



**Date of Council Meeting: September 27, 2016**

**TOWN OF LEESBURG  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Subject:** Virginia Department of Transportation SMART Scale Applications

**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:** Resolution endorsing the application to Virginia Department of Transportation.

**Staff Recommendation:** Recommend applying to Virginia Department of Transportation for SMART Scale funds for the East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange and Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road Interchange projects.

**Commission Recommendation:** Not applicable.

**Fiscal Impact:** The current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes both the East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway interchange and the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/ Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road interchange. Although some funding is available for both of these projects for the initial studies and preliminary design, additional funding is required for construction. Without this additional funding, the projects will be delayed.

**Work Plan Impact:** The East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway interchange and the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/ Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road interchange projects are included in the Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Both of these projects are being administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

**Executive Summary:** Applications for the Virginia Department of Transportation SMART Scale (formerly HB2) funding program require a resolution of support from the the Town Council. Applications must be submitted by September 30. The Town will submit applications for two projects:

1. East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange
2. Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road Interchange

**Background:** In 2014, the Commonwealth of Virginia enacted House Bill 2 (HB2), which required the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop and implement a

quantifiable and transparent prioritization process for making funding decisions for capacity-enhancing transportation projects within the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) Six Year Improvement Plan.

Recently, the HB-2 program was renamed "System for the Management and Allocation of Resources for Transportation", or SMART Scale. Applications for SMART Scale projects must be submitted to VDOT by September 30. Applications can be submitted by counties, cities, and towns that maintain their own roadways, as well as metropolitan planning organizations and planning district commissions. Only one application can be submitted per project, so it would not be possible for both the Town and Loudoun County to apply for the same project, i.e. the East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange. The applications will be screened and scored by VDOT. Project applications will be prioritized based on the following factors and weighted percentages:

- Congestion mitigation (45%);
- Land use (20%);
- Accessibility (15%);
- Environmental quality (10%);
- Economic development (5%); and
- Safety (5%)

VDOT's rankings will be provided to the CTB in January, who will consider these scores in developing the Six Year Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2018 to 2023. The CTB is not required to fund the highest scoring projects, but must provide rationale for decisions to fund lower scored projects.

The Town of Leesburg is proposing to apply for two projects under this year's SMART Scale program:

1. East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange: This is one of the most congested and high accident intersections in Leesburg and Loudoun County. Planning and design of this project is currently underway and is being administered by VDOT. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) has provided a total of \$33 million in regional (70%) funds to the project to date. However, another estimated \$25 million is needed for full funding of the \$58 million budget. Loudoun County Board of Supervisors recently confirmed this project as their second highest priority transportation project.
2. Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road Interchange: These intersections are highly congested due to the large retail areas, combined with major commuter traffic. The area is also a site to significant pedestrian traffic crossing the high-speed bypass between the residential areas and the retail centers. Planning and preliminary design of this project is currently underway and is being administered by VDOT. NVTA has awarded \$2 million for the initial work on this project. Total project costs for this interchange vary significantly, depending on the interchange configuration that is selected, but estimates range from approximately \$60 million to

over \$100 million. Loudoun County Board of Supervisors recently confirmed this project as their 17<sup>th</sup> highest priority transportation project.

In 2015, the Town submitted applications for the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Edwards Ferry Road interchange and the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Battlefield Parkway interchange projects. Neither of these projects were awarded funding during that application cycle. One of the primary reasons that these applications were not successful was that the project planning and design had not progressed sufficiently to define the project and budget. VDOT eligibility guidance for this year's applications requires that an Interchange Justification Study (IJR) be underway or completed for an interchange project to be eligible for funding.

Subsequent to last year's application, work has continued on the preliminary design and preparation of IJRs for the Route 15/Edwards Ferry Interchange and for the Route 7/Battlefield Parkway interchange. However, since no work has begun on the Route 15 Bypass/Battlefield Parkway interchange project, it would not be eligible for SMART Scale funding. Accordingly, no application will be submitted for funding that project this year.

SMART Scale applications from the Town require a resolution of support from the Town Council.

PRESENTED September 27, 2016

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION: ENDORSING SMART SCALE APPLICATIONS TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the SMART Scale Program provides a quantifiable and transparent prioritization process to assist the Commonwealth Transportation Board in making funding decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation is accepting applications for SMART Scale funds for Fiscal Year 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Leesburg desires to submit applications for three projects to be funded through the SMART Scale Program; and

WHEREAS, construction of the East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange will eliminate the final at grade signalized intersections in Loudoun County on Route 7 west of Route 28 and will improve traffic congestion and safety; and

WHEREAS, the East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange project is included in the Town's Fiscal Year 2016 to 2021 Capital Improvement program, and is partially funded using Northern Virginia Transportation Authority funding; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road interchange will mitigate traffic congestion, improve traffic safety, and provide facilities for pedestrians and bicycles to safely cross the bypass; and

WHEREAS, the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road project is included in the Town's Fiscal Year 2016 to 2021 Capital Improvement program, and is partially funded using Northern Virginia Transportation Authority funding; and

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WHEREAS, construction of the East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange will eliminate the final at grade signalized intersections in Loudoun County on Route 7 west of Route 28 and will improve traffic congestion and safety; and

WHEREAS, the East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange project is included in the Town's Fiscal Year 2016 to 2021 Capital Improvement program, and is partially funded using Northern Virginia Transportation Authority funding; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road interchange will mitigate traffic congestion, improve traffic safety, and provide facilities for pedestrians and bicycles to safely cross the bypass; and

WHEREAS, the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road project is included in the Town's Fiscal Year 2016 to 2021 Capital Improvement program, and is partially funded using Northern Virginia Transportation Authority funding; and

A RESOLUTION: ENDORSING SMART SCALE APPLICATIONS TO THE VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THEREFORE, RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia as follows:

SECTION I. The Town Council supports applications for funding through the Virginia Department of Transportation SMART Scale program for the East Market Street (Route 7)/Battlefield Parkway Interchange project and the Route 15 Leesburg Bypass/Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road interchange project.

SECTION II. The Town Manager is authorized to execute any and all documents associated with the grant application.

PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September 2016.

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David S. Butler, Mayor  
Town of Leesburg

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Council