



CITY OF HARRISONBURG PUBLIC WORKS

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To: Ande Banks, City Manager
From: Thomas Hartman, PE, LEED AP, Director of Public Works
Date: July 23, 2024
Re: VDOT SMART SCALE Grant Program Resolutions

Summary:

Consider adopting a Resolution of Support for five (5) VDOT SMART SCALE Grant program applications.

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 coordinated with the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to augment our ability to apply for more funding. Each project has already passed a pre-screening process and staff is preparing the full applications. A requirement for submission of these projects is to include a Resolution of Support from City Council.

It should be noted that for this round of SMART SCALE applications, any awarded funds would not become available for use until 2027. Public Works staff is developing applications for the following projects:

- **Bluestone Trail Extension**

The project extends the Bluestone Trail, a 10' wide paved shared use path, from its current endpoint at Stone Spring Road to Rocktown High School. The path will follow Beery Road and Blacks Run, with a bridge necessary to cross Blacks Run and the railroad tracks. Shared use paths constructed on the high school site extend the Bluestone Trail further south and provide connections to S. Main Street.

- **Mt. Clinton Pike Corridor**

A single-lane roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Mount Clinton Pike and Acorn Drive. A sidewalk will be added along the east side of Acorn Drive and the north side of Mount Clinton Pike to fill gaps in the network. The extension of the Northend Greenway from its current terminus at the railroad tracks to Virginia Avenue will also be completed. This will include construction of a safe path crossing over the railroad tracks, adjacent to Mount Clinton Pike, and curb ramps and crosswalk improvements at the Virginia Avenue intersection.

- **Reservoir Street Median**

The project will construct a variable width concrete median on Reservoir Street, between University Boulevard and Neff Avenue. The project does not require roadway widening, and where the median is full width, landscaped plantings will be installed in the median. The project will modify an existing private entrance to one business to ensure the entrance operates safely in the new configuration.

- **S. Main Street Phase 3**

The project will construct a median on S. Main Street from Southgate Court to Baxter Drive. The project will add multiple segments of new sidewalk along S. Main Street, constructing nearly 1000 linear feet of sidewalk on the west side of the street and approximately 3600 linear feet of sidewalk on the east side of the street. An accessible boarding and alighting concrete pad will be constructed at one (1) bus stop located along the new sidewalk. When combined with previously funded projects, this project would provide a median and sidewalks (on both sides) along the entire length of S. Main Street between Stone Spring Road and I-81 Exit 243.

- **Port Republic Road at I-81 Exit 245**

The project will construct a second left turn lane on Forest Hill Road at Port Republic Road, resulting in the approach having one right turn lane and two left turn lanes. The project will construct a right turn lane on Port Republic Road at Forest Hill Road. The project will re-construct sidewalk impacted by the project, and will add sidewalk on Forest Hill Rd. The project will construct a concrete median on Port Republic Road from Forest Hill Road to Hunters Road. The project will construct a shared use path on a parallel alignment behind two properties, connecting bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to be constructed by other projects. A boarding and alighting area will be constructed for the bus stop on the east side of Port Republic Road. A pedestrian refuge island will be installed at the intersection with the I-81 NB on-ramp.

Key Issues:

N/A

Environmental Impact:

If grant funds are awarded each project that receives funding will be required to complete a full environmental impact study and any mitigations required will be provided.

Fiscal Impact:

The VDOT SMART SCALE program is a 100% grant funded program, which means there is no required City matching funds.

Prior Actions:

N/A

Alternatives:

N/A

Community Engagement:

Some of the proposed projects have been identified through transportation studies and those studies include some form of community survey to determine existing conditions and to provide comments on proposed mitigations.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends City Council adopt this resolution.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. SMART SCALE Resolution

Review: