

MEMORANDUM

TO: Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager
FROM: Mike Craig, Senior Planner
DATE: June 30, 2022 (for the July 12 Council Meeting)
RE: Resolution of Support for Smart Scale Projects

Issue

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Smart Scale Round 5 transportation funding applications are due August 1. The City of Fredericksburg is prepared to submit three applications and the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) and George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) are prepared to submit three regional applications for transportation improvements in the City.

Recommendation

Adopt the resolution of support for the City's three Smart Scale applications as well as the three applications to be submitted by FAMPO and GWRC.

Background

VDOT provides a competitive funding program called Smart Scale, which evaluates potential transportation projects based on key factors like how they improve safety, reduce congestion, increase accessibility, contribute to economic development, promote efficient land use, and affect the environment. The most recent application cycle is Smart Scale Round 5.

Application preparation for Smart Scale Round 5 began in February of 2022. Pre-applications were submitted in March to VDOT. Once submitted, VDOT worked with City and FAMPO staff to refine the proposed applications and to provide cost estimates for the work. Pre-applications were then pre-screened for eligibility in the final application period. Final applications for eligible projects are due on August 1, 2022. The applications will then be scored between August and December. VDOT will announce the applications accepted for funding in January 2023.

The City of Fredericksburg has identified three proposed transportation projects that are eligible for potential smart scale funding and plans to submit applications for these projects for the Round 5 cycle. The projects are:

Dixon Park Connector

This project will connect existing trail networks. Specifically, it will add a separated on-street multi-use path along Caroline Street (approximately 800 feet long) starting at Frederick Street then heading south to the end of Caroline Street. The project will then add a shared use path from the end of Caroline Street to the existing Dixon Park Trails network (approximately 4,400 feet long). This project will require construction of two pedestrian bridges, including one over Hazel Run, which will connect the proposed trails. This project is also the preferred route for the East Coast Greenway trail network through the City of Fredericksburg.

Lafayette Boulevard / Route 3 Roadway Improvements

This project will extend the existing left turn lane on Lafayette Blvd north bound to State Route 3 west bound. It will also provide a dedicated right turn lane on Lafayette Blvd north bound to State Route 3 east bound. Furthermore, it will provide an acceleration lane on State Route 3 east bound from Lafayette Blvd to Summit Street.

Express Commuter Transit Service to Dahlgren

This project will add an express service to Dahlgren. This includes three proposed shelters and bus stops at approximately these locations in King George, Virginia: Dahlgren Road & NSF Dahlgren Outbound, Dahlgren Road & NSH Dahlgren Inbound, and James Madison Pkwy & University Drive Inbound.

Additionally, the Fredericksburg Metropolitan Planning Organization and the George Washington Regional Commission have submitted three regional applications that would include improvements within the City of Fredericksburg. Those projects are:

Dixon Street Roadway and Multimodal Improvements

This project will widen Dixon Street to four lanes to match existing conditions in the City and planned improvements in Spotsylvania County. It also includes turning improvements on Beulah Salisbury and a trail connection into Dixon Park.

Lafayette Boulevard Multimodal Improvements with Old Greenwich Drive

This project includes new sidewalks on the east side of Lafayette Boulevard in both Spotsylvania County and the City of Fredericksburg. The sidewalk in the City will extend from the Family Dollar north to Twin Lakes Drive. The project also includes transit improvements, which consists of a new northbound stop to pair with the existing southbound stop in the Wellington Woods area.

VCR Regional Project – Multimodal Improvements

This project includes a connection between the Virginia Central Railroad Trail and the Chatham Bridge Trail through the Downtown. The alignment includes portions of the Bankside Trail. The project also includes extension of the VCR trail west from the Hazel Run bridge to the Interstate 95 Limited Access Line.

Fiscal Impact

The Smart Scale program does not require matched or leveraged funding and can fully fund the proposed projects.

Attachments:

1. Resolution Supporting City of Fredericksburg, FAMPO, and GWRC Smart Scale Round 5 applications.



July 12, 2022
Regular Meeting
Resolution 22-

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: Supporting Smart Scale Round 5 Applications

ACTION: APPROVED: AYES: 0; NAYS: 0

FIRST READ: _____

SECOND READ: _____

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides a competitive funding program called Smart Scale, which evaluates potential transportation projects based on key factors like how they improve safety, reduce congestion, increase accessibility, contribute to economic development, promote efficient land use, and affect the environment. The most recent application cycle is Smart Scale Round 5, and the deadline for submitting applications is August 1, 2022.

The City of Fredericksburg has identified three proposed transportation projects that are eligible for potential smart scale funding and plans to submit applications for these projects for the Round 5 cycle. The projects are:

Dixon Park Connector

This project will connect existing trail networks. Specifically, it will add a separated on-street multi-use path along Caroline Street (approximately 800 feet long) starting at Frederick Street then heading south to the end of Caroline Street. The project will then add a shared use path from the end of Caroline Street to the existing Dixon Park Trails network (approximately 4,400 feet long). This project will require construction of two pedestrian bridges, including one over Hazel Run, which will connect the proposed trails. This project is also the preferred route for the East Coast Greenway trail network through the City of Fredericksburg.

Lafayette Boulevard / Route 3 Roadway Improvements

This project will extend the existing left turn lane on Lafayette Blvd north bound to State Route 3 west bound. It will also provide a dedicated right turn lane on Lafayette Blvd north bound to State Route 3 east bound. Furthermore, it will provide an acceleration lane on State Route 3 east bound from Lafayette Blvd to Summit Street.

Express Commuter Transit Service to Dahlgren

This project will add an express service to Dahlgren. This includes three proposed shelters and bus stops at approximately these locations in King George, Virginia: Dahlgren Road & NSF Dahlgren Outbound, Dahlgren Road & NSH Dahlgren Inbound, and James Madison Pkwy & University Drive Inbound.

Additionally, the Fredericksburg Metropolitan Planning Organization and the George Washington Regional Commission have submitted three regional applications that would include improvements within the City of Fredericksburg. Those projects are:

Dixon Street Roadway and Multimodal Improvements

This project will widen Dixon Street to four lanes to match existing conditions in the City and planned improvements in Spotsylvania County. It also includes turning improvements on Beulah Salisbury and a trail connection into Dixon Park.

Lafayette Boulevard Multimodal Improvements with Old Greenwich Drive

This project includes new sidewalks on the east side of Lafayette Boulevard in both Spotsylvania County and the City of Fredericksburg. The sidewalk in the City will extend from the Family Dollar north to Twin Lakes Drive. The project also includes transit improvements, which consists of a new northbound stop to pair with the existing southbound stop in the Wellington Woods area.

VCR Regional Project – Multimodal Improvements

This project includes a connection between the Virginia Central Railroad Trail and the Chatham Bridge Trail through the Downtown. The alignment includes portions of the Bankside Trail. The project also includes extension of the VCR trail west from the Hazel Run bridge to the Interstate 95 Limited Access Line.

The Smart Scale program does not require matched or leveraged funding and can fully fund the proposed projects.

Therefore, the City Council resolves that

- The City Council supports the proposed City, FAMPO, and GWRC Smart Scale applications.
- Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to submit the funding application and to execute all applicable agreements.

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. 22- adopted at a meeting of the City Council held July 12, 2022 at which a quorum was present and voted.

***Tonya B. Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council***