

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA



**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 11, 2009**

DATE: July 6, 2009

SUBJECT: Approval of an Agreement between the County Board and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the Development, Administration, and Construction of a Traffic Signal at the Intersection of Old Dominion Drive (State Route 309) at 26th Street North.

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the Standard Project Administration Agreement between the County Board of Arlington, Virginia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation (“VDOT”) for project TS09-000-364 “New Traffic Signal Installation Route 309 & 26th Street”, attached as Exhibit 1, and authorize the County Manager or his designee on behalf of the County Board to enter into the Agreement, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney.
2. Authorize the amount of \$142,697, plus a County supplement of \$59,975 for a total contract authorization of \$202,672 for the development, administration, and construction of a traffic signal at the intersection of Old Dominion Drive (State Route 309) at 26th Street North.

ISSUES:

1. The Donaldson Run Civic Association was notified that a traffic signal and subsequent intersection improvements were imminent. They have been anticipating construction at the intersection of Old Dominion Drive (State Route 309) at 26th Street North for some time.
2. The Standard Project Administration Agreement between the County Board of Arlington, and VDOT is necessary to authorize reimbursement of expenditures up to \$142, 697 for the development, administration, and construction of a traffic signal at the intersection of Old Dominion Drive (State Route 309) at 26th Street North.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Valerie Lee, Department of Environmental Services

3. The Standard Project Administration Agreement between the County Board of Arlington and VDOT covers the majority of the estimated cost to complete the project. Therefore, additional funds in the amount of \$59,975 are required from the County to supplement the full expenses for the development, administration, and construction of the traffic signal project.

SUMMARY: This is a request for approval of an Agreement for development, administration, and construction of a federally-funded transportation project. The total estimated cost to complete the project is \$202,672. The Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation has secured and allocated \$142,697 (Exhibit 1).

Arlington County will provide a supplement of funds in the amount of \$59,975 to complete this project.

Arlington County, with assistance from the Donaldson Run Civic Association and the professional services of Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc., identified the need for installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Old Dominion Drive at 26th Street North. According to national guidelines and standards, this location met warrants to justify signalization. This traffic signal will assist with improving safety and access for all users.

BACKGROUND: In July 2004, the County Board appropriated \$1,000,000 to install five new traffic signals at various locations within the County. Citizens were requested, through their civic associations, to nominate a location to be evaluated for signalization. Through a procurement process, Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. (“KHA”) was selected as the County’s consultant to compile all the locations, collect transportation data, complete the analysis and design, and make recommendations for five locations for signalization. Four of the five traffic signals have been constructed using the County funding provided in the 2005 Capital Improvement Program. In addition to new traffic signals at these four locations, each intersection design included necessary concrete curb and gutter work, nubs, American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps, and high intensity crosswalk pavement markings.

Two of five locations recommended for signalization by KHA were located on streets owned and maintained by VDOT (North Glebe Road at 26th Street North and Old Dominion Drive at 26th Street North). In 2005, the County requested that VDOT fund the construction of these proposed traffic signals since they met warrants. VDOT agreed to fund construction for these two locations from a budget set aside to fund new traffic signals. The signal at N. Glebe Road and 26th Street North was designed, approved, and construction completed in 2008, with VDOT providing to the County reimbursement of the funds as agreed.

In January 2008, upon completion of the design and receipt of VDOT approval for signal design at Old Dominion Drive and 26th Street North, the County submitted a permit application to VDOT for construction of the approved signal design. VDOT denied the permit and informed staff that the funding resource previously identified would no longer fund the cost of this signal. VDOT has since identified Federal funds as a viable alternative to fund the cost of this signal and the associated intersection upgrades.

The original estimated cost (\$142,697) was developed in 2005. The original estimate was based on unit prices for construction from a previous County contract with a previous on-call contractor. The updated cost (\$202,672) is based on prices from the County's current on-call contractor authorized for traffic signal construction. VDOT has committed to reimburse the County for the original project cost (\$142,697). Arlington County will supplement the additional funds in the amount of \$59, 975 to finance the updated project expenses.

While sufficient funds are available to finance the advance costs of the project in account #313.43514.T07S.0319.0000, using VDOT funding to construct this signal enables the additional funds now available to address intersection safety concerns identified at other locations analyzed as part of this program. Although the other locations do not warrant traffic signals, it is anticipated that other safety measures could be implemented with the remaining budget.

DISCUSSION: Attached as Exhibit 1 is the Standard Project Administration Agreement to be used for this project.

The funds would be used to complete preliminary engineering, administration, and construction of a traffic signal at the intersection of Old Dominion Drive at 26th Street North. Signalization will provide for efficient movement of vehicular traffic and will also provide full pedestrian access with high intensity crosswalk pavement markings, ADA compliant ramps and countdown pedestrian indications on all corners. With the future expansion of Marymount University's campus at this location, this traffic signal will assist with improving safety and access for all users. The total estimated cost of this project is \$202,672.

This project will not require the acquisition by the Commonwealth or the County of any interests in real estate.

FISCAL IMPACT: Total funding of the project in the amount of \$202,672 requires \$142, 697 from VDOT and a County supplement in the amount of \$59, 975. The County will initially fund all costs of a traffic signal at the intersection of Old Dominion Drive (State Route 309) at 26th Street North under Universal Project Code ("UPC") # 82197. Upon receipt of invoices from vendors, the County will submit invoices to VDOT in the amount of \$142, 697 for reimbursement of project expenses. Sufficient funds are available to finance the advance and supplemental costs of the project in account #313.43514.T07S.0319.0000.