



MEMORANDUM

TO: Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager
FROM: Erik F. Nelson, Transportation Administrator
DATE: August 5, 2020 (for the August 11 Council Meeting)
RE: Resolution of Support for Smart Scale Projects

ISSUE

The City of Fredericksburg is prepared to submit four applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Smart Scale program and must show due process for public involvement and a resolution of support from the governing body.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council adopt the attached resolution of support for the Smart Scale applications that staff will submit to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth of Virginia provides significant transportation funding through the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Smart Scale program. August 17, 2020 is the application deadline and City staff will submit four applications, to seek funds for the following projects:

Project	Total Cost/ Requested Funds	Leveraged Funds
Gateway Boulevard, extended – VA Route 3 to Cowan Boulevard	\$49,469,371/ \$29,369,371	ROW donation valued at \$8.1 million; City funds \$12 million
U.S. Route 1 STARS – Route 3 off-ramp signals/Spotsylvania Avenue intersection improvements	\$8,373,474	Value of right-of-way will reduce cost estimate
U.S. Route 1 STARS – Augustine Avenue intersection improvements	\$1,710,339	None
Idlewild Boulevard to VCR Trail - 900 foot trail, 80 foot bridge, crosswalk & signal at Kings Mill Dr.	\$1,904,311/ \$1,464,411	\$439,900 in Congestion Management/Air Quality funds

In early 2020, staff developed a draft list from adopted plans and submitted those for public review. A public hearing on February 25, 2020 did not result in any further suggestions, so staff proceeded with developing pre-applications for the proposed projects. One project, a bicycle-pedestrian connector along Dixon Street to Mayfield, had to be dropped after City staff and VDOT determined

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that a series of constraints made that project problematic. That connector remains a needed project, however, and will be studied further to figure out a way forward.

Planning and coordination at the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) level resulted in five City projects being ready for consideration by the Smart Scale program. The City has its own four projects, noted above. The fifth is a joint project with Spotsylvania County, submitted to Smart Scale by the FAMPO staff. That joint project consists of extensive pedestrian improvements in the Lafayette Boulevard corridor, as well as improved and new FRED bus stops. Three other FAMPO projects went to other jurisdictions. In addition, the four projects allowed for the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) went to other member jurisdictions. Resolutions of support for those projects are provided by FAMPO and GWRC.

The City's projects were the subject of a public hearing on July 14, 2020. There were no public comments during that hearing, but pandemic-related public hearing procedures allowed for citizens to provide input any time before the subsequent meeting of the governing body. At the conclusion of the public participation process, on August 11, 2020, the four projects submitted by City staff are ready for formal support from Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City's four Smart Scale applications request a total of \$41 million through the Smart Scale program. Those projects represent an overall investment in infrastructure valued at \$61 million. The City has committed \$12,000,000 in local funds to the Gateway Boulevard, extended project. These funds will only be obligated, however, if the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs decides to locate its new 500,000 square foot Veterans Clinic on the Hylton tract. In that eventuality, the property owner (Hylton Group) will dedicate the needed right-of-way that is on their property (an estimated \$8.1 million value). The City will cover the debt service for its own \$12 million obligation through the tax proceeds from the privately owned Clinic.

Attachments:

Resolution of support for Smart Scale projects



August 11, 2020
Regular Meeting
Resolution No. 20-__

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: Supporting the Submission of Smart Scale Applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation

ACTION: APPROVED: Ayes: 0; Nays: 0

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is accepting applications to its Smart Scale program, to fund transportation projects in the next Six-Year Improvement Program.

The City Council has held two public hearings, on February 25, 2020 and July 14, 2020, to provide opportunities for public comments on proposed plans and applications.

City staff has developed four funding applications that are consistent with both the City of Fredericksburg Comprehensive Plan and the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) Constrained Long Range Plan.

Project	Estimated Cost	Leveraging Funds
Gateway Boulevard, extended	\$49,469,371	ROW donation, est. value \$8.1 million; City funds \$12 million
U.S. Route 1 STARS – Rt. 3 off-ramp signals/Spotsylvania Ave intersection	\$8,373,474	ROW donation from City of Fredericksburg
U.S. Route 1 STARS – Augustine Avenue intersection improvements	\$1,710,339	Smart Scale for entire project
Idlewild Boulevard to VCR Connector - 900 ft. trail, 80 ft. bridge, crosswalks	\$1,904,311	Congestion Management/Air Quality funds (\$439,900)

Therefore, the City Council resolves that it authorizes its staff to submit four Smart Scale applications for the transportation projects identified in the above table.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

Clerk's Certificate

I certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 20- adopted at a meeting of the City Council held August 11, 2020 at which a quorum was present and voted.

Tonya B. Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council