

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2011

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: ABI LERNER, P.E. DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #3 – PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE GRANT UPDATE

ISSUE: This memorandum provides an update on the status of the City’s pedestrian and bicycle grant projects. The 17 individual projects consist of citywide improvements to pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility. This includes sidewalk and trail construction, pedestrian and bicycle bridge construction, and accessibility and safety improvements, particularly near transit stations and schools.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission receive the update.

DISCUSSION: The City currently has 17 bicycle and pedestrian projects that are partially or fully grant funded. The cost estimate for all of these projects is approximately \$16 million. The City currently has \$7.7 million for these projects with \$8.3 million unfunded. The following is a complete list of the projects:

- 1) Holmes Run Bike Trail Study – The study and design resulting in a preferred alignment for significant upgrades to the trails and tunnels along the Holmes Run Greenway from North Ripley Street running north beneath I-395.
- 2) Holmes Run Bike Trail Construction – Construction of the preferred alignment from the Holmes Run Bike Trail Study.
- 3) Holmes Run Shared Use Path Crossing – Construct a low profile crossing over Holmes Run at North Chambliss Street.
- 4) Charles Barrett School Multimodal Improvements – Intersection safety improvements at Valley Drive and Martha Custis Drive.
- 5) George Mason School Multimodal Improvements – Intersection safety improvements at Monticello Boulevard and Cameron Mills Road and sidewalk reconstruction on walking routes to the school.
- 6) Bicycle Parking and Pedestrian Signals at Schools – Installation of bicycle parking and pedestrian signals at schools.
- 7) Cora Kelley School Multimodal Improvements – Intersection safety improvements at Commonwealth Avenue and East Reed Avenue and sidewalk installation.

- 8) James Polk School Multimodal Improvements – Construction of sidewalks to close gaps in the sidewalk network on Polk Avenue.
- 9) Highway Safety Improvement Program – Pedestrian safety improvements at Duke Street between North Paxton Street and South Walker Street.
- 10) Access to Transit Improvements – Sidewalk installation on Madison Street, Eisenhower Avenue, King Street, and Russell Road, including improvement of the King/Callahan/Russell Road intersection.
- 11) Mount Vernon Trail Safety at East Abingdon – Widening the Mount Vernon Trail at East Abingdon.
- 12) Duke Street Pedestrian Improvements – Pedestrian improvements on Duke Street between Oasis and South Walker Street.
- 13) Edsall and South Pickett Street Intersection – New crosswalks, median island improvements, potential elimination of right-hand slip lane/turning radius improvements, sidewalk enhancements, and new curb ramps at this location.
- 14) Wilkes Street Bikeway – Bicycle intersection improvements to Wilkes Street to provide an on-road, east-west bikeway connection between major shared-used paths
- 15) Eisenhower Multi-use Trail – Construction of a trail underpass at Eisenhower Avenue.
- 16) Old Cameron Run Study – Feasibility study and conceptual design for a bicycle/pedestrian trail between Eisenhower Avenue near Telegraph Road to the Mount Vernon Trail.
- 17) Four Mile Run Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge – Design of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge that would connect Commonwealth Avenue in Alexandria with South Eads Street in Arlington

The grant projects that need additional funding include the Holmes Run Bike Trail Study, the Holmes Run Bike Trail Construction, and the Four Mile Run Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge.

Pedestrian and bicycle grants are funded through a variety of grant programs, including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement program, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU), the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Status

Substantial progress has been made over the past year on five individual projects funded through a SAFETEA-LU Safe Routes to School grant. Conceptual design has been completed on safety improvements at intersections and along walking routes to Charles Barrett School, George Mason School, Cora Kelly School, and James Polk School. The grant will also fund the installation of bicycle parking and pedestrian signals near schools throughout the City. Design completion is scheduled for this spring, with construction expected in the fall of 2011.

The Eisenhower Multi-use Trail underpass along Cameron Run at the Vola Lawson

Animal Shelter, funded through ARRA grant, is nearly complete. This trail connects with the Holmes Run Trail, where two key projects are underway. One involves the installation of a low-profile crossing where the Holmes Run Trail meets North Chambliss Street, which is scheduled for construction this summer, and the other involves construction of significant upgrades to the rails and tunnels from North Ripley Street to beneath I-395, where design will begin in February 2011.

Attachment 1: List of Pedestrian and Bicycle Grants