



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

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STREET MAINTENANCE
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
REFUSE/ RECYCLING
CENTRAL STORES

TO: Eric D. Campbell, City Manager
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, Assistant Director of Public Works
DATE: June 12, 2018
RE: Resolutions of Support for Smart Scale Grant Program

Summary: Consideration for adopting Resolutions of Support for the following projects: Mt Clinton Pike Road Improvements; Erickson Avenue Improvements; Carlton Street Improvements; University Blvd & Evelyn Byrd Avenue Improvements; MLK Jr. Way Extension, Transit Center, and Park & Ride; and East Market Street and Exit 247 Improvements.

Background:

All the projects listed below will be submitted for funding through the Virginia Department of Transportation's Smart Scale grant program. Each project has already been submitted for pre-screening 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 2023.

Mt Clinton Pike Road Improvement – This project is currently on-hold due to a lack of funding for construction. Presently, the plans are at the 60% level and Public Works is ready to begin right of way acquisition for this project. However, Public Works does not want to begin this process until construction funds are identified. Revenue Sharing funds have been used to develop this project to its current status, and a balance is still available for further use. Public Works submitted this project in the last round of Smart Scale applications, and it was the City's highest scoring project, but it did not score high enough to receive funding. Prior to final submission Public Works will look for ways to reduce project cost and improve overall project benefits.

Erickson Avenue Improvements – This project will be to reconstruct the intersection of Erickson Avenue and Garbers Church Road by adding turn lanes and reconstructing the traffic signal. The limits of the project would be from a point near Erickson Professional Park to Providence Baptist Church. These improvements are focused on improving safety and congestion at this intersection. This project will also include sidewalk and bike lanes within the project area, and will be designed and constructed in a manner as to allow for future improvements along the roadway.

Carlton Street Improvements – This project would improve Carlton Street between East Market Street and Reservoir Street, and these improvements are shown in both the City's Street Improvement Plan as

well as the Harrisonburg Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The improvements include the addition of a center turn lane, sidewalks, utility relocations, drainage improvements, and intersection improvements.

University Blvd and Evelyn Byrd Avenue Improvements – This project would improve sections of University Blvd between East Market Street and Reservoir St, and Evelyn Byrd Ave between East Market St and Reservoir St. The improvements include constructing sidewalks along both roadways and providing side street connections of sidewalk on side streets where appropriate. In addition to the sidewalks Public Works plans incorporate a road diet for both street segments. Road diets are safety improvements that convert a 4-lane facility to a 2-lane facility with center turn lane. Per the Federal Highway Administrations (FHWA) road diet guidance, both street segments are candidates for this safety improvement, and it has been determined by Public Works that both segments are within thresholds for road diets to be implemented.

MLK Jr. Way Extension, Transit Center, and Park & Ride Project – This project is a partnership between Public Works and Harrisonburg Public Transportation Department, and involves the extension of MLK Jr. Way between East Market Street and Country Club Road, the construction of a new Transit Transfer Center, and park & ride lot. Public Works and HDPT partnered in late 2017 and early 2018 to develop a feasibility study for this project, and that study is attached to this report. The study looked at all aspects of this project and provides a preferred alternative design that best meets the goals of this project. Included in this study are roadway and site layouts, floor plans, different park & ride lot configurations, as well as planning level cost estimates.

The roadway is planned to be a 2-lane roadway with center turn lane and traffic signal at the new intersection of MLK Jr. Way and Country Club Road. The road improvements will also include sidewalks and shared use path parallel to the MLK Jr. Way extension. The Transit Transfer Center is planned to provide births for 16 buses and a 2,500 SF Transfer Center. The park & ride lot has varied levels of capacity, based on selected layout, that range between 120 and 150 spaces.

HDPT will submit a Smart Scale application for this project, and that submittal will include all of the project components mentioned above.

East Market Street and Exit 247 Improvements – This project is a partnership between the City of Harrisonburg, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Harrisonburg Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization. It is planned to construct a shared use path in the median of East Market Street between Linda Lane/Burgess Road and MLK Jr. Way, as well as an additional lane in each direction on the East Market Street bridges over the railroad. If successful in this grant application this project would be included in the currently funding interchange improvement project for Exit 247.

The Harrisonburg Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization will submit a Smart Scale application for this project, and that submittal will include all of the project components mentioned above.

The City With The Planned Future

Key Issues: N/A

Environmental Impact: Various and to be determined per project.

Fiscal Impact: All proposed Smart Scale grant projects would be 100% state and federally funded.

Prior Actions: None.

Alternatives: None.

Community Engagement: N/A

Recommendation: Staff recommends supporting all resolutions.

Attachments: Council presentation, Resolutions for all projects.

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

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