



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of November 13, 2010

DATE: October 25, 2010

SUBJECT: Authorization to submit a grant application for Transportation Enhancement Program funds to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for improvements to the Arlington Boulevard 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 2011-12.

ISSUES: The County Board is being asked to endorse an application request for \$456,000 in Transportation Enhancement funds, requiring a 20 percent (\$114,000) local match. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY:

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program is a federal funding program managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). TE awards provide 80 percent of project costs, requiring the applicant to provide 20 percent as a local match. The County would like to request \$456,000 in TE funds, matched by \$114,000 in local funds to make improvements to the Arlington Boulevard Trail between 10th Street and Washington Boulevard.

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program is a federal funding program managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The TE Program was first initiated as part of the 1991 Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). In 2010, this program is authorized under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU). 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

County Manager:

County Attorney:

MTN

26. A.

Staff: Kelly Cornell, DES Transportation Planning

successfully applied for money through the TE Program on several occasions, funding projects such as trail improvements and Metro station bicycle parking installation.

DISCUSSION:

The process to receive TE funding requires the submission of an application to the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) by December 1, 2010. 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 CTB. The CTB has indicated that they will only be accepting applications for existing projects this year. Existing projects are considered to be those projects that received TE Program allocations in past years and may be in need of additional funding to bring about completion. The Arlington Boulevard Trail received TE funding in 2007. These funds are currently being used to develop final engineering plans for the project. The estimated cost to complete the project is \$570,000. TE awards provide 80 percent of project costs, requiring the applicant to provide 20 percent as a local match, therefore the County would like to request \$456,000 in TE funds, matched by \$114,000 in local funds to bring the project to completion.

The \$570,000 required to complete this project (including \$456,000 in TE funding) would be used to improve the bicycle and pedestrian experience on the Arlington Boulevard Trail between 10th Street and Washington Boulevard by making substantial improvements to the Arlington Blvd Trail. These improvements include, but are not limited to, widening of the existing trail, safety improvements to trail crossings, and the construction of a new segment of trail between 10th Street and N. Pershing Drive. Connections would also be made from the Arlington Boulevard Trail to the Washington Boulevard and Long Branch trails.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The TE Program is a reimbursement program with a 20 percent local match. This means that if the application is successful, the County would be required to front \$570,000, \$456,000 of which (80 percent) would be reimbursed by VDOT. The impact to the County budget would therefore be \$114,000, and it is anticipated that the match would be supplied by the FY 2011 Transportation Bond.

**PROJECT ENDORSEMENT RESOLUTION
For the Transportation Enhancements Program**

Whereas, the Arlington County Board desires to submit an application for Transportation Enhancement funds for improvements to the Arlington Boulevard 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 to establish a project for the improvement of the Arlington Boulevard Trail in Arlington County.

Be It Further Resolved, that Arlington County hereby agrees to provide a minimum of 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 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. The Arlington County Board also agrees to repay any funds previously reimbursed that are later deemed ineligible by the Federal Highway Administration.

Adopted this 13th day of November, 2010
County Board of Arlington County, Virginia

By: _____
Chair

Attest: _____
Clerk to the County Board

Arlington Blvd Trail Project

