



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date:	February 13, 2024
Agenda Title:	Smart Scale Round 6 Pre Applications
Requested Action:	Hold Work Session
Department / Agency Lead:	Community Development
Staff Lead:	Denise M. Harris, AICP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Smart Scale Round 6 pre-applications portal will open March 1, 2024. Localities are invited to submit qualified transportation projects for screening. Once applications are screened, localities are invited to formally submit for Round 6. The Town Council would hold a public hearing and pass a resolution in the summer before the application deadline of August 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND

Plan Warrenton 2040 includes a list of transportation improvements with “Near Term Recommendations” to pursue for grant funding. In addition, VDOT conducts “pipeline studies” to assist in developing concepts that have been through a public comment process and technical review to determine designs that best meet the needs of a community. The first VDOT “Pipeline Study,” which is to develop concepts for Smart Scale applications, was conducted on Lee Highway and finalized on 2022. Now, VDOT is in the process of conducting the second Pipeline Study on Shirley Avenue.

Every two years VDOT opens the Smart Scale application process. These projects are funded 100% through Federal funds and administered by VDOT. Projects that are successful in this very competitive process are added to the out years of the VDOT Six Year Plan. Final selection of Smart Scale projects occurs in June, 2025 by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

In Round 5, the Town of Warrenton submitted three Smart Scale applications. Two proposed roundabouts located at Lee Highway/Blackwell and Lee Highway/Broadview/Winchester were successfully funded. The third project located at Broadview/US 17/Shopping Center, was unsuccessful due to other projects in the district scoring higher. The Commonwealth Transportation Board adjusted their scoring process this year.

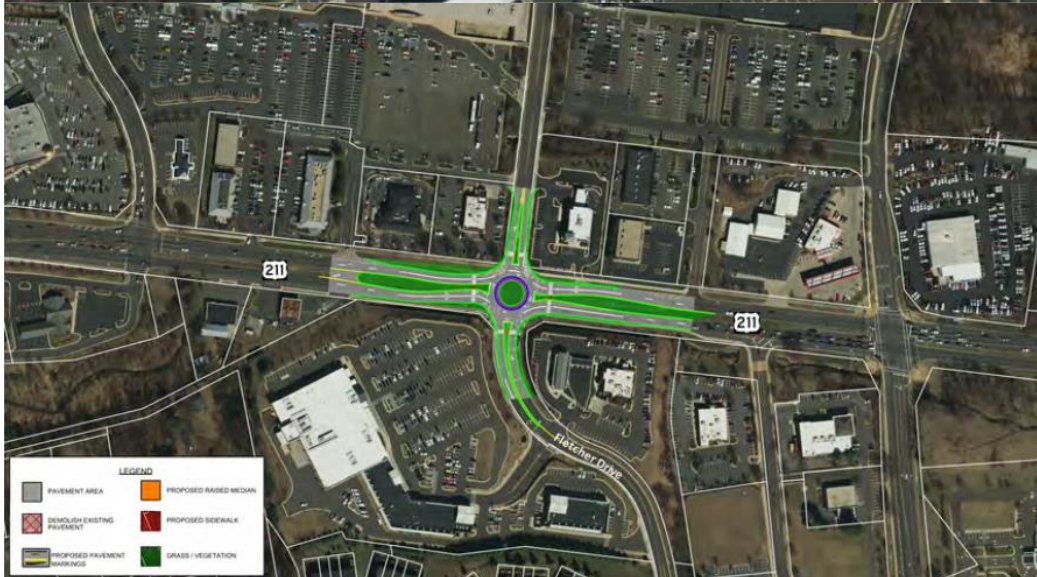
For Round 6, the Town may resubmit the intersection improvement located at Broadview/US17/Shopping Center to test if it would be successful under the new scoring and other projects within the Culpeper District. The concept sketch submitted is below:



The other projects that are ready to be submitted for pre-application would complete the improvements outlined in the VDOT Pipeline Study for Lee Highway. These design concepts include:

- Branch Drive: Access Management to restrict left turn movements
- Village Center Drive: Access Management to restrict left turn movements
- Fletcher Drive: Roundabout

Below are the preferred design concepts found in the Pipeline Study.



STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends submitting the design concepts for the Smart Scale Round 6 pre application screening.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

These projects have been identified to help improve traffic circulation, safety, and multi-modal infrastructure.

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

Plan Warrenton 2040 lists the segment of Lee Highway between Broadview Avenue and US 15/17/29 interchange and the intersection at Broadview Avenue and Roebing Street (since renamed) as “Near Term Recommendations” as *projects that should be “pursued immediately and could be implemented under the Smart Scale...”*.

Fiscal Impact

Smart Scale projects are funded with 100% federal monies awarded through the state.

Legal Impact

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. VDOT Pipeline Study Lee Highway
2. 2022 Smart Scale Resolutions
3. Broadview Roundabout Concept
4. Presentation