

Crozet Infrastructure Update – February, 2006

The Crozet Master Plan includes a very detailed implementation strategy that identifies critical infrastructure improvements that are necessary to support the plan. The following are highlights of the status of the infrastructure projects that are underway – more details on these projects will be posted to the Albemarle County website at www.albemarle.org as they are available.

Downtown Sidewalk and Streetscape Project

The County has obtained \$450,000 in grants to construct sidewalks along parts of Crozet Ave to Tabor St in downtown Crozet. The project will consist of three phases. The preliminary design of Phase I, which will be located from the railroad crossing on Crozet Ave to the current Crozet Library, is complete and final design is moving forward. The construction contract for Phase I is scheduled to be put out to bid in the Spring of 2006 and construction should begin in the summer. The project is expected to be complete by the end of the calendar year.

Crozet Library Project

The County's Capital Improvements Program has allocated funds for construction of a new library project in Crozet as recommended by the Master Plan. From preliminary research, thirteen potential sites have been evaluated by independent consultants and the project team based on a number of criteria including the strong preference for a downtown site established by the Master Plan. Other considerations included operational requirements specified by the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, objective evaluations conducted by independent consultants regarding transportation impacts and economic opportunities, and successful best practices for urban library projects in other communities. Currently the County is investigating viable site options and is working with a Building Advisory Committee composed of 35 Crozet community members to identify the most important elements of the building design. The County is currently in the process of hiring an architectural firm and plans to begin the design process this summer, depending on a final site selection.

Downtown Parking

The County is looking at existing and future parking needs in the downtown Crozet area to identify solutions that will support the Downtown's role as a business and activity center. At this time county staff is working with downtown businesses to assess current parking capacity and to gather parking needs data via a survey. Based on the results of this research, the county will develop a plan to increase the effectiveness of existing parking (could include measures like restriping parking lots, moving employees to satellite parking, new signage, time limits and loading zones) and to plan and develop new parking capacity (could include new on-street parking, angled parking, new parking lots and shared parking arrangements) as is needed to accommodate the needs of Downtown.

Road Projects

While responsibility for road construction in the County lies with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the County is focused on a number of road projects that are critical to supporting the effective movement of traffic throughout the Crozet community. In support of accelerating transportation projects, the Board of Supervisors has recently approved hiring a County transportation engineer to help in moving these projects forward:

- **Jarman's Gap Road** – Plans for these improvements are currently under design by VDOT, who is planning to hold a public hearing on the design in the Spring of 2006. Following the VDOT public hearing this spring, the Board of Supervisors will make its location and design recommendation on Jarman's Gap Road to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocations will follow. Advertisement for construction bids is scheduled in late 2008.
- **Western Avenue** – The bridge and roadway that compose Western Avenue are being completed as part of the Old Trail development. This road will provide an alternative to Crozet Avenue in providing access for traffic in the western part of Crozet traveling to Route 250 and Interstate 64. Western

Ave. is one of the two major north-south roads called for in the Master Plan and is being completed without state or local funding as a result of the rezoning process.

- **Eastern Avenue** – This is a second major north-south Master Plan road that will connect Rt. 240 and Rt. 250 generally from the area around Western Ridge and the Conagra plant to an area near Cory Farms. An alignment study of Eastern Avenue and design of the Lickinghole Creek Bridge, a major feature of Eastern Avenue, are being programmed in the County's Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The road itself is expected to be built as part of private development, while the bridge is anticipated to be a future CIP project. The County has begun preliminary discussions with developers who control the property to determine an effective alignment of the road.
- **Main Street** – Main Street is a major east-west road connecting eastern Crozet to the downtown. The County is currently discussing Main Street with land owners in the area to better plan the alignment of the road. This road is expected to be built with private development or through some form of public/private partnership.