



Date of Council Meeting: July 14, 2015

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Subject: Urban Project Construction Agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation for the Route 15 North Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road Interchange project.

Staff Contact: Renée LaFollette, Director –Public Works & Capital Projects
Tom Brandon, Capital Projects Manager – Public Works & Capital Projects
Calvin Grow, Transportation Engineer - Public Works & Capital Projects
Jason Cournoyer, Senior Management Analyst - Finance & Administrative Services

Council Action Requested: Adopt a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute an Urban Project Construction Agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation to administer the Route 15 North Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road Interchange project.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the Urban Project Construction Agreement for the Virginia Department of Transportation to administer the Route 15 North Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road Interchange project.

Commission Recommendation: None

Fiscal Impact: The Urban Project Construction Agreement requires the Town to reimburse the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) \$2 million for administering the project. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) has authorized \$2 million for the project, which will be provided to the Town under separate agreements between the Town and NVTA. The agreement for NVTA Fiscal Year 2014 funding was approved by Town Council Resolution No. 2015-014. The agreement for NVTA Fiscal Year 2016 funding is pending Council approval on July 14. This NVTA funding will be used to reimburse VDOT.

Work Plan Impact: None. This agreement is part of the current work plan for the Department of Public Works and Capital Projects.

Executive Summary: The Route 15 Bypass/Edwards Ferry Interchange project is included in the Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Design of the project will be administered by VDOT due to the project's size and complexity. An administrative agreement between the Town and VDOT is required to authorize VDOT to administer the project, as well as to agree that the Town will fund the project for \$2 million. NVTA funding to the Town in the amount of \$2 million will in turn be used to reimburse VDOT. Once this agreement and the NVTA agreement have been fully executed, the CIP page for this project will be amended to show the full \$2 million of NVTA funding.

Background: The area around the Route 15 Bypass in the vicinity of Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road has experienced significant commercial growth. This growth, combined with increased commuter traffic, has resulted in significant traffic congestion.

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A grade-separated interchange is proposed at this location to mitigate the congestion and would also provide a convenient, safe route for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the Bypass. The proposed interchange is included in the Town Plan, the VDOT Six-Year Plan, the NVTA Transaction 2040 Plan, and the Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Program.

The Town and VDOT have agreed that, due to its size and complexity, VDOT will administer the project. An administrative agreement between VDOT and the Town is required to authorize VDOT to administer the project. The tasks that will be administered by VDOT include traffic studies, evaluation of alternatives, an Interchange Justification Report, public participation, environmental documentation, and preliminary design. Town staff will remain involved throughout the project.

VDOT is currently negotiating a design contract with an engineering consultant to perform the work. The proposed schedule for the work is:

- Begin Traffic Counts – September 2015
- Draft Interchange Justification Report – March 2016
- Public Hearing – February 2017
- Approve Preliminary Design – June 2017

Scheduling of construction will occur after the preliminary design is approved and funding sources have been identified.

PRESENTED July 14, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-

ADOPTED _____

A RESOLUTION: URBAN PROJECT CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ADMINISTER THE ROUTE 15 NORTH BYPASS AND EDWARDS FERRY ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Route 15 North Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road Interchange project is included in the Town's Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, \$2 million in funding has been authorized by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for engineering services for this project; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will administer the design of this project utilizing the NVTA funding and other VDOT funding; and

WHEREAS, an administrative agreement between VDOT and the Town is required for reimbursing VDOT for administering the project using NVTA funds.

THEREFORE, RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia that the Town Manager is authorized to execute the attached Urban Project Construction Agreement for the Route 15 North Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road Interchange project, including any subsequent modifications to the agreement in a form acceptable to the Town Attorney.

PASSED this _____ day of July 2015.

Kristen C. Umstatt, Mayor
Town of Leesburg

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council