



Office of the Town Manager
Frank Cassidy

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STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date:	March 11, 2025
Agenda Title:	Transportation Planning Update
Requested Action:	Work Session
Department / Agency Lead:	VDOT
Staff Lead:	Denise Harris

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town Council will receive an overview of transportation-related planning and grant projects. This work session features the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) overview on the Shirley Avenue Pipeline Study, the E. Lee/Meetze Road Study, and Rounds 2, 5, and 6 Smart Scale projects.

BACKGROUND

Shirley Avenue Pipeline Study – In 2023 the Virginia Department of Transportation started a “Pipeline Study” on Shirley Avenue. Pipeline studies are a statewide initiative to focus on solutions to the identified VTrans Mid-Term needs with a Performance Based Planning Approach. The first Pipeline Study in Warrenton occurred on Lee Highway and the recommendations have resulted in successful Smart Scale funding awards. The Shirley Avenue study area encompasses the terminus of the Broadview Avenue Transportation Safety Improvement project at the intersection with Waterloo Street to the southern Town boundary at Alwington Boulevard. The attached draft includes existing conditions, traffic forecasting, public input, alternatives solutions, and investment strategies. This study took into account Plan Warrenton 2040, Warrenton’s Walkability Audits, the Arrington Transportation Impact Analysis, the Taylor Middle School Transportation Impact Analysis, and various other relevant work performed around the corridor. While safety improvements are suggested at multiple locations, the first suggested priority focuses on a roundabout at Culpeper Street. Town Council may explore and direct staff to pursue 100% Smart Scale funding at this location for Round Seven which will kick off this summer.

E. Lee/Meetze Road Study – This study stems from an long term concern over the needs of the Walker Drive/E. Lee intersection. In 2019, the Town applied for a VDOT Revenue Sharing grant (funded 50/50) for a roundabout at this location. Part of the Town’s \$700,000 contribution includes a proffer of \$300,000 from the Walker Drive Rezoning. However, when the pandemic hit, VDOT moved revenue sharing projects out six years and anticipated the costs to escalate in the new VDOT L&D cost assumptions from a \$1.7 million project to over \$5 million. In 2021, the Town Council requested VDOT study the corridor to determine what safety improvements may be done for the Walker Drive intersection and the US 29 on/off ramps located in the County. The original Revenue Sharing grant funds were scheduled to be used this fiscal year and VDOT would like to rescind the grant award as the funding no longer covers the costs. This is VDOT’s presentation on the corridor study, which may then result in VDOT de-allocating the original \$1.7 million roundabout Revenue Sharing grant. The currently adopted Capital Improvement Plan TC-007 project on page 28

continues to list this project as a placeholder in future fiscal years for potential grant applications pending the studies outcomes and Council's direction.

VDOT Smart Scale Projects - Smart Scale projects are 100% federal monies allocated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) every two years through a competitive statewide grant cycle. The Town of Warrenton's Broadview Avenue project was funded in Round 2. The roundabouts at the Lee Highway intersections with Blackwell and Winchester streets were awarded in Round 5 with scheduled construction in 2028-2029. During the work session, VDOT will provide an update to the Round 6 Branch Avenue and Fletcher Drive intersection applications with Lee Highway, contained in the Lee Highway Pipeline Study and Plan Warrenton 2040. Branch Avenue is one of four projects in the entire VDOT Culpeper District to be recommended for funding by the Culpeper District. The CTB is scheduled to adopt the Six Year Improvement Program in June.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Hold a Work Session.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

Studies indicate current levels of service and future levels of service based on no improvements vs recommendations.

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

Plan Warrenton 2040 lists all projects on the Near-Term Recommendations prioritization list on page 38 with the goal of improving multimodal capacity and safety.

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable at this time.

Legal Impact

Not applicable at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Shirley Avenue Pipeline Study
2. June 11, 2024 Town Council Presentation