

## CVTA AGENDA 8/9/24; ITEM C.-1.

### Commonwealth of Virginia – Budgeted Fall Line Recommendations

#### Central Virginia Transportation Authority

**BACKGROUND:** As reported by Sportsbackers, the 2024 Virginia General Assembly dedicated \$7,500,000 to the Fall Line trail in its final budget, signed by Governor Glen Youngkin in May. The new funds were appropriated from undesignated resources from the newly created State Trails Office housed within the Virginia Department of Transportation. This is the first Richmond-area trail to receive financial assistance from this fund, which was established in former Governor Ralph Northam's final proposed budget and approved by the 2022 Virginia General Assembly.

In further conversations with VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), CVTA staff have received indications that the state does not have specific uses designated for these funds and is open to recommendations from the CVTA. Staff is confident that the CTB will appreciate guidance if the CVTA can act in a timely manner and make recommendations on uses that will see direct impact on the trail.

CVTA TAC thoughtfully considered multiple options for recommendation by the Authority. Those uses included the following:

1. Carve out funds to cover the full installation costs of the wayfinding plan components as specified - **\$1.1 M**
2. Set aside a design retainer for AB Design to assist localities with Fall Line wayfinding capital updates as more sections are brought online. Estimated costs for the retainer are **\$15,000**
3. Allocate funds to a segment of the Fall Line that has not yet entered into development or has a balance remaining. There are multiple potential segments that fit these criteria – primarily in the central and southern portions of the alignment. Those segments include:
  - a. Fall Line Trail: Kanawha Plaza (5A-R) - **\$4.5 M**
  - b. Fall Line Trail: Route 1 (Food Lion – Falling Creek Wayside), UPC 115415 - **\$3 M**
  - c. Fall Line Trail: Bryan Park - **\$760,000**
  - d. Leveraging for Smart Scale Rd VI, candidate project Fall Line Trail: Route 1 (Walmsley Blvd – Falling Creek Ave) – total project estimate: **\$13.6 M**
4. Apply funds to a grade separated intersection at Route 10 in Chesterfield County as an add-on to DB2 (the timing of this option may be problematic due to the bid schedule).

**TAC Recommendation:** Each of the possible options was considered, with the following points clarified:

- Wayfinding fabrication and installation costs, as well as the proposed retainer for design assistance, are not eligible for this source of funds according to VDOT. The funds will be allocated to a project with a scope of construction of the trail / completion of additional segments.
- The Bryan Park segment of the Fall Line has funds that can be applied from other sources
- The timing is not good for application of funds to the Design-Build 2 project until the bid decision is made later in the calendar year or next spring.
- The needed amount for the Route 1 (Walmsley Blvd to Falling Creek Avenue) project as well as others that were not directly discussed is significantly higher than available funds and TAC members were focused on making sure the application of the \$7.5 million was able to make an immediate impact on trail development

Following lengthy discussion by the TAC, the following recommendation was unanimously made:

TAC recommends that the CVTA draft a letter to the Commonwealth Transportation Board requesting that the \$7.5 million in dedicated Fall Line funding from the 2024 State Budget be allocated to the Fall Line: Kanawha Plaza (5A-R) project in the amount of \$4.5 million and the Fall Line Trail: Route 1 (Food Lion – Falling Creek Wayside) UPC 115415 project in the amount of \$3 million

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**REQUESTED ACTION:** Motion to direct the CVTA Executive Director to draft a letter to the Commonwealth Transportation Board outlining CVTA recommendations for allocation of the \$7.5 million in Fall Line funds from the 2024 Virginia General Assembly.

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**CVTA RESOLUTION:** The following resolution is presented for Central Virginia Transportation Authority approval:

**Resolved,** that the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) approves a letter to the Commonwealth Transportation Board outlining recommendations for allocation of the \$7.5 million in Fall Line funds from the 2024 Virginia General Assembly.