



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of October 18, 2008**

DATE: September 26, 2008

SUBJECT: Authorization to submit an application for Transportation Enhancements Program funds to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for construction of public art enhancements for the VDOT interchange improvement project at Arlington Boulevard, Courthouse Road, and Tenth Street.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

- 1.) Adopt the attached Project 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 2009.

ISSUES: Public Art, in collaboration with PRCR and DES, is applying for a Transportation Enhancement grant for FY 2009-2010 to augment the construction funds for the Vicki Scuri/VDOT Arlington Boulevard Interchange project. The application deadline is November 1, 2008. The County Board authorization is needed to apply for this funding and no issues have been identified.

SUMMARY : Arlington's application is for funding for construction costs to implement public art and design enhancements for the VDOT Arlington Boulevard/Courthouse Road/Tenth Street, UPC 13531, project number 0050-000-V18, C501, landscaping enhancement, pedestrian and bicycling path improvements for the Arlington Boulevard, Courthouse Road and Tenth Street interchanges. The estimated cost for this part of the construction project is \$500,000. The TE program requires a 20% match from the local jurisdiction requesting funding, resulting in a request for \$400,000 in TE funds to be matched by \$100,000 in County funds.

BACKGROUND: Congress created the Inter-modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991 to address growing concerns about air quality, open space, and traffic congestion. One of several programs in ISTEA is Transportation Enhancement (TE). This program is the first Federal initiative to focus on enhancing the travel experience and fostering the quality of life in American communities, with consideration to transportation, growth and

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Welmoed Laanstra

livability. The Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program is a federal funding program managed by the Virginia Department of Transportation. Funding is available for 12 specific types of projects, including *Landscaping and Other Scenic Beautification* that have a direct relationship to and enhance the surface transportation system. In past years, (1994, 1995, 1997, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007) the County received funding for study and design for Meade Street Bridge improvements, the Clarendon Metro Canopy design, a bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Four Mile Run connecting Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, as well as five trail-related projects. This particular Interchange/ Public Art project was initiated in 2004 and formalized in a MOU between Arlington County and VDOT. Since 2004, when DES allocated \$ 150,000.00 of CIP money to get this project started, the final construction documents are at 95 % at the cost of \$ 99,849.01, construction is slated for July 2009 and Earth Tech, a contractor with VDOT has donated \$ 61,410.00 in in-kind services towards final design documents.

DISCUSSION: The process to receive Federal Transportation Enhancements Program funding requires the submission of an application to the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) by November 1, 2008. Projects must have a public hearing and Project Endorsement Resolution by a local jurisdiction. The County endorsement would be achieved through adoption of the attached Project Endorsement Resolution. Enhancements Program awards provide 80% of the projects costs and the applicant must have available 20% of the expected project cost as a local match. The applications, which are submitted from jurisdictions across Virginia, will be reviewed and evaluated by the CTB. It is anticipated that the CTB will announce grant winners in May of 2009.

County staff have developed a funding application for a few components of the Arlington Boulevard Interchange Project: fabrication of Form Liner Prototypes and Form Liner Master Molds to facilitate construction of public art/design enhancements on the bridge facades and retaining walls at the interchange of Arlington Boulevard, 10th Street, and Courthouse Road. In addition to the artwork on the bridge spans and retaining walls, the funding will be used for additional landscaping and trail enhancements. Staff has worked with various commissions and committees, as well as the Rosslyn Renaissance, Arlington Arts Commission, the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Friends of Arlington Boulevard to develop this project.

Staff is requesting funding assistance for the fabrication and construction phase of the design enhancements to the bridges and retaining walls. The implementation of this project would contribute to the sense of place and identity at this busy thoroughfare that serves as a major gateway to and from Arlington's government center and historical sites. This project will serve to improve the aesthetic qualities of the bridges and retaining walls and will result in a more distinctive roadway which all commuters, motorists, bicyclist and pedestrians alike, can readily identify.

FISCAL IMPACT: If this application is successful, a minimum local match of \$100,000 will be required. This funding will be secured as follows.

\$75,000 The developer of Abingdon Heights, in the Courthouse Neighborhood, will make a \$75,000 cash contribution to the Public Art Fund, to go toward this public art project as outlined in condition #62 of Site Plan #75.

\$25,000 Source Fund: RJ4/PAP4, fund 324

\$100,000 Total matching funds

Project Endorsement Resolution

WHEREAS, in accordance with Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by resolution be received by the CTB from the local government or state agency in order that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) establish a transportation enhancement project within the locality; and,

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia desires to request the CTB to establish a certain transportation enhancement project within Arlington County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia (the "County Board") requests CTB to establish a transportation enhancement project for the implementation of bridge enhancements at the interchange project at Arlington Boulevard, 10th Street, and Courthouse Road.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, subject to appropriation and, subject to the execution of an agreement between the County Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation, if funds are awarded for the project: 1) the County Board hereby agrees to pay 20% of the total cost for fabrication and construction of the Project and; 2) if the County Board subsequently elects to cancel the Project, the County Board hereby agrees to reimburse VDOT for the total amount of the direct costs reasonably expended by VDOT in reliance on the adoption of this resolution through the date VDOT is notified of such cancellation.

Adopted by the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia on this 18th day of October, 2008.

County Board of Arlington County, Virginia

BY _____
Chairman

Attest _____
Clerk to the County Board