

March 12, 2024

To: Board of Supervisors
From: C. McGarry
Re: County Administrator's Report for March 12, 2024 Board Meeting

- A. Comprehensive Plan:** The project website is www.Nelson2042.com. The Board has reviewed the Planning Commission's recommendation today and will hold its public hearing on March 20th at 7pm at NCHS. Final adoption of the Plan will not be scheduled until at least the Board's regular meeting on April 9, 2024.
- B. Gladstone TAP Applications/Award:** The Board previously authorized the submittal of FY25/26 Transportation Alternative (TA) Program grant funding pre-applications for further funding of the Gladstone Depot Relocation and Restoration Project, which received an initial funding award in September of 2022. The pre-application was screened in for submittal of a final application due October 2, 2023. In September 2023, VDOT advised that the County needed to have the following eligibility issues addressed prior to the application deadline; which was impossible. In November, they then advised that we could submit them by December 31, 2023 or the application would be screened out:
1. A formal letter on DHR letterhead that states that moving of the depot and interior modifications to the depot building will not degrade/undermine the historic integrity of the structure.
 2. An updated letter from CSX is needed that includes a new achievable relocation timeline. The original letter dated April 29, 2019 states that the Depot must be moved by June 30, 2020.

County Staff worked with Friends of Gladstone Depot who were able to secure #2 before the December 31st deadline; however, #1 was not attainable in the timeframe allowed, even though DHR staff was more than willing to help- the information needed to complete their review was too extensive. The current FY25-26 application was screened out by Central Office Local Assistance Division in January 2024 and VDOT is highly recommending the cancelation of UPC 121612, the selected FY23-FY24 TAP Application, to keep the project from appearing on FHWA's Financial Integrity Evaluation & Review (FIRE) Report due to the project's inability to progress and lack of billings. They noted that if the County cancels this funding, it would be accessible in the future, but if FHWA reclaims the funds, the County would not have access to them in the future for this project. No expenditures have occurred to date, so there are no concerns with potential payback related to cancelation. **I am herein recommending these funds be canceled immediately to preserve their future accessibility for this project and ask for the Board's concurrence.**

- C. Lovingson Front Street Sidewalk Improvements TAP Grant:** This application has scored very well for potential funding and is now in the Commonwealth Transportation Board's arena for funding consideration and inclusion in the Six Year Improvement Plan. This project includes widening of sidewalks on the west side of Front street between Main Street and theater Drive in order to meet accessibility standards. Curb ramps with detectable warning surfaces will be installed and curb extensions and bump-outs will be constructed at future crosswalk locations. Additional work includes replacing driveway ramps that don't meet ADA standards and utility pole relocation from the sidewalk area so they are unobstructed. Citizens are encouraged to contact State CTB members to advocate for this project; their contact information can be provided by County Administration or found on the CTB website. The Board and public will be advised of future important CTB meeting/public hearing dates.

TAP Grant Funds Requested: \$2,500,000 (Maximum) with a Local Match Requirement: \$625,000 (20%) and project costs over \$3,125,000.

- D. Route 151 Through Truck Restriction: No Change.** I am still working on getting the required information together for the Board's consideration of authorizing a public hearing on a Route 151 through truck restriction. Some questions regarding the process were submitted to VDOT; specifically, I have asked if the Board can request that VDOT perform an assessment of Route 151 for the through truck restriction prior to holding a public hearing on the matter. I have also asked if the beginning termini of the route to be restricted can start at the intersection of Route 250 and Route 151 in Albemarle County or if it has to begin and end in Nelson County. The proposed

beginning and ending termini of the route to be restricted is a requirement for the public hearing notices. In a follow up conversation about this with Robert Brown last week, he indicated that he thought we would need the cooperation and concurrence of Albemarle County since he thought the beginning termini would have to be at the Route 250/Route 151 intersection. Mr. Brown was not sure at that time if VDOT could do the through truck restriction assessment of Route 151 prior to the Board authorizing a public hearing but he said he would inquire.

- E. 24-Hour Library Kiosk in Nellysford:** The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Wednesday March 13th at 3pm at the site with Chair Parr and Vice Chair Reed in attendance. Light refreshments will be served.
- F. Piney River Solar, LLC Special Exception 2023-369 – Amherst County:** The Special Exception permit was denied by the Amherst County Board of Supervisors.
- G. Staff Reports:** Department and office reports for February/March have been provided.