

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 19, 2020

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator 

**SUBJECT:** SMART SCALE Transportation Funding Recommendations

Several years ago, VDOT implemented a new statewide prioritization process to guide the allocation of transportation funds through the VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). This process – known as SMART SCALE – is a data-driven process in which applications for transportation funding are submitted by localities, transit agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Planning District Commissions. Applications are ranked against one another on the basis of numerical scores derived from quantifiable measures of effectiveness and efficiency related to congestion mitigation, safety, accessibility, environmental quality, economic development, and – in larger regions such as Hampton Roads – land use.

In previous application cycles, the County has successfully applied for SMART SCALE funding for three projects:

- widening Route 17 from four to six lanes between Wolf Trap Road and Denbigh Boulevard/Goodwin Neck Road,
- widening Victory Boulevard (Route 171) from five to six lanes between Route 17 and Hampton Highway (Route 134), and
- capacity enhancements (turn lane, intersection, and shoulder improvements) and a multi-use path along Victory Boulevard between North and South Bowman Terrace and Heavens Way.

The biennial application process is conducted in even-numbered years, and applications must be submitted by August 3. In preparation for this year's application cycle, staff has had multiple discussions about potential projects with VDOT staff in both the Williamsburg Residency and the Hampton Roads District. In order to be eligible for SMART SCALE funding, projects must meet certain specified criteria. Most importantly, they must be included in, or consistent with, the region's adopted Long-Range Transportation Plan, and they must also meet at least one of the needs specifically identified in VTrans – Virginia's statewide multi-modal transportation plan. Taking these screening criteria and VDOT guidance into account, staff has developed two proposed SMART SCALE projects for the Board's consideration:

- **Route 17/Route 171 Intersection Improvements.** This project would alleviate congestion and improve safety at the intersection of Route 17 and Route 171 (Victory Boulevard) by widening the northbound and southbound Route 17 approaches to three through lanes and constructing a third through lane and a third left turn lane on the eastbound Route 171 approach. (Estimated cost: \$18.2 million)
- **Airport Road/Mooretown Road/Richmond Road Intersection Improvements.** This project would address congestion and safety deficiencies by replacing the existing signalized Mooretown/Airport Road intersection with a roundabout and reconfiguring the existing signalized Airport /Richmond Road intersection to prohibit left turns from southbound Richmond Road onto Airport Road and prohibit through and left turn movements from Airport Road onto Richmond Road. Drivers who currently turn left from southbound Richmond Road onto Airport Road would need to proceed approximately 750 feet to the next intersection at Stratford Road to make the necessary U-turn. Similarly, drivers who currently turn left from Airport Road onto southbound Richmond Road (or drive straight through to the gas station across Richmond Road) would be required to turn right onto northbound Richmond Road and proceed approximately 1,180 feet to the next intersection at Olde Towne Road and make a U-turn. Since the project would traverse the York County-James City County border and involve road improvements in both counties, this would be a joint application sponsored by James City County on behalf of the two localities. (Estimated cost: \$8.8 million)

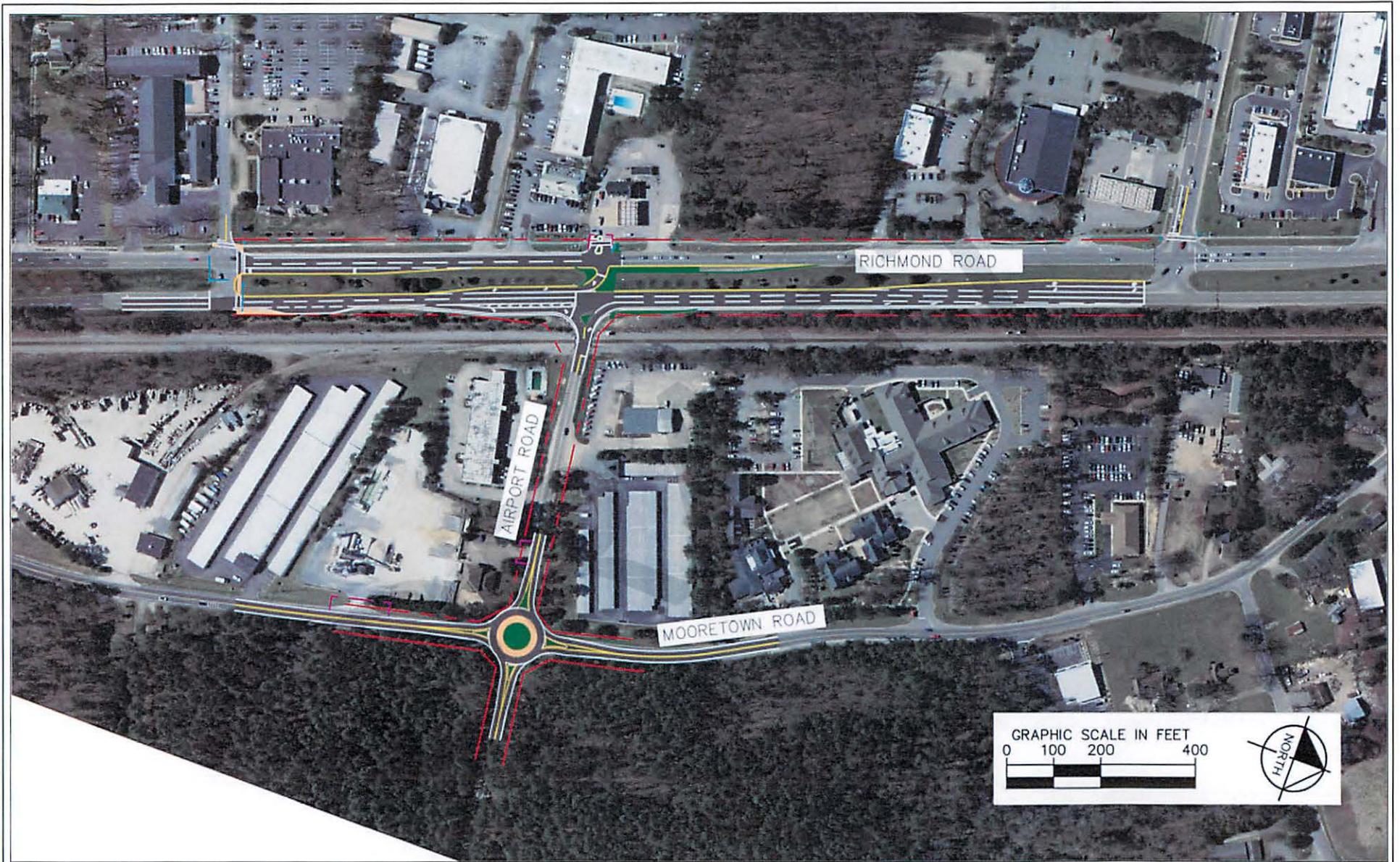
Both projects have been pre-screened by VDOT – a process by which potential projects are reviewed by VDOT staff for eligibility and project readiness and screened to determine if they meet a VTrans need. Final applications must be submitted by August 3. Submitting a pre-application for screening does not commit the locality to submitting an application for the project; however, there is no opportunity to submit additional projects that have not gone through the pre-screening process.

The SMART SCALE policies require resolutions of support from the local governing body, and I will be asking the Board to approve such a resolution for the two proposed applications at its July 21 meeting. James City County's Board of Supervisors is also expected to act on a resolution of support for the joint application in July. In the meantime, please let me know if there are any questions or concerns about either of the proposed applications.

Cross/3496

Attachment:

- Conceptual Project Diagrams

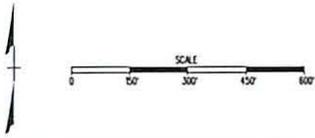


# US 17 and Route 171 Intersection Improvement York County

Project Location



North Arrow & Scale



Legend

- EXISTING PAVEMENT
- PAVEMENT AREA
- PROPOSED MEDIAN
- BUILT BY OTHERS
- PAVEMENT DEMOLITION
- PAVEMENT MARKING



**Michael Baker**  
INTERNATIONAL

VDOT - 11/15/2016  
11/15/2016  
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