and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. With the County's agreement, VDOT will undertake this study in coordination with the various stakeholders.

#16. US 250 West/US 29 Bypass Interchange – The interchange ramps at Ivy Rd (US 250) and the US 29 Bypass were identified in the US 250 West STARS Study as a high priority location for improvements to address safety and congestion issues in this critical regional corridor. It was also acknowledged that issues at these interchange ramps were tied to the US 250/Old Garth/Canterbury intersection. VDOT is currently evaluating this segment to identify potential solutions which could be the subject of a Smart Scale Grant in 2022.

#17. Belvedere Boulevard/Rio Road Intersection Improvement – Improvements at this intersection were initially proposed for a Smart Scale application in 2020. However, it was determined that the improvements at the adjacent intersection of John Warner Pkwy and Rio Rd were a necessary first step to this project and so it was removed from the application. The Rio Corridor Study is now further evaluating the recommendations for the Belvedere Intersection and it is recommended that the results of that evaluation determine the possible Smart Scale application in 2022.

#19. 5th Street Extended Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements – Recommendations from the recently completed 5th St STARS Study included bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the entire corridor. Ongoing development in the corridor is exacerbating the need for more multi-modal connectivity. This proposal is to extend the shared-use path proposed by the ABC development to the north and south to create a continuous facility on the west side of 5th St/Old Lynchburg Rd from Sunset Dr to Afton Pond Ct at a minimum or into the City if possible. Additional intersection improvements are also being explored.

#21. Crozet Ave/US 250 West Intersection Improvements – This intersection was identified in the Crozet Area Transportation Study and ongoing Master Plan update as currently experiencing failing movements and significant failure in the future. However, it should be noted that this priority ranking was set prior to that Study which showed that the more serious issue in this segment of 250 is the Old Trail/WAHS/US 250 intersection. It is staff's recommendation that it would be more effective to address that intersection prior to the Crozet Ave intersection. A two-lane roundabout at both the WAHS/Old Trail/250 intersection and the Brownsville-Henley entrance are recommended to address the issues in this segment.

#39. US 250/Route 22 & US 250/Milton Dr Intersection Improvements – VDOT has identified this project through the VTRANS Needs Assessment and has recommended it for study under the VTRANS Multimodal Project Pipeline program to evaluate the potential alternatives to address congestion and safety issues with these intersections. With the County’s agreement, VDOT will undertake this study in coordination with the various stakeholders.

N/A. Rivanna River Bike and Pedestrian Bridge: South Pantops to Woolen Mills – The Rivanna River bike and pedestrian bridge was a priority recommendation from the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and is also identified in the Rivanna River Corridor Plan currently in development. VDOT performed an evaluation on potential locations for this bridge in 2020 and focused in on two locations in the Woolen Mills/Riverview Park/State Farm/Martha Jefferson area. The Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO is considering an application for this project in the upcoming Smart Scale round. Additional planning and conceptual design will be necessary and could be done by CA-MPO staff or VDOT.

2020 Applications

The results of the Smart Scale Projects submitted in 2020 which were approved with the Six-Year Improvement Program at the Commonwealth Transportation Board July include the following projects:

#1. Hydraulic/29 Intersection Improvements: The major features of this project include removal of the left-turns from Hydraulic to US 29, a pedestrian bridge over US 29, a new transit station, a protected left turn lane from Angus Rd, and a Roundabout at the Hydraulic/Hillsdale intersection.

#2. Rt 250 East Corridor Improvements (Pantops) - From I-64 interchange to City Limits: This project will 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.

#6. Fontaine Ave/29 Bypass Displaced Left-turn: This project will 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.

#7. Old Lynchburg Rd/5th St Ext Intersection Improvements: This project will address failing operations at the entrance to the County Office Building on 5th St with a roundabout including pedestrian crosswalks.

#15. Rt 20/Rt 53 Intersection improvements: This project will convert this intersection into a roundabout and include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

#14. Rio Road/John Warner Parkway Intersection: This project will construct a roundabout to address identified traffic issues at this intersection and improve pedestrian and bike facilities.

#35. US 29 Shared-Use Path - From Seminole Lane North to Carrsbrook Drive: This project will construct a shared-use path on the east side of US 29.

#82. I-64/Exit 107 Crozet Park and Ride Lot: This project will 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.

2018 Applications

One project was funded in Albemarle County in the 3rd Round of Smart Scale.

#3. Intersection Improvements at Route 20/US 250 in Pantops: The project will rebuild the traffic signal, add additional turn lanes and reallocate other lanes, add a pedestrian crossing of US 250 and crossings of Route 20 and Riverbend Drive, and close existing sidewalk gaps approaching the

intersection. The project is currently in the design phase with expected construction in the 2025-2026 timeframe.

Revenue Sharing

2021 Applications

Staff is working on developing the applications for two Revenue Sharing projects proposed to be submitted this year. The pre-application period is open until July 1 and the final application portal is open from May 17 – July 1 and the final applications are open from August 16 – October 1. The following describes the projects:

#8. Eastern Ave South: US 250 across Lickinghole Creek to Cory Farms Road - This project is currently being evaluated through an alignment study and conceptual design which is funded through the Transportation Leveraging Fund in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The result of this study, which will produce 30% level design drawings and a conceptual cost estimate will be used to seek the necessary funding to complete construction on the project. The alignment report was presented to the Board in January and the preferred alignment was selected.

#10. Avon St. Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements – Mill Creek Dr to Peregrory Lane: This project is a segment of a recommendation from the Southern Areas Master Plan, the top priority recommendation from the Avon Street Corridor Study, and a proposal from the Quality of Life program. The recommendation is to construct a shared-use path adjacent to Avon St on the west side of the road from Mill Creek Dr to Peregrory Ln. It also includes a pedestrian crossing of Avon St near the Lakeside Apartments.

2019 Applications

One project from the FY19 application cycle is moving forward as a Revenue Sharing project while a second project that was initially applied for through the Revenue Sharing program is moving forward as a locally funded project. Both are described below.

#5. Berkmar Drive to Lewis & Clark Drive - Hollymead Town Center to Airport Road: This project will extend Berkmar Dr from its current terminus just north of Timberwood Blvd to Airport Rd and includes construction of a roundabout at the Airport Rd/Berkmar Dr/Lewis and Clark Dr intersection. Bike lanes and pedestrian facilities are also included. Previous funding has already initiated design, engineering and construction is anticipated for 2025. Total project cost is ~\$11MM with ~\$5MM local funding. Project Agreements were recently signed on this project and the project team is currently gathering existing conditions.

#26. Old Lynchburg Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements: This priority project to address connectivity issues was recommended for funding through the Board of Supervisors Quality of Life program. Initially staff attempted to use the funding as leverage through the Revenue Sharing Program to expand the project to include the segment of greenway between Sunset Ave and Old Lynchburg Rd. Unfortunately, the full project was not funded as a result of funding shortages related to COVID. Therefore, it was decided to focus on the Old Lynchburg segment only utilizing local funds. A consultant has provided a scope and cost for the design and preliminary engineering and staff is reviewing that proposal now.

2017 Applications

- **Commonwealth Dr./Dominion Dr. Pedestrian Improvements** – This project will construct continuous sidewalks on Commonwealth Dr from Hydraulic Rd to Dominion Dr and Dominion Dr from Commonwealth Dr to Rt 29. Initial designs came in over budget and staff has been reviewing funding and potential design options presented by the consultant to determine a preferred design alternative

prior to coming back to the Board and public to present potential options to address the cost increases.

- **Crozet Square** – 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 late-2021.
- **Library Avenue Extension** – 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 VDOT for review last quarter and the team is working to address some of the issues that VDOT has identified. Construction is expected to begin late-2021.
- **Berkmar Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** – This project, will 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 Summer to discuss the alternatives.

[Albemarle County FY 22-27 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 Board approved the FY 22-27 SSYP and the Albemarle County Priority List for Secondary Road Improvements, Unpaved Roads at the public hearing held on May 19, 2021. The Board identified the need to consider environmental factors in the identification of roads both to be paved and those to not pave as well as a desire to insure public outreach on roads on the list but no specific changes were made at this time. Through the SSYP and supported by Resolutions, letters to the property owners on the Rural Rustic Roads to be paved in FY22 (Burnt Mill Road, Hammocks Gap Road, and Harris Creek Road) were sent and comments received. The Board will consider Resolutions approving these segments for Rural Rustic Road Paving at the July 7 Board Meeting.

[Major Planning Efforts](#)

[Route 29 North Corridor Study](#)

Staff has begun working with VDOT and the TJPDC on an evaluation of the 29 Corridor from Airport Road north to Deerfield Drive in Greene County. A Kick-off Meeting and the first Stakeholder Meeting have been held and the consultant is working on data collection and existing conditions reports. The purpose of this study is to identify safety and operational improvements for the corridor. Additional Stakeholder meetings as well as public meetings and other feedback opportunities will continue through the summer. The estimated completion date for this study is early 2022 which would allow any recommendations to be considered for the next round of Smart Scale.

[Rio Corridor Study](#)

Staff is working with the consultant on the corridor study which is evaluating transportation in the Rio Corridor. The initial extents of the project were from US 29 to approximately John Warner Parkway but a second phase was approved in the previous quarter to extend the proposal south on Rio Road to the City Line. The consultant is currently focusing on data collection and an assessment of existing conditions in the Corridor. The initial public meetings to discuss the project and gain feedback were held in March and public input opportunities are ongoing. Regular meetings are being held with various County staff to continue to advance this project.

Crozet Master Plan

Staff has been working on the update to the Crozet Master Plan. This quarter the Transportation Study performed in association with the Master Plan was completed and the recommendations were incorporated into the draft Master Plan. Staff also assisted in the public meetings to discuss these recommendations with the community and the Planning Commission.

Broadway Blueprint

In May Economic Development staff presented to the Board on the final recommendations for the Broadway Blueprint. Transportation assisted on this process to evaluate potential development and redevelopment of this corridor associated with the Woolen Mills Development. A series of recommendations related to transportation improvements were included and staff will be looking for opportunities to implement these in the future.

Public Transit Program

Regional Transit Partnership

Staff attends the monthly meetings of the partnership. One significant topic currently underway through the partnership is the Regional Transit Vision Plan. This planning effort is the result of a recent grant the TJPDC was awarded from the Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT). The purpose of this effort is to collaboratively develop a clear vision for the future of transit in the region. The RTP has now selected a consultant to perform this study. The timeline for this study is scheduled to last until June 2022. Additional information will be shared on the scope and public input opportunities soon.

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. Additionally, staff has been participating the "Sense of Place" project to bring public art to select bus stops in Albemarle County. Staff has been coordinating on the efforts towards the pilot projects located within the Stonefield development. Once the process is developed for the pilot other areas may be explored for future rollout.

Albemarle County Transit Expansion Study

This study is also the result of a recent grant the TJPDC was awarded from the DRPT. This is a feasibility study and an implementation plan for expanded transit service to population and employment centers in the Pantops area, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and along Route 29 north between City Limits and the UVA Research Park and Rivanna Station. Initial stakeholder meetings have been held and the Needs Assessment is underway. The timeline for this effort will take it through January of 2022 allowing any recommendations to be submitted for trial project funds through DRPT.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Staff participates in a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordination Committee, 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 attended monthly meetings of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordination Committee Meetings

Currently Funded Projects

Two projects previously approved for Transportation Alternatives Grants are currently underway and approaching construction:

- **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 is complete. This project was put out to bid for construction but bids came back over budget. Funds have now been identified to move to the project to get it completed. Construction is likely to begin in Summer 2021.
- **Mountainview 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 complete. This project was put out to bid for construction but bids came back over budget. Funds have now been identified to move to the project to get it completed. Construction is scheduled to occur Summer 2021.

Staff has also been working with FES to identify additional funds necessary to move four other bicycle and pedestrian projects to construction. These projects were previously awarded funding through Revenue Sharing grants.

- **Ivy Road (US 250) Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements** - This project will construct continuous sidewalk on the south side of Ivy Road from the City Line west to Stillfried Lane and include bike lane and curb and gutter. A crosswalk and pedestrian signals will also be installed to cross Ivy Road at the Old Ivy Road intersection. The project is expected to begin construction Fall 2021.
- **Avon Street Pedestrian Improvements** – This project will construct various segments of sidewalk on Avon Street Extended between Swan Lake Drive and Arden Drive. Construction is expected to begin Summer/Fall 2021.
- **Rio Road Pedestrian Improvements** – This project will construct segments of sidewalk along Rio Road from the John Warner Parkway to Towne Lane and include a new pedestrian crosswalk and pedestrian signal at the Pen Park Road intersection. Construction is expected to begin Summer/Fall 2021.
- **US 250 West Pedestrian Improvements** – This project will construct segments of sidewalk along US 250 West in Crozet from Cory Farms Drive to Clover Lawn Lane and include a new pedestrian crosswalk and pedestrian crossing beacon near Clover Lawn Lane. Construction is expected to begin Summer/Fall 2021.

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:

- **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 development of the property, and necessary traffic improvements.
- **ZMA202000007 RST Residences** – Review of the proposal and Traffic Impacts of this residential rezoning on US 29 north.

- **ZMA202000005 Old Dominion Village** – Review of the proposal and transportation aspects/impacts of this Neighborhood Model rezoning in Crozet.
- **ZMA201900008 Rio Point** – Review of the proposal and traffic impacts of this residential rezoning on Rio Road.
- **ZMA202100006 Maplewood** – Review of the proposal and traffic impacts of this residential rezoning on Proffit Road.
- **ZMA202100004 Breezy Hill** – Review of the proposal and traffic impacts of this residential rezoning on US 250 In the Village of Rivanna.
- **ZMA202100005 1805 Avon Street** – Review of the proposal and traffic impacts of this residential rezoning on Avon Street.
- **SP202000016 Claudius Crozet Park** – Staff is reviewing the proposed redevelopment of the Crozet Park Recreational facilities to add an expanded exercise facility and improved pool and associated resources.
- **SDP201900062 Georgetown/Hydraulic Professional Offices** – - Addressing bus shelter proffer associated with this site plan
- **SDP202100022 Albemarle Business Campus** – Review of the site development plan and transportation facility design for this mixed-use development on 5th Street Extended.

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.

- Belvedere neighborhood parking and speeding concerns
- Crozet Ave pedestrian safety
- St George Ave traffic calming
- Free Bridge Lane traffic calming
- Dunlora Dr speed concerns
- Old Brook Rd speed study requested
- Westhall and Westlake neighborhoods speed concerns
- Penn Park Rd pedestrian trespassing concerns
- Fontana Dr speed concerns
- Old Trail Dr/Upland Dr speed concerns
- Ivy Farm Dr speed concerns/request to reduce speed limit
- Berkmar Dr truck parking concerns
- Stoney Creek Drive parking issues
- Earlysville Road/Reas Ford Rd intersection improvements – The County is engaging with consultants to explore options for safety improvements at this intersection.

- **Routes 22 and 231 Through Truck Restriction** – Staff has been working with VDOT, residents, and the Board member to address ongoing speeding, safety, and truck traffic concerns on these highways. VDOT has identified a possibility to perform a through truck restriction study which would evaluate the potential to implement some form of restrictions on trucks on the roads. The study is only the first step in a long process that would require Public Hearings and approvals at both the state and local level.