



**Date of Council Meeting: July 25, 2016**

**TOWN OF LEESBURG  
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
Information Memo**

**Subject:** East Market Street and Battlefield Parkway Interchange Project

**Staff Contact:** Renée M. LaFollette, P.E., Director, Public Works & Capital Projects  
Calvin K. Grow, Transportation Engineer, Public Works & Capital Projects  
Thomas H. Brandon, Capital Projects Manager, Public Works & Capital Projects

**Council Action Requested:** Information only.

**Staff Recommendation:** Information only.

**Commission Recommendation:** Not applicable.

**Fiscal Impact:** The current estimate for the project is \$58 million. Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) awarded \$13 million in Fiscal Year 2016 and \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2017 for a total of \$33 million. With this funding, an estimated \$25 million is still needed. The Town and Loudoun County will pursue additional funding from NVTA and Virginia Department of Transportation to complete the project.

**Work Plan Impact:** None. This project is part of the current work plan for Capital Projects.

**Executive Summary:** The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) has awarded a total of \$33 million toward the design and construction of a grade-separated interchange between Battlefield Parkway and East Market Street (Route 7). This includes a \$20 million award for Fiscal Year 2017 made during NVTA's July 14, 2016 board meeting. The estimated cost of the project is \$58 million. The Town and Loudoun County will continue to apply for additional funding from NVTA and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to complete the funding for the project.

VDOT is administering the project for the Town. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

**Background:** The intersection of Battlefield Parkway and East Market Street (Route 7) historically has the highest accident rate, and continues to be one of the most congested locations in Town. Constructing a grade separated interchange at this intersection is considered to be one of the Town's and County's highest priority projects. The preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$58 million. The project is included in the Town of Leesburg's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the Loudoun County CIP.

In April 2015, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) awarded \$13 million in regional (70%) funding to the project for preliminary design, utility relocations, and land acquisition. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has agreed to administer the design and construction of the project.

In fall 2015, NVTA accepted applications for Fiscal Year 2017 funding. The Town originally applied for \$37 million additional funding in Fiscal Year 2017.

NVTA received applications for 24 projects totaling \$667.8 million in funding requests for Fiscal Year 2017. The NVTA finance committee recommended a ceiling of \$475 million in awards in Fiscal Year 2017. After evaluating the applications, NVTA staff recommended funding awards to ten (10) projects totaling \$434.4 million. They did not recommend award of funding to the East Market Street and Battlefield Parkway Interchange project.

A public comment period for the Fiscal Year 2017 program was open from May 13th to June 17<sup>th</sup>, and a public hearing was held on June 9, 2016. Of 29 public hearing speakers, 16 persons spoke in favor of the Battlefield project.

Subsequent to the public hearing, representatives from Leesburg and Loudoun County have coordinated with NVTA regarding the funding. This included attending a meeting of the NVTA Planning and Programming Committee, and submitting a joint Leesburg / County letter to NVTA providing more information on the project (Attachment 1).

On July 14, 2016, the NVTA board met to consider the Fiscal Year 2017 funding awards. During that meeting, the Board approved funding of the East Market Street and Battlefield Parkway Interchange project in the amount of \$20 million. With this additional Fiscal Year 2017 funding, NVTA has committed a total of \$33 million towards the total estimated budget of \$58 million.

The Town and County will submit an application to NVTA for \$25 million in Fiscal Year 2018 funds. In addition to this NVTA application, the Town and County will also submit applications for other VDOT and federal funding sources.

Since the original NVTA grant award in 2015, the Town has entered into separate agreements with NVTA and VDOT. VDOT has initiated work on the project and has accomplished the following items:

- Selection of a design consultant
- Field surveys, mapping, and utility locating
- Traffic Counts

During the next two years, VDOT will complete the required Interchange Justification Report and preliminary design. A request for proposals for a design-build contract will be issued during the third quarter of calendar year 2018. Construction is scheduled to be

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completed in the second quarter of calendar year 2022. VDOT's completion schedule is shown in Attachment 2.

**Attachments:** (1) Letter from Loudoun County / Town of Leesburg to NVTA  
(2) VDOT Completion Schedule



Loudoun County, Virginia

[www.loudoun.gov](http://www.loudoun.gov)

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

1 Harrison Street, S.E., 5th Floor, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

Telephone (703) 777-0204 • Fax (703) 777-0421 • [bos@loudoun.gov](mailto:bos@loudoun.gov)

July 6, 2016

Ms. Monica Backmon, Executive Director  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority  
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200  
Fairfax, VA 22031

**RE: NVTA FY 2017 Program  
Route 7 (East Market Street)/ Battlefield Parkway Interchange**

Dear Ms. Backmon:

On behalf of the citizens and businesses of Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg, we are grateful to the Authority for listening to our collective voices and affording us this opportunity to provide additional clarification on the Route 7 (East Market Street) at Battlefield Parkway Interchange Project. As the Authority heard at its' public hearing held on June 9th, this project is a critical component in our long range transportation plan and is integral to reducing congestion along the Route 7 Corridor from Fairfax County to Leesburg.

Following a healthy discussion at the July 1st Planning and Programming Committee (PPC) meeting, the Committee asked for additional clarification regarding the funding of the project cost and a current project schedule. The purpose of this letter is to provide that additional clarification.

Clarify the total project cost:

The overall project is estimated to cost \$58 million. If the Authority were to fund the \$37 million requested in the FY 2017 Program and add that to the \$13 million already awarded by the Authority, then a remaining balance of \$8 million is necessary to provide full project funding. The Authority awarded \$13 million in FY 2016 leaving an overall project balance to finish of \$45 million. The FY 2017 project application requested \$40 million for construction. However this amount was reduced, in consultation with the NVTA staff, to \$37 million to be consistent with the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors April 2015 endorsement of the Town project as the sole project for submission to the NVTA FY 2017 program. The Loudoun Board of Supervisors endorsement for this project was based on the Board's understanding of available funding in the FY 2017 program and the knowledge that the Town was already planning to come back in FY 2018 to request NVTA funding for the additional \$5 million. The reduction to the FY 2017 project application request from \$40 million to \$37 million for construction shifted \$3 million to the FY 2018 request for an increased amount of \$8 million. The

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project application indicated the FY 2018 amount of \$5 million would be needed for: Contract Administration (\$1.5 million); Testing Services (\$1.5 million), and Inspection Services (\$2 million). With these necessary items the total project cost of \$58 million is reached. The remaining (and added) \$3 million is for construction.

The full \$58 million, which includes the \$8 million FY 2018 request, must be secured and committed in order to advertise the project in accordance with state procurement procedure. In addition to the planned request to the NVTA in FY 2018 for the \$8 million, staff from the Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County will be developing alternative funding applications and options for the \$8 million. Potential other sources include, but not limited to, the VDOT Smart Scale Program (formerly known as HB-2), VDOT Grants Program, VDOT's Regional Surface Transportation Program, federal grant opportunities and possibly others. Finally, we want to stress that having now identified the components of the \$8 million it is not our intent to ask for the full \$40 million dollars as stipulated in the FY 2017 application.

Clarification and additional detail on the project schedule:

On June 20, 2016 VDOT provided you with a schedule depicting the activities which have occurred to date. This original schedule submission demonstrated significant accomplishments despite concern that no progress had been made on the project. The Town of Leesburg and VDOT have collaborated and determined the quickest project delivery can occur using the Design/Build process. As such, the schedule and activities have been developed with this fundamental delivery method envisioned. Town and County staff have coordinated with VDOT to expand the schedule and provide the Authority with additional detail. The revised schedule is attached for your reference. Specifically, the schedule indicates the period in time when the funding commitment must be demonstrated. This information has been included in the schedule.

We believe this letter addresses the concerns that were raised at the PPC meeting. However should you have other questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bob Brown, Transportation Planner, and Loudoun County or Mr. Tom Brandon, Manager of Capital Projects for the Town of Leesburg. The Town, VDOT and County will have representatives at the July 14, 2016 Authority meeting should you or Authority members have further questions on our project application. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide additional clarification.

Sincerely,

  
Phyllis Randall, Chair  
Loudoun County, Board of Supervisors

  
David Butler, Mayor  
Town of Leesburg, VA

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**CC: Loudoun County Board of Supervisors**  
**Town Council, Town of Leesburg**  
**Tim Hemstreet, County Administrator**  
**Kaj Dentler, Town Manager**  
**Renee Lafollette, PE, Director of Public Works, TOL**  
**Tom Brandon, Manager, Capital Projects, TOL**  
**Calvin Grow, PE, Traffic Engineer, TOL**  
**Joe Kroboth, III, PE, LS, Director DTCI**  
**Penny Newquist, Deputy Director, DTCI**  
**Bob Brown, Transportation Planner, DTCI**

**Attachments:**

- 1. Original Application for 2017 NVTA Funds**
- 2. Design Build Schedule**

