



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
**PUBLIC
WORKS**

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TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, Director of Public Works
DATE: July 14, 2020
RE: Resolution of Support for Smart Scale Grant Program

Summary: Consideration for adopting Resolutions of Support for the following projects to compete for state and federal transportation funding through the VDOT Smart Scale grant program:

- S. Main Street Safety Improvements
- S. Main and I-81 Exit 243 Interchange Improvements
- Port Republic Road Turn Lane and Sidewalk
- Port Republic Rd Corridor Improvements
- Pear St/Erickson Ave Modified RCUT
- Bluestone Trail Extension
- North Main Street Sidewalk

Background:

All of the projects listed below will be submitted for funding through the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Smart Scale grant program. The City of Harrisonburg has a maximum application limit of four, so the City is using the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission to augment our ability to apply for more funding. The applicant for each project is noted below. Each project has already cleared a pre-screening process and staff is beginning to prepare the full applications. A requirement for submission of these projects is to include a Resolution of Support from the locality.

It should be noted that for this round of Smart Scale applications, VDOT is only funding the last two (2) years of the Six Year Improvement Plan. This means that any awarded funds would not become available for use until 2026. Public Works staff is developing applications for the following projects:

S. Main Street Safety Improvements - The project adds a 3' wide concrete median on S. Main Street from just south of Mosby Rd to the intersection with Stone Spring Rd/Erickson Ave, with a break in the median to maintain a full access entrance to Dukes Plaza. The median will prevent left turns into and out of many commercial entrances along this high crash corridor. The project adds a 5' wide sidewalk on the east side of the road, and shelters at three bus stops, to improve multimodal access on the corridor. The City will submit this application.

S. Main and I-81 Exit 243 Interchange Improvements - On S. Main Street (US 11) at the I-81 Exit 243/Covenant Dr. intersection, the southbound (SB) approach and on-ramp will be widened to allow dual left turn lanes (LTL) from S. Main Street (US 11) onto the on-ramp; the SB LTLs will be extended to improve storage. The westbound (WB) approach will be widened to allow dual LTLs onto SB S. Main Street (US 11); the WB LTL storage will be extended to improve storage and clarify yield and merge conditions. The northbound (NB) LTL will be offset from the SB LTL to maintain the permissive left turn movement (no widening needed). An overhead wayfinding sign will be added along the SB approach to the interchange for I-81 on S. Main Street (US 11). A sidewalk will be constructed from the Holiday Inn Express to Pleasant Valley Road, along the west side of S. Main Street (US 11), and a pedestrian signal will be added to the S. Main Street (US 11) / Pleasant Valley Road intersection. The City will submit this application.

Port Republic Road Turn Lane and Sidewalk - Project extends the eastbound (EB) Port Republic Rd. left turn lane at Bluestone Dr. from 100' of storage to 300'. Road widening and sidewalk reconstruction on the north side of the road, supported by approximately 275' of retaining wall, will provide the needed space for the new turn lane length. About 450' of 5' wide sidewalk will be constructed on the south side of the project, including retaining wall for most of its length. A median will be constructed in the functional area of the intersection. The City will submit this application.

Pear St/Erickson Ave Modified RCUT - Project creates a modified RCUT at the intersection of Pear St. and Erickson Ave. as an alternative to a warranted traffic signal. 3 out of 4 left turns, as well as the through movements on the minor approaches are redirected to signalized U-turns. A signal will be added at the new U-turn location. A bulb-out design at the new U-turn will accommodate buses. Marked crosswalks will be provided at the Pear St intersection, including a pedestrian refuge and RRFB to cross Erickson Ave. The City will submit this application.

Port Republic Rd Corridor Improvements - Project adds a traffic signal, including signalized crosswalks, at the Port Republic Rd/Bradley Dr intersection. Port Republic Rd will be widened to create a WB left-turn lane with approximately 100' of storage and 100' taper. Sidewalk and bike lane will be reconstructed. A 3' wide concrete median will be constructed along the entire segment between the Bradley Dr and Devon Ln intersections. A channelizing island will be added at Hunters Rd/Port Republic Rd intersection to prohibit left turns. The Harrisonburg Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization will submit this application.

Bluestone Trail Extension - The project closes a 0.7-mile gap between two sections of the Bluestone Trail, a 10' wide paved shared use path, between its current terminus at Stone Spring Rd to the new high school that is currently under construction. Path construction on the high school campus extends the Bluestone Trail another 0.5 mile further south. The majority of this project is on independent alignment through city-owned property. A bridge over Blacks Run and the parallel railroad is needed to make this connection. The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization will submit this application.

North Main Street Sidewalk – The project includes the construction of 1,800 linear feet of sidewalk from Holly Hill Dr to Vine St. Existing curb and gutter will be reconstructed, and new curb and gutter will replace 750' of currently open drainage. Signalized crosswalks will be added at the intersection with Vine St. The Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission will submit this application.

Key Issues:

N/A

Environmental Impact:

To be determined per project during engineering phase.

Fiscal Impact:

Most of the Smart Scale grant projects would be 100% state and federally funded, except for the S. Main and I-81 Exit 243 Interchange Improvements project. The Exit 243 project has the potential to receive additional funds from a pending development project that imposes impacts on this interchange.

Prior Actions:

N/A

Alternatives:

Do not support the attached Resolutions. Resulting in Public Works not being able to submit grant applications for funding.

Community Engagement:

N/A

Recommendation:

Staff recommends supporting all resolutions.

Attachments:

1. Resolution for City Smart Scale applications
2. Resolution for Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization's Smart Scale applications
3. Resolution for Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission's Smart Scale application
4. Presentation

Review: