

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 25, 2025

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Victory Boulevard Shared Use Path, Big Bethel Road to Cary's Chapel Road (UPC 119281)

County staff met recently with VDOT representatives to discuss a funding shortfall on the Victory Boulevard Shared Use Path project. The path consists of an eight-foot (8') wide shared use path along the north side of Victory Boulevard beginning at the western side of its intersection with Big Bethel Road and terminates at Cary's Chapel Road. This project is being funded through the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and is tentatively scheduled for construction in 2028. The project is in the pre-scoping phase, which has produced an updated cost estimate, as opposed to the cost estimate utilized when the application for CMAQ funding was submitted in 2020. Currently, this project is facing a significant funding deficit, mostly attributable to inflation.

To help address this shortfall, VDOT has identified various cost-cutting changes to the scope of work, including terminating the path at Sinclair Lane to avoid right-of-way purchases and alternative stormwater drainage options. While those modifications have reduced the project cost by approximately \$1.1 million, a \$3.1 million shortfall remains. Due to reductions in federal funding this year resulting in a \$6.8 million reduction in CMAQ funds allocated VDOT's FY26-FY31 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP), the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization's CMAQ reserve funds must be allocated to existing projects that are now subject to funding reductions. Therefore, the County is presented with three options:

- The County could bridge the \$3.1 million funding gap for the project using multiple sources. This includes \$500,000 in unallocated local Transportation Improvement funding. Additionally, postponing the Seaford Road Lifting Project and the Sportsway Connect Sidewalk Project would free up \$1.5 million. The remaining \$1.1 million could be funded from the cash capital reserve.
- The County could apply for additional funding through the Transportation-Alternatives Set-Aside (TAP) program (20% local match) or Revenue Sharing program (50% local match) this year. Each of these programs have some limitations. The TAP program has a funding cap of \$2.5 million per locality for all projects submitted per year, which must be taken into consideration given there are other projects, such the Tabb High School Crosswalk and Trail757 being examined for submittal for TAP funding. In addition, any new TAP dollars received would not be available until FY 27 & FY 28. On the Revenue Sharing side, the Board might recall from August 2024, there were two existing projects (Goodwin Neck Bike Lanes and Waller Mill Road Diet) that were cancelled since VDOT's actual funding allocations for each of the County's FY2023 Revenue Sharing projects were less

than the requested match, which would have obligated higher County costs than anticipated.

- The third choice would be to stop the project and pursue funding at a future date. Since the project is currently in the pre-scoping phase, it can be stopped at no cost to the County. If the project is cancelled past the point when preliminary engineering has started, VDOT may charge the County for the costs expended. However, the County would forfeit the CMAQ funds currently allocated to the project.

Staff has asked VDOT to explore additional possibilities for reducing the total project cost. Specifically, having VDOT look into the possibility of utilizing alternative stormwater drainage designs and avoiding the relocation of utilities where possible. We are awaiting a response from VDOT on these two questions; however, it is likely that a significant funding shortfall will remain. I will await your guidance on how to proceed.

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