

# DRAFT Board Report

**DATE:** September 18, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Approval to Submit Applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 - FY 2024 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Set-Aside for Transportation Alternatives and the FY 2023 Revenue Sharing Program

## **C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Adopt the attached resolution authorizing Arlington County's participation in VDOT's FY 2023-FY 2024 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside under the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program
2. Adopt the attached resolution authorizing Arlington County's participation in VDOT's FY 2023 Revenue Sharing Program.

**ISSUES:** None at the time of this report

**SUMMARY:** The attached resolutions (Attachments A and B) authorize and direct that grant applications be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) at the following levels:

- FY 2023-FY 2024 TA Set-Aside (STBG) - \$500,000
- FY 2023 Revenue Sharing Program - \$10,000,000

## **BACKGROUND:**

These two funding programs are both administered by VDOT on a bi-annual basis.

TA set-aside (STBG) funds are eligible for a variety of smaller-scale non-highway transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, and safe routes to school projects. Like its predecessor federal-aid highway programs (Transportation Alternatives [TA] and Transportation Enhancements [TE]), the TA set-aside will pay for up to 80 percent of the project costs and requires at least a 20 percent local match by the jurisdiction receiving the grant. Arlington has annually applied to VDOT for federal funds through the TA set-aside and its predecessor programs to help pay for new or expanded bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

VDOT's Revenue Sharing Program is intended to provide state funding for local governments to construct, maintain, or improve primary and secondary roads, including sidewalks, signals, trails, and bridges. Localities that participate in the program must provide a dollar-for-dollar local match for money received through the program.

Arlington typically applies for funding through both programs during each every-two-year cycle. Awards are not guaranteed to equal requests.

# DRAFT Board Report

## DISCUSSION:

### Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (STBG) Program

The federal STBG Program includes set-aside funding for transportation alternatives. These TA set-aside funds include all projects and activities that were previously eligible under the TA Program. VDOT and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Origination (MPO) for the Washington Region, are each responsible for selecting projects in Northern Virginia for a portion of the funding available to Northern Virginia jurisdictions. VDOT solicits and receives applications, working with the TPB to select projects for Northern Virginia. Because this is federal funding administered through VDOT, all projects must follow strict federal requirements. Use of federal funds adds layers of required approvals to projects, which can delay and add significant cost to smaller projects.

Approximately \$5 million are available each fiscal year for Northern Virginia jurisdictions through the TA set-aside. The maximum request allowed is \$1 million per project application per fiscal year (with a cap of \$2 million over the two-year application cycle), and awards are typically in the \$200,000 - \$600,000 range.

Staff recommends applying to the FY 2023 – FY 2024 TA set-aside for \$500,000 for one project:

1. **Arlington Boulevard (US 50) Trail Enhancements: \$500,000**

The project would create a wider, more uniform multi-use path for the section of trail between N. Fort Myer Drive and N. Rhodes Street. Following the project, the trail will have greater separation from adjacent motor vehicle traffic, and will have safer ramp crossings. The upgraded trail section will link with the section to the west that VDOT enhanced in the Courthouse Road interchange improvement project. With the improvements, the trail user experience will be easier and safer, and as a result be more heavily used.

### Revenue Sharing Program

The VDOT Revenue Sharing Program provides dollar-for-dollar state funding to qualifying local capital and maintenance transportation projects, which can be used to leverage existing County funds. A 50 percent local match is required. Projects for the FY 2023-FY2024 program will be selected based on the following criteria outlined in the state code:

1. Priority shall be given to projects that have previously received Revenue Sharing funds.
2. Second priority shall be given to projects that (i) meet a transportation need identified in the Statewide Transportation Plan or (ii) accelerate a project in a locality's capital plan.
3. Third priority shall be given to projects that address deficient pavement resurfacing and bridge rehabilitation projects.
4. Other eligible projects not meeting the above criteria will then be considered.

## DRAFT Board Report

Localities are limited to receiving a total \$5 million per fiscal year (\$10 million per bi-annual cycle), and an individual project may not receive more than \$10 million in Revenue Sharing funding over the life of that project. VDOT requires localities submitting more than one project to prioritize them. Staff identifies candidate projects and priority ranking for the program based on need, match availability, and provisions outlined in the state code and Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) policy for allocating Revenue Sharing funds.

Due to state revenue shortfalls during the COVID-19 global pandemic and subsequent CTB approval of VDOT recommendations to reprogram previously approved Revenue Sharing funds to different years of the FY2021 COVID-19 Update version of the Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) to minimize disruption to active and previously approved Revenue Sharing projects, funding awards from the FY 2023 Revenue Sharing application cycle will not be allocated until FY 2027 and FY 2028.

Staff recommends applying to the FY 2023 Revenue Sharing Program for \$10,000,000 (the maximum allocation) for one project:

1. **Fort Myer Drive Two-Way Conversion: \$10,000,000**  
Reconstruct Fort Myer Drive in Rosslyn to convert it to two-way operation, bring it to grade, eliminate the tunnel under Wilson Boulevard, and improve multimodal circulation.

### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

*Level of Engagement:* Communicate.

*Outreach Methods:* Candidate projects are selected based on reviewed program eligibility requirements and project evaluation criteria as well as major County, State and regional transportation plans. The resulting list of projects is reviewed for each bi-annual funding cycle by the Transportation Commission. The Fort Myer Drive project is part of the preferred alternative for the Core of Rosslyn Transportation Study that was concluded in Fall 2019 and was subject to additional public engagement as part of that study.

*Community Feedback:* The Transportation Commission reviewed this item at their regular meeting on September 2, 2021 and **HOLD FOR RESULTS OF TC ACTION.**

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funding plans for all projects will be adjusted as necessary to reflect these applications during development of the FY 2023 – FY 2032 CIP, now in its early stages.

### TA Set-Aside:

TA set-aside projects require a 20% local match. The match will be provided using revenue from the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Tax within the Transportation Capital Fund (TCF).

# DRAFT Board Report

## Revenue Sharing:

Revenue Sharing projects require a 50% location match. This match will also be provided from TCF-C&I revenue.

# DRAFT Board Report

## Attachment A

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY 2023 – FY 2024 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM SET-ASIDE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia (“County Board”) desires to submit applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation for an allocation of up to \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program set-aside funding for transportation alternatives; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be requested for Arlington Boulevard Trail Enhancements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Board hereby supports the making of applications and authorizes and directs the County Manager to make applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation for up to \$500,000 of Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program set-aside funding for transportation alternatives for the above described project.

ADOPTED this 18th day of September, 2021.

# DRAFT Board Report

## Attachment B

### **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY 2023 REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia (“County Board”) desires to submit applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation for an allocation of up to \$10,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue Sharing Program funding; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be requested for the Fort Myer Drive Two-Way Conversion;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Board hereby supports the making of applications and authorizes and directs the County Manager to make applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation for up to \$10,000,000 of Fiscal Year 2023 Revenue Sharing Program funding for the above described and prioritized project.

ADOPTED this 18th day of September, 2021.