




# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 14, 2010

**TO:** Members, Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Katharine D. Ichter, P.E., Director  
Department of Transportation 

**SUBJECT:** Status of Fairfax County's Traffic Calming Program

As the Board is aware, the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) secondary road construction budget for Fairfax County is less than \$2000 in FY11 and future years. As such, future funding for the County's traffic calming program, which was previously funded from the VDOT secondary construction budget, is essentially nonexistent. Based on the current balance of VDOT traffic calming program funds remaining from prior years and current project estimates, the 3 remaining uninstalled projects previously endorsed by the Board can be implemented. Additionally, staff estimates that most of the projects currently in the development stage will be able to be funded for construction using the remaining balance of funds. As in past years, some projects in the early phase of development will be discontinued or drop out of the program. Further, project estimates will fluctuate somewhat until a final traffic calming plan is identified for each community and construction is completed.

Since the inception of the traffic calming program, Fairfax County has relied on VDOT's state force construction crews to construct the traffic calming projects. This spring VDOT disbanded the state force construction crew and we lost this valued resource. As a result, construction of additional traffic calming measures will have to be completed by non-state, contracted forces, which is expected to result in increased construction costs for traffic calming projects moving forward. Staff is working with VDOT to establish a methodology for getting these small scale projects installed without the availability of state forces; however, it is uncertain at this time what the resulting increase in cost will be.

### Current Funding Situation

Since project status and estimates are constantly changing, the information provided below reflects a summary of the program's status as of July 1, 2010, and will change as projects continue through the development process:

<b>Program Balance as of July 1, 2010, Reported by VDOT</b>	<b>= \$ <u>366,407</u></b>
3 projects previously endorsed by the Board (to be installed)	= \$ 67,100
21 projects currently under development (planning estimate)	= \$ <u>331,600</u>

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Based on current project estimates and timelines, staff anticipates available VDOT traffic calming construction funds to be exhausted during the summer of 2011. The current expected shortfall to complete all of the 21 projects under development is \$32,200. Using average costs per project, this would imply that there may not be funding for 2 of the 21 projects under development.

**Projects Awaiting Initiation of Task Forces and New Requests for Eligibility Determination**

In addition to the 3 projects already endorsed by the Board and the 21 projects in development, there are 18 traffic calming projects that have qualified for inclusion in the traffic calming program and are awaiting initiation of a community task force to start the project development process. As task forces are initiated they are advised in writing of the funding situation and the fact that a funding source has not been identified for project construction. New requests for traffic calming projects are also still being accepted for study to determine if the streets meet the traffic calming program criteria. There are 6 such requests to be processed this fall (after schools have re-opened) to determine program eligibility.

On February 23, 2009, the Board endorsed changes in the traffic calming program procedures. The change was initiated to streamline the process and eliminate the requirement for the community to petition the County requesting a traffic calming study. The change also eliminated the requirement for the community to develop a conceptual traffic calming plan. Prior to the changes, the projects took on average 30 months to complete the development phase. Since the changes were implemented, projects now take on average 12½ months to complete development. Historically, using state force construction, project construction times have averaged 5 months.

Attached is a spreadsheet summarizing all active traffic calming projects – those already endorsed by the Board awaiting installation (3), those under development (21), those projects which have qualified for the program (18), and those to be studied to determine if they qualify for the traffic calming program (6).

**Future Program Funding**

Since the program's inception, 111 community traffic calming projects have been constructed on neighborhood streets in Fairfax County. For the last several years, approximately \$200,000 has been expended per year for construction of the calming devices. Because of expected increased construction costs and the fact that future projects will require a contractor rather than state forces for installation, staff estimates a need of approximately \$300,000 annually to continue this program at its current development and construction pace. Restrictions placed on the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) tax revenues for transportation by state legislators require that C&I revenues only be used for new transportation capacity improvements; therefore, the C&I revenues cannot be used to fund the traffic calming program funding.

Staff is evaluating projects for suitability from other funding sources and exploring innovative project delivery methods to potentially reduce construction timelines and costs. Options for the program after the current construction funds are exhausted include:

- 1) Require communities to participate on some basis in the funding of installation of traffic calming devices. While some communities have indicated their willingness to provide funding, this option could potentially create an equity issue between those communities that have the funding resources to participate in the construction and those that do not.
- 2) Increase FCDOT's annual budget allocation to cover estimated needs. As indicated earlier, to keep the current pace of processing, developing, and constructing traffic calming projects, staff estimates that an additional \$300,000 would be needed annually for construction only.
- 3) Elimination of the traffic calming program after the existing construction funds are exhausted in the summer of 2011 (at approximately the end of the current fiscal year). If this option is selected, those projects which have qualified for the traffic calming program and are waiting for community task forces to be established and those projects awaiting study for program qualification should be dropped from the program and new requests should not be accepted. FCDOT staff resources for the traffic calming program would complete as many of the 21 projects in development as funding permits through FY11.

This item will be a topic for discussion at the July 20, 2010, Board Transportation Committee meeting. Staff will be seeking guidance from the Board at and following that meeting regarding the future of the County's Traffic Calming Program.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me at 703-877-5696 or Bill Harrell at 703-877-5767.

Attachment

cc: Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive  
Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive  
Catherine Chianese, Assistant County Executive  
Susan Datta, Director, Department of Management and Budget  
Eric M. Teitelman, P. E., Chief, Capital Projects and Operations Division, FCDOT  
Tom Biesiadny, Chief, Coordination and Funding Division, FCDOT  
Selby Thannikary, P.E., Chief, Traffic Operations Section, FCDOT  
Jay Guy, Transportation Planner III, Coordination and Funding Division, FCDOT  
Bill Harrell, Transportation Planner III, Traffic Operations Section, FCDOT

<b>Traffic Calming Projects - Budget Tracking</b>		
<b>As of 7/1/2010</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>	
	<b>\$ 366,407.22</b>	<b>District</b>
<b>3 Projects Endorsed by the Board - awaiting installation (estimated construction cost)</b>		
Abbotsford Dr & Center St	\$ 40,000.00	Hunter Mill
Dead Run	\$ 10,000.00	Dranesville
Dower House Rd	\$ 17,100.00	Sully
<b>Total Estimated Construction Cost</b>	<b>\$ 67,100.00</b>	
<b>21 Projects in Development (estimated construction cost) Note: List is NOT prioritized Projects and estimates subject to change as plans are developed.</b>		
Abbotsford Dr II & Percussion Way & Labrador Ln	\$ 20,000.00	Hunter Mill
Barbour Rd	\$ 15,000.00	Providence
Carpers Farm Way	\$ 12,600.00	Dranesville
Charles Stewart Dr and Ox Hill	\$ 15,000.00	Sully
Cherokee Av & Chowan Av & Fairland St	\$ 15,000.00	Mason
Clarks Crossing Dr	\$ 7,000.00	Hunter Mill
Cross School Rd	\$ 11,000.00	Hunter Mill
Cyrene Blvd	\$ 8,400.00	Lee
Dominion Way	\$ 7,000.00	Providence
Folkstone Dr and Westwood Hills Rd	\$ 21,000.00	Sully
Fort Dr / Farmington Dr / Edgehill Dr	\$ 12,600.00	Lee
Frost Way & Shelley Ln	\$ 10,000.00	Mason
Lafayette Village Dr	\$ 15,000.00	Mason
Old Courthouse Rd	\$ 52,000.00	Hunter Mill
Powells Tavern Pl	\$ 42,000.00	Dranesville
Rogers Dr & Stuart Dr & Elmwood Rd & Lawrence Dr	\$ 21,000.00	Providence
Waterway Dr	\$ 3,000.00	Mason
Wayne Rd	\$ 10,000.00	Mason
West St	\$ 25,000.00	Providence
Williams Ave	\$ 5,000.00	Providence
Wood Rock Way	\$ 4,000.00	Sully
<b>Total Estimated Construction Cost</b>	<b>\$ 331,600.00</b>	
<b>Summary</b>		
<b>July 1, 2010 - Balance</b>	<b>\$ 366,407.22</b>	
<b>Projects in Queue (estimate)</b>	<b>\$ 67,100.00</b>	
<b>Projects Under Development (rough estimate)</b>	<b>\$ 331,600.00</b>	
<b>Estimated Balance as of 7/1/10</b>	<b>\$ (32,292.78)</b>	
<b>Eighteen Projects that Have Qualified - waiting for task force meeting to be set up Projects subject to change as plans are developed.</b>		
Brimstone Ln		Springfield
Burgundy Rd		Lee
Center Rd		Springfield
Colts Brook Rd		Hunter Mill
Dallas St		Sully
Elmwood St		Sully
Griffith Rd, Lisle Ave, Pimmit Dr		Dranesville
Highland Ave		Dranesville

Holmes Run Rd	Providence
Marbury Rd	Providence
Jefferson St and Marshall Dr	Providence
Meadow Hall Dr	Hunter Mill
Newington Rd & Accotink Rd & Hamilton Rd & Ona St	Mt. Vernon
Poplar Tree Rd	Springfield
River St	Dranesville
Stratford Ln	Mt. Vernon
Thunderchase Rd	Hunter Mill
Virginia Run (five streets under consideration)	Sully
<b><i>Six Requests for Study - under study or to be studied for qualification in 2010</i></b>	
Barkley Dr	Providence
Hollowing Point Dr and Potomac View Blvd	Mt. Vernon
Langley Farms (seven streets under consideration)	Dranesville
Misty Creek Ln	Sully
Olley Ln	Braddock
Quincy Adams and John Milton	Hunter Mill