



Community Development
Department

STAFF REPORT

Commission Meeting Date:	June 13, 2023
Agenda Title:	Transportation Planning Update
Requested Action:	Provide staff direction for County Main Street Request
Decision Deadline:	N/A
Staff Lead:	Denise Harris, Planning Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff will provide a brief update on transportation planning efforts occurring in the Town as a follow up to the briefing provided in February, 2023. The Town Council indicated a desire to ask Fauquier County to financially contribute to the Main Street Improvement Project. This topic was discussed at the last two Town County Liaison meetings, at which time the County requested the Town submit a formal letter to the County. Town Council may wish to direct staff to issue a letter on their behalf.

BACKGROUND

The Town reviewed the 1992 Spreiregen Plan for Main Street and updated it for a 2019 VDOT Revenue Sharing grant. This concept plan was successful with Town Council allocating 50% of the reimbursement \$1.47 million grant. This grant did not take into account potential utility replacements above or below ground, the rebricking of the existing sidewalks, any required right-of-way, or costs of local administration. The cost estimate included site plans, geotechnical design, mill and overlay, bump outs, ADA curb ramps, brick crosswalks, and landscaping. At the time of grant submission, Revenue Sharing grants were allocated the next FY after grant approvals. As such, cost estimates were appropriate for that time and need.

In 2020 the pandemic changed the dynamics of the state budget, the supply chain, and inflation. Revenue Sharing grants were pushed back several FY cycles by the state. The result is the cost of the project was estimated to increase from \$1.47 million to VDOT costs of almost \$3.578 million in 2021, or an estimated \$4.7 million inflated 2028. This resulted in Town Council abandoning a second Revenue Sharing grant in 2021 due to lack of ability to meet the 50% match and the desire to ask Fauquier County to potentially participate in the improvement of Main Street.

Additionally, Roll Out Warrenton changed how the community interacts with Main Street. Now seasonal parklets and road closures on weekend nights allow for outdoor seating and entertainment. The Spreiregan Plan/2019 Plan are still elegant concepts; however, it is recommended to take a fresh look at

the concept to ensure the investments are being made in a manner most appropriate to the post-COVID time.

The \$1.47 million Revenue Sharing grant is available for the Town to access any time it would like to move forward. It must move forward no later than in FY25, where it is currently allocated in the CIP. While this amount will not cover the full Main Street improvement, VDOT allows for flexibility to implement as much of the project as is possible. For example, the Town could choose to design and engineer the project and then implement one or multiple trial block(s).

Other items included in the transportation planning update are:

- VDOT has concluded the right-of way phase of the Broadview Safety Improvement Project.
- VDOT is launching this summer a Pipeline Study for Shirley Avenue from Frost to Falmouth Street
- Waterloo Street survey is underway.
- VDOT internally will be conducting the study of E. Lee Street/Meetze from Falmouth to across US 29 intersections.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the Town County Liaison meetings, staff recommends the Town Council direct staff to execute a letter to Fauquier County on behalf of Town Council with the formal cost share request for the Main Street Improvement. Step one might be to request to Fauquier County equally contribute in the cost share with the Town and VDOT on the Main Street Improvement Project. This will allow the project to be designed and engineered with a portion to be built. Staff recommends starting implementation on the western end of the project and proceeding east as many blocks (estimated 1-3) as the funding allows. With inflation, it is not possible to guarantee how far the funding will go until bids are in place. However, if the County participated equally then the funding would increase to approximately \$2.2 million. Then the Town can pursue future VDOT funding grants, possibly in partnership with Fauquier County, for the remainder of the implementation.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation