

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 20, 2016 (BOS Mtg. 10/4/16)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Project Endorsement – Bypass Road Sidewalk Rehabilitation

Staff proposes to submit an application to VDOT for federal grant funding through the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside portion of the Surface Transportation Block Grant program to replace the existing asphalt path along Bypass Road (Route 60) with a five-foot (5') concrete sidewalk. Applications must be filed with VDOT by November 1.

The proposed sidewalk would tie into existing sidewalks on both ends in the City of Williamsburg (between the bridge over the railroad tracks and the county-city boundary just east of Route 132, as shown on the attached map) and the existing sidewalk along Commons Way, which was built by the County with federal “economic stimulus” funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The existing path is in disrepair and does not comply with ADA standards, and the proposed sidewalk rehabilitation project would complement the planned installation of a pedestrian crossing of Bypass Road – with signals, crosswalks, and curb ramps – at its intersection Waller Mill Road, for which the VDOT Williamsburg Residency is currently seeking funding through a separate program. Both the pedestrian crossing and the sidewalk rehabilitation were identified as needed improvements in a bicycle/pedestrian safety study of Bypass Road recently conducted by consultants working for VDOT. The new walkway will improve pedestrian/bicycle access to and from the five major hotels and other businesses located on the south side of Bypass Road. Combined, these hotels include almost 600 guest rooms.

The TA Set-Aside is part of the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant program and is intended to provide funding for transportation projects that expand non-motorized travel choices, with a particular focus on pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The project selection process in Virginia is coordinated by VDOT in conjunction with the regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Federal funds cover up to 80% of the project cost (on a reimbursement basis), and a 20% local match is required. The cost estimate for the project, developed by Department of Public Works staff based on a detailed analysis of the specific characteristics of the Bypass Road corridor and the materials quantities that would be required, is \$750,000 (\$600,000 federal/\$150,000 local, under the 80/20 cost sharing formula.

Last year the County applied for funding for this project under the Transportation Alternatives (TAP) Program, which was the precursor to the TA Set-Aside. That application

was unsuccessful, and County staff has since met with VDOT representatives to discuss possible strategies for better success in the upcoming funding cycle. One suggestion was to increase the County's contribution above the minimum 20% local match of \$150,000. Not only does providing a larger local match improve a project's benefit-cost ratio by reducing the VDOT cost share, but it also demonstrates a tangible financial commitment to the project on the part of the locality, which can help in the project scoring process. Therefore, this year I am recommending that the Board pledge up to 24% of the total project cost, or \$180,000 (i.e., \$30,000 more than last year). These funds are available in the Roadways/Sidewalk Improvements account previously appropriated by the Board of Supervisors in the Capital Improvements Program.

The VDOT program guidelines require resolutions of support for the project from both the regional MPO (which has been requested) and the local governing body (proposed resolution attached). As required by federal regulations, proposed Resolution No. R16-114 includes a commitment that the County will provide a local match of up to \$180,000 if the application is approved, and that if the County ultimately cancels the project for any reason, it will reimburse VDOT for any costs expended.

Proposed Resolution. R16-114 is attached for the Board's consideration.

Attachments:

- Project Diagram
- Proposed Resolution R16-114

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