

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 16, 2003

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Anderson, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: FY 2004-2009 Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan

Overview:

At the work session on December 16, the staff and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) staff will describe the current status of the Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan. Last year, due to a very significant reduction in secondary road allocations from the Commonwealth and the continued rise in construction cost estimates, this item was approved by the Board in late February. The Plan is coming to the Board at this time in order to get back on the normal review cycle. Attached is a list of all proposed secondary road projects. Staff will discuss the status of each of these projects below.

It is important to note that this year's Plan does not reflect a revenue stream that should be included on page 1 of 4. This anticipated revenue is a result of a three party agreement between VDOT, the Transportation Improvement District (TID) for Monticello Avenue, and the County that took place in the early 1990s. VDOT loaned \$1 million to the TID for a construction project that the TID did not have enough funding for at the time. In return, the TID was obligated to pay back \$125,000/year over eight years to reimburse VDOT for the loan amount. As part of the agreement, VDOT agreed to make that money available to the County in the Six-Year Secondary Road Plan. Since the TID is no longer in existence, the County has been paying back the loan amount. As of this date, the County has paid back one half of the loan amount, totaling \$500,000 that should be reflected in the Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan. This revenue can be allocated for any project on the Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan.

Project Status: (In order of priority)1. Ironbound Road - Longhill Connector Road to Strawberry Plains Road

This section of roadway is planned to be widened from two to four lanes from the entrance of Eastern State Hospital to just beyond Strawberry Plains Road. The design of the project is quite complex, and will incorporate many additional features including on and off road bike lanes, sidewalks, median, and landscaping. The design of the roadway is being coordinated with the New Town project and with the Ironbound Square Redevelopment Plan. The project cost is currently estimated at approximately \$9.3 million making it the most expensive secondary road project ever undertaken in the County. Both VDOT and County staff hope that after further design clarification, the cost estimates may be decreased. Construction is estimated to begin in July 2008. There have been no changes to the cost estimate or the anticipated date of construction from the Plan the Board adopted in February.

2. Racefield Drive - Route 622

Last year the Board passed a resolution to use Rural Rustic Design Standards, which essentially allowed the roadway to be paved in place with very minor reconstruction and no expansion of right-of-way, to complete paving the portion of Racefield Drive extending from Route 1040 to 0.56 miles west of Route 1040. This project was recently completed in the summer of 2003. The next phase of the paving project, extending an additional 0.5 miles west, is estimated to cost \$150,000 and the projected date of construction is beyond the scope of this year's Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan.

3. Croaker Road - Route 607

The purpose of this improvement to this two-lane roadway is to improve safe access to Woodland Farms, Sycamore Landing, Ivey Dell, Ware Creek Manor, and the York River State Park boat ramp. Citizens have expressed concern about the safety of the roadway, particularly during the season where boats are being towed by vehicles to access the boat ramp. This roadway is outside the Primary Service Area (PSA). When last year's Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan was considered by the Board in February, the Board adopted an improvement method that provided a substantial improvement to this roadway, with somewhat wider lanes and shoulders. This does not require a complete reconstruction of the roadway, which was previously proposed by VDOT staff. The cost of this improvement is approximately 50 percent of the previously planned improvement. With this in the scope of work, construction is projected to begin in 2009. If the previous construction scope was attempted, construction would not be anticipated for several years beyond the length of this Six-Year Plan. There have been no changes to the cost estimate or the anticipated date of construction from the plan the Board adopted in February.

4. Barnes Road and Mount Laurel Road

Spot curve improvement to both Barnes Road and Mount Laurel Road are included in this Plan as scoping projects only. As such, only \$5,000 in Six-Year Secondary funds have been allocated towards each of these projects at this time. Additionally, no bid ad dates have been included for the projects due to unknown scopes of work. However, it is estimated that the ad dates will be in 2012.

It is also important to note that the \$1,117,682 surplus project fiscal year allocations in FY 2009-2010, indicated on page 4 of the spreadsheet, are reserved for construction of the Barnes Road and Mount Laurel Road improvements, since construction costs have not yet been estimated.

5. Diascund Road

The railroad crossing upgrade on Diascund Road has an estimated construction cost of \$60,000. The project will be funded largely through a Federal grant requiring a 10 percent local match. The local match of \$6,000 will be allocated from FY 2004-2005 Six-Year Secondary funds. There have been no changes to the cost estimate or the anticipated date of construction from the plan the Board adopted in February.

6. Bikeways

As of last year, bikeway projects will no longer be included within the Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan. This may change, and, if necessary, the staff will include the appropriate project designations in order to maintain progress on these bikeway projects. Even if they are not shown on the Six-Year Plan, staff anticipates steady progress on construction of bikeways along Longhill Road and Ironbound Road. Preliminary engineering is underway for both projects. Federal Regional Surface Transportation funds have been awarded to cover 80 percent of these projects, with the remaining 20 percent to be paid by the County.

The purpose of the work session is to discuss the concept and priorities of these projects. Once direction is provided at the work session, staff will schedule a public hearing for the Six-Year Plan at the first regular meeting of the Board in 2004 and request Board adoption. Mr. Hicks, VDOT Resident Engineer, and County staff will be available on December 16 to discuss the Six-Year Plan with the Board of Supervisors and answer any questions.

David Anderson

CONCUR:

O. Marvin Sowers, Jr.

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Attachments:

1. Work Session Summary Table (1 page)
2. FY 2004-2009 Six-Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan Estimated Allocations (4 pages)