ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of November 14, 2009

DATE: November 4, 2009

SUBJECT: Authorization to submit an application for Transportation Enhancements Program funds to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for improvements to the Route 110 Trail.

C.M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Adopt the attached endorsement resolution regarding Arlington County's application for Transportation Enhancement funds.
2. Authorize the County Manager to submit, on behalf of the County Board and consistent with the attached resolution, an application to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for Fiscal Year 2010-11.

ISSUES: The County Board is being asked to endorse a project for submittal for $420,000 in Transportation Enhancements funding, requiring a 20 percent local match.

SUMMARY:
The Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program is a federal funding program managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Funding is available for 12 specific categories of non-traditional transportation projects. Arlington's application will fall under the *Pedestrian and bicycle facilities* category, and is for preliminary engineering and construction costs needed to pave and provide other related improvements to the Route 110 Trail between Memorial Bridge and the North Pentagon parking lot.

The estimated total cost of the project is $727,000, of which $202,000 has already been allocated from Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and local funding sources, leaving a remaining project cost of $525,000. The TE program requires a 20% match from the local jurisdiction, so the County is requesting $420,000 in TE money, matched by $105,000 in new local money.

BACKGROUND:
The TE program was initiated as part of the 1991 Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). Unlike the larger programs funding highways and transit services, TE was intended to focus specifically on projects that "go above and beyond" mobility needs to offer enhancements to the quality of life in American communities. Arlington County has successfully applied for money through the TE program a number of times since then, funding projects such

County Manager: BMD MAA

County Attorney: SAM

Staff: David Patton, DES, Division of Transportation
Dan Malouff, DES, Division of Transportation

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as trail improvements and Metro station canopy installation.

DISCUSSION:
The process to receive TE funding requires the submission of an application to the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) by December 1, 2009. Prospective projects must complete a public hearing and attain an endorsement resolution by the local governing body. The necessary County endorsement would be achieved through adoption of the attached Project Endorsement Resolution.

The applications, which are submitted from jurisdictions across Virginia, will be reviewed, evaluated, and potentially funded by the CTB. TE awards provide up to 80% of project costs, requiring the applicant to provide 20% as a local match. Arlington County Staff anticipates that due to the large number of applications likely to be made statewide with an average award size of $200,000, it is extremely unlikely that the County would receive more than $420,000 in TE funds. The $525,000 required to complete the project (including $420,000 in TE funding) would be used to finalize Preliminary Engineering (including environmental review) and carry the project through to the completion of construction.

The trail was established in the 1970s as a pedestrian amenity during construction of the WMATA system. It was never paved, and has degraded seriously since new. At present it is an extremely narrow dirt path, with a dangerous unmarked road crossing at the George Washington Parkway / Memorial Drive interchange. The requested project will improve the path to a 9 foot wide fully paved trail, and relocate the interchange crossing to a new location that will better address safety needs. Such improvements will permit use of the trail in all weather conditions, providing a safe, high-quality, multi-modal connection between the Pentagon / points south to the Memorial Bridge, Arlington Cemetery Metro station, and points north. The project will benefit commuters to the Pentagon/Crystal City, Rosslyn, and downtown Washington activity centers, as well as walkers, runners and cyclists using the trail for recreation or exercise.

FISCAL IMPACT:
Transportation Enhancements is a reimbursement program with a 20% local match. This means that if the application is successful the County would be required to front $525,000, $420,000 of which (80%) would be reimbursed by VDOT. The impact to the County budget would therefore be $105,000, and it is anticipated that the match would be supplied by FY 2010 Transportation Investment Fund monies.

See next page for resolution.

PROJECT ENDORESEMENT RESOLUTION
For the Transportation Enhancements program

Whereas, the Arlington County Board desires to submit an application for Transportation Enhancement funds for improvements to the Route 110 Trail.

And Whereas, in accordance with Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by resolution be received from the sponsoring local jurisdiction in order that the Virginia Department of Transportation establish an enhancement project in Arlington County.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that Arlington County requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board establish a project for the improvement of the Route 110 Trail in Arlington County.

Be It Further Resolved, that Arlington County hereby agrees to provide a minimum 20 percent of the total cost for planning and design, right of way, and construction of this project.

Be It Further Resolved, that Arlington County hereby agrees to enter into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide oversight that ensures the project is developed in accordance with all state and federal requirements for design, right of way acquisition, and construction of a federally funded transportation project.

Be It Further Resolved, that Arlington County will be responsible for maintenance, upkeep and operating costs of any facility constructed with Transportation Enhancement program funds.

Be It Further Resolved, that if Arlington County subsequently elects to cancel this project the Arlington County Board hereby agrees to reimburse the Virginia Department of Transportation for the total amount of costs expended by the Department through the date the Department is notified of such cancellation. Arlington County also agrees to repay any funds previously reimbursed that are later deemed ineligible by the Federal Highway Administration.

Adopted this 14th day of November, 2009

County Board of Arlington County, Virginia

By: _____

Chair

Attest: _____

Clerk to the County Board