



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of November 19, 2011**

DATE: October 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Authorization to submit three applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation / Commonwealth Transportation Board for the FY 2013 Transportation Enhancements Program.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution (Attachment A) authorizing application to the Virginia Transportation Enhancements Program, through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) / Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

ISSUES: County Board approval is required to participate in the Commonwealth's Transportation Enhancements Program. The program will help fund County transportation projects. A 20% local match is required. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program is a federal funding program managed by VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Funding is available for non-traditional transportation projects, such as trails, education campaigns, and transportation-related preservation activities. It is recommended that the County apply for funds for a multimodal Safety Communications Program, a trail connection between Potomac Yard and the Four Mile Run Trail, and for accelerating the County's Bicycle/Pedestrian Wayfinding Program.

The estimated total cost of these projects is \$1,737,500. The TE program requires at least 20% match from the respective local jurisdiction, so the County is requesting \$1,390,000 in TE funding, to be matched by \$347,500 in Arlington County funding.

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 on several occasions,

County Manager:

County Attorney:

24.

Staff: Jennifer Fioretti, Department of Environmental Services
David Patton, Department of Environmental Services

resulting in funding for projects such as trail improvements and Metro station canopy installations.

DISCUSSION: VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board annually allocate TE Program funds to local governments. Localities that participate in the Program must provide at least 20% local match for money received through the Program. There is a maximum request cap of \$1,000,000 per project. Due to the large number of requests made from throughout the Commonwealth, it is unlikely the County will receive more than \$1,000,000 in any given year.

It is recommended that TE Program funds be sought for the following Arlington County projects:

- **Multimodal Safety Communications Program:** Arlington County is recognized as a leader in promoting transit-oriented development and advancing non-motorized travel modes. Nevertheless, there remains a need to educate citizens and visitors on ways to interact more safely within the public right of way. Cyclists, pedestrians, drivers and transit users would all stand to benefit from understanding more about the rights and responsibilities of others. In addition, the County's Division of Transportation is introducing new elements to travel behavior, such as bike sharing, rapid flash beacons, and sharrows. This program envisions a multi-faceted public outreach campaign to complement existing offerings such as Confident City Cycling classes, neighborhood walkabouts, Walk to School Week, the Car-Free Diet, Neighborhood 25, and Bike to Work Day. The request in this application will be to fully fund a three-year campaign for a range of outreach events, a multi-media awareness-raising campaign, and classes. The program will build on the success of the regional Street Smart campaign, and will incorporate best practices from elsewhere into a plan customized for Arlington's needs.
- **Four Mile Run Trail Connection:** The bicycle element of Arlington County's Master Transportation Plan calls for creating a link between street level in Potomac Yard and the Four Mile Run Trail at the stream level. There is currently only a rough unpaved path that is completely inadequate, but that indicates a public desire for the connection. The County has received developer funds to help implement a trail connection, and as the final parcels are built out, the increasing residential and commercial activity is increasing pressure to decide on a solution. The request envisioned in this application is for Preliminary Engineering and Right-of-Way phases.
- **Accelerated Bicycle/Pedestrian Wayfinding Program:** The County Board-approved FY 2011 – FY 2016 Capital Improvement Plan has committed local Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) Decal Fee funds for the implementation of a County-wide bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding sign system. The Division of Transportation has already developed the method and protocol for the wayfinding program. Additional funding will accelerate the program's implementation phase, shrinking the originally estimated five-year implementation timetable to two years.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Transportation Enhancement Program requires at least 20% local match. If the County's applications are successful, the local fiscal impact would be \$347,500 at most. It is anticipated that the local match will come from a combination of developer contributions, PAYG Decal fees, and bond funds.

Attachment A

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE TRANSPORTATION
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia (“County Board”), desires to submit an application to the Virginia Department of Transportation / Commonwealth Transportation Board for an allocation of \$1,390,000 in Transportation Enhancement Program funds; and

WHEREAS, \$800,000 of these funds will be requested for the Safety Communications Program; and

WHEREAS, \$190,000 of these funds will be requested for the Potomac Yards Trail Connection; and

WHEREAS, \$400,000 of these funds will be requested for Bicycle/Pedestrian Wayfinding Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Board hereby supports the making of applications for such funds and authorizes and directs the County Manager or her designee to make applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation / Commonwealth Transportation Board for \$1,390,000 of Transportation Enhancement Program funds for the above-described projects, and further authorizes the County Manager or her designee to execute project administration agreements for any approved Transportation Enhancement projects, subject to the County Attorney’s prior approval of such agreements as to form.

ADOPTED this 19th day of November 2011.

Chair