



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of September 13, 2008**

DATE: August 18, 2008

SUBJECT: Priorities for Fiscal Year 2010 State and Federal Funding for Consideration by the Commonwealth Transportation Board

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Endorse the priorities, listed in Table 1, for Fiscal Year 2010 State and Federal Funding, for consideration by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

ISSUE: The County Board is being asked to endorse priorities for the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB's) FY 2010 – 2015 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP), which includes funding plans for the National Highway System (NHS) and primary roads.

SUMMARY: Annually, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) adopts the State's Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Elected officials are invited to testify on jurisdictional priorities; a representative from Arlington may testify on Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 - 2015 SYIP priorities in the fall hearing before the CTB.

Requests for funding are recommended for the following projects so that they may continue moving ahead:

- Arlington Boulevard at Courthouse Road.
- Washington Boulevard Bridge and Interchange at Columbia Pike.
- Glebe Road Bridge and Interchange at Arlington Boulevard.

Requests for funding are recommended to initiate the following projects:

- Acceleration Lane from Marshall Drive to Southbound VA 110
- Arlington Boulevard at Washington Boulevard.
- Arlington Boulevard between Washington Boulevard and Glebe Road.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Tamara Ashby, DES, Division of Transportation

BACKGROUND: As shown in Table 1, several projects in Arlington were shown as fully funded in the adopted FY 2009 – 2014 SYIP. In the spring, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will issue a draft FY 2010-2015 SYIP for comment. For the FY 2010-2015 SYIP, through a process that begins this fall with testimony from local officials, the CTB will allocate to projects, road construction funds over which it has discretion, including the NHS and the state primary roads programs. After this statewide public process is completed, the CTB will adopt the FY 2010 – 2015 SYIP.

Priorities for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds are being recommended in a separate report. Through separate processes, the CTB also allocates Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds. Some of the County's priorities may also be eligible for these grants that will be applied for later.

DISCUSSION: Table 1 shows the major Arlington projects included in last year's adopted FY 2009 – 2014 SYIP. Despite the major cuts in state transportation funding, several of last year's priority projects for the County were fully funded over the six-year period, specifically:

- Arlington Boulevard at Courthouse Road. Preliminary engineering and the right-of-way phase are completed. Construction began in 2007 with utility undergrounding. Construction of the entire project is anticipated to be completed in 2012.
- Washington Boulevard Bridge and Interchange at Columbia Pike. Preliminary engineering is underway and construction is scheduled to begin in October 2010.
- Glebe Road Bridge and Interchange at Arlington Boulevard. Preliminary engineering is underway, and construction is scheduled to begin in FY 2012.

In addition to those projects in the adopted SYIP, three other projects not presently in the adopted SYIP are recommended as priorities.

- Acceleration Lane from Marshall Drive to Southbound Jefferson Davis Highway (VA 110.) In 2002, a collision study of this intersection indicated that an extension of the acceleration lane at this location would reduce the number of accidents. The planning estimate for this safety improvement is \$150,000.
- Arlington Boulevard at Washington Boulevard. In 2007 VDOT completed bridge rehabilitation; however, because funding has not been available, there are no present plans to address the issues of ramp safety, pedestrian and bicycle needs and transit stops. The planning estimate for this project is \$3 million.
- Arlington Boulevard between Washington Boulevard and Glebe Road. More than a decade ago, VDOT earmarked about \$1 million for safety improvements, focused on a raised median. That project didn't materialize, yet safety and drainage improvements are needed. The planning estimate for this project is \$5 million.

These projects are recommended as Arlington's priorities for National Highway System and/or primary road funds. Arlington may also seek TEP or HSIP funds for these projects, particularly for the Acceleration Lane from Marshall Drive to VA 110. Table 1 shows the estimated funding needed for all projects.

Table 1: State FY 2009 -2014 SYIP Funding for Priority Projects*

Description	Total Estimate	Prior to FY 2009 Allocation	FY 2009 Funds	FY 2010-2014 Funds	Unfunded
Arlington Boulevard at Courthouse Rd. Intersection	\$38,945,000	\$27,644,000	\$3,343,000	\$7,958,000	\$0
Washington Boulevard/ Col Pike Bridge Interchange	\$54,792,000	\$11,783,000	\$3,353,000	\$39,657,000	\$0
Glebe at Arlington Blvd. Bridge Replacement	\$14,407,000	\$5,174,000	\$2,452,000	\$6,781,000	\$0
Acceleration Lane from Marshall Drive to Southbound VA 110	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
Arlington Boulevard at Washington Boulevard	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000
Arlington Boulevard between Washington Boulevard and Glebe Rd	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000
Total	\$116,294,000	\$44,601,000	\$9,148,000	\$54,396,000	\$8,150,000

**Numbers in this table are taken directly from VDOT SYIP and do not add up due to rounding.*

As shown in Table 2, two bridge rehabilitation projects not included in Arlington's list of priorities last year were scheduled for some initial funding in the current adopted SYIP:

- Washington Boulevard Bridge (VA 27) over VA 110. Work involves replacing the deck, and repairing the substructure and superstructure. The cost estimate is over \$10 million, and the adopted SYIP has identified \$400,000.
- 2nd Street South over Washington Boulevard (VA 27). The cost estimate is about \$3 million, with less than \$1 million identified in the SYIP.

The 2nd Street South over Washington Boulevard would require a 20-percent match should this project move forward. County staff will assess whether such work is a priority.

Also shown in Table 2, over \$86,000,000 has been allocated to the Idea-66 Spot Improvements project in the SYIP. Phase I (Ballston to East Falls Church) and Phase II (East Falls Church to Dulles Connector) are shown as fully funded in the adopted SYIP. Phase III (Spout Run to Ballston) has little funding and may not be pursued anytime soon. Arlington’s position is that a full multi-modal study should be completed before any improvements are constructed. The state has initiated a multi-modal study of the entire corridor, but is still moving forward with construction of the “Spot Improvements” before seeing the results of the study.

Several projects on I-395 that received funding are also shown in the table. The Federal Highway Administration continues its study of the 14th Street Bridge, and the HOV ramp at Eads Street is anticipated to become part of the I-95/395 high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes project.

Table 2: Other Projects of Interest in Adopted State FY 2009-2014 SYIP *

Description	Total Estimate	Prior Allocation	FY 2009 Funds	FY 2010-2014 Funds	Unfunded
Washington Boulevard Bridge over VA 110	\$11,315,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$10,394,000	\$522,000
Second St. South Bridge over Washington Boulevard	\$3,520,000	\$74,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,445,000
Idea 66 Spot Improvements - 3 Phases	\$86,512,000	\$32,804,000	\$6,751,000	\$32,457,000	\$14,500,000
I-395 Incident Management	\$2,115,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,615,000
Extension of I-395 HOV ramp at Eads St.	\$2,500,000	\$510,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,990,000
I-395 14th Street Bridge Improvements	\$1,240,000	\$1,240,000	\$550,000	\$0	\$0
Total	\$99,668,000	\$11,055,000	\$19,360,000	\$17,184,000	\$52,069,000

**Numbers in this table are taken directly from VDOT SYIP.*

FISCAL IMPACT: This board report is an endorsement of transportation project priorities for Arlington County to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for fiscal year 2010 state and federal funding. For the National Highway System (NHS), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and primary road projects, no County funds are required. However, on many major state projects, the County must fund streetscape or other betterment components. One recent example of County funds needed for state funded transportation project was the cost of utility under grounding, now underway, at Courthouse Road. The County cost for this project is estimated at \$502,000.

In addition, VDOT has stated that the County will be responsible for a 20 percent match requirement on Bridge Rehabilitation Projects. An example of a Bridge Rehabilitation Project possibly requiring a 20 percent match is the 2nd Street South Bridge over Washington Boulevard. This bridge is a County street that crosses over a VDOT primary road. There are no Bridge Rehabilitation Projects currently in the funding pipeline for the next five years.