

TAC AGENDA 12/14/21; ITEM #9.

RICHMOND STBG FUNDING REQUEST – UPC 15958

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization

REQUESTED ACTION: Review the request from the City of Richmond for \$3.5M in additional STBG funds for UPC 15958 – Commerce Road Improvements and provide a recommendation to the RRTPO policy board.

BACKGROUND: Prioritizing and selecting projects for funding is one of the primary roles of the RRTPO in developing the regional transportation system. Projects selected by the TPO to receive funding are included in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for adoption by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). This process usually takes place from October to April each fiscal year. The Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program is the largest source of funding allocation by the RRTPO. STBG funds are flexible and can be used for a wide range of transportation improvements.

The Commerce Road Improvement project (UPC 15958) is a project in the City of Richmond which was first selected for in STBG funding from the RRTPO in fiscal year 2015 with a total award of \$2M. At the time, the project was expected to start construction that year with completion targeted for December 2016 at a total project cost of \$14.9M. The original application is attached to this staff report. Since selection, the project has experienced significant delays due to complications with funding and agreements with CSX. The estimate has continued to increase and the TPO has awarded nearly \$3.5M in additional STBG funds.

The project was advertised this fall, but all the bids received were high relative to the estimate and available allocations. The funding analysis provided by the City of Richmond is attached to this staff report. In total, the project estimate has increased from \$21.76M in the last Appendix A to \$28.7M. The City of Richmond has requested an additional \$3.5M in STBG funds to help cover the deficit and to be able to award the project.

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK GUIDANCE: The Regional Project Selection and Allocation Framework provides guidance for existing projects seeking additional funds. In general, project sponsors are expected to request additional funding during the annual application cycle. If the project is eligible for additional funding, additional allocations can be approved by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) or the policy board, depending on the scale of the request and the availability of funds in the balance entry.

The City of Richmond has requested \$3.5 million in additional STBG funds for the Commerce Road Improvements project. RRTPO records, attached, show \$5.493 million allocated to the project. As this request represents a 63.7% increase relative to the current TPO approved funding on the project, TAC is required to review the

request and provide a recommendation to the policy board. TAC can recommend any combination of the following options:

- Scale back the project
- Use local or other non-RRTPO funds (partial or full)
- Use STBG balance entry funds (partial or full)

AVAILABLE BALANCE ENTRY FUNDS: Staff has updated the estimates of available funds in the balance entry (UPC 70721) for the STBG program to reflect recent closeouts. The table below summarizes the current balance entry, the target reserve, and the surplus by fiscal year. The target reserve amounts are based on the expected allocations used in the FY22 allocation cycle and the target percentages in the regional framework. The balance entry funds are sufficient to cover the request. Using FY23 or later funds will reduce the balance available for allocation to other existing and new project requests submitted this round.

	Previous	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Actual	\$1,014,325	\$4,251,611	\$6,061,939	\$5,296,173	\$5,265,974	\$5,010,657
Target	\$0	\$1,941,713	\$1,974,722	\$2,008,292	\$4,084,866	\$6,231,463
Surplus	\$1,014,325	\$2,309,898	\$4,087,217	\$3,287,881	\$1,181,108	(\$1,220,806)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Given the project history, staff recognizes the need to award the project and move into construction, however, staff has concerns that the requested amount represents a large increase in TPO funding and a disproportionate share of the deficit. Based on the FY22 SYIP, STBG allocations accounted for 25.2% of the available funding. The \$3.5M requested represents 50.4% of the increased cost.

Staff also recognizes that this project is one of several existing projects which have requested additional STBG funds. In total, the existing project requests for the STBG program total \$14.8M, more than the expected surplus available for allocation.

Based on these considerations, staff recommends a partial award of \$1.642M which maintains the TPO’s share of the overall project cost while preserving additional funds for the other existing projects which need FY23 or FY24 funds.

TAC REQUESTED ACTION: The following resolution awarding partial funding to the request is presented for TAC consideration and recommendation to the RRTPO policy board:

Resolved, that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) approves the transfer of \$1,014,323 in previous Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds from the balance entry (UPC 70721) to the Commerce Road Improvements project (UPC 15958).

Resolved, that the RRTPO approves the transfer of \$627,677 in FY23 STBG funds from the balance entry (UPC 70721) to the Commerce Road Improvements project (UPC 15958).

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. RRTPO Allocation Summary
- B. Richmond Funding Analysis
- C. SYIP Funding Summary
- D. Original RSTP Application

Project Details

Richmond

15958 Commerce Rd Bells Rd to Bellmeade Rd Improvements

Active

Original Allocations			Current Allocations	
Year of the Money	Fund	Amount	Year of the Money	Amount
2018	RSTP	2,050,000	2004	70,795
2020	RSTP	798,251	2015	388,554
Total Allocations		2,848,251	2016	2,185,509
			2018	2,050,000
			2020	798,251
			TPO Allocations on Project	5,493,109

Transfer Record

Year of Money	Fund	Amount	TPO Action Date	From	To
2004	RSTP	70,795	4/26/2017	70589	15958
2015	RSTP	388,554	5/2/2019	101492	15958
2016	RSTP	2,185,509	5/2/2019	101492	15958
Total Transfer		2,644,858			

Commerce Rd Improvements			
UPC 15958			
Funding analysis			
Description	DPW	DPU	Total
Base Contract (Bid)	\$ 19,173,084.91	\$ 1,926,466.20	\$ 21,099,551.11
Contigency, 10%	\$ 1,917,308.49		
CSX	\$ 1,000,000.00		
CEI (consultant)	\$ 1,600,000.00		
CEI (City)	\$ 200,000.00		
VDOT Charges	\$ 400,000.00		
Total	\$ 24,290,393.40		

Available	
Award 500263	\$ 10,390,485.91
Award 500264	\$ 7,280,535.01
Award 500265	\$ 113,137.38
Total	\$ 17,784,158.30

Funding Need	\$ 6,506,235.10
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Project Funding (100691)	
Award 500263	\$ 11,706,829.28
Award 500264	\$ 7,422,691.59
Award 500265	\$ 118,920.73
Total	\$ 19,248,441.60



Six-Year Improvement Program



Home User's Guide About

All Projects Major Projects MPO Fund Reports

Line Item Details

Project Summary

UPC	15958
Project	COMMERCE ROAD - WIDENING
Scope of Work	Reconstruction w/ Added Capacity
Description	FROM: BELLS ROAD (SOUTH JUNCTION) TO: 0.13 Mile N. of BELLEMEADE ROAD
Report Note	
Fund Source	STP

Project Location

District	Richmond	Jurisdiction	Richmond
Road System	Urban	Length	1.8780 MI
Route		Street	COMMERCE ROAD
MPO Area	Richmond		
Zip Code	23224		

Estimates & Schedule

	Estimated Cost (Thousands)	Schedule
Prelim. Eng. (PE)	\$2,400	Complete
Right of Way (RW)	\$240	Complete
Construction (CN)	\$18,305	Underway
Total Estimate	\$20,945	

Required Allocations

	Previous Allocations	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Required After FY2027
Fund Sources								
Values in Thousands of Dollars								
Legacy CN Formula: Federal	\$5,636	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legacy CN Formula: Match	\$141	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Funds: Other	\$10,474	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Specialized State and Federal: Local	\$16	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Specialized State and Federal: Match	\$14	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Specialized State and Federal: MPO RSTP	\$5,479	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Funding	\$21,760	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$815)

**RICHMOND AREA MPO RSTP AND CMAQ
PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS**

RSTP CANDIDATE PROJECT APPLICATION

To be considered for RSTP funding, a proposed project must be consistent with the current Long-Range Transportation Plan. Data necessary for evaluating the project must be submitted for each candidate project. Filling out the appropriate sections of this application will insure that the necessary data are submitted. One application is required for each project being proposed for RSTP funding.

Form A must be filled out for each project. At the end of Form A, you will indicate the RSTP Project Type that best fits your proposed project. Depending upon the RSTP Project Type selected, you will be directed to fill out one of the following forms: Form B, Form C, Form D, Form E, Form F, or Form G. If you select the "Other" category, please contact RRPDC staff for input data requirements.

RSTP FORM – A

Locality/Agency:	City of Richmond/DPW	Date:	10-31-12
Prepared By:	Lamont Benjamin	Phone:	804-646-6339
E-Mail:		Fax:	
UPC#:	15958		
Project Name:	Commerce Road Improvements		
Project Location:	Bells Road to Bellmeade Road		
Project Description:	Reconstruction of roadway to include turn lanes, curb and gutters, sidewalks, street lights, roadway widening, upgrade of signals and bridge widening.		
Brief description of project. If applicable, include additional data or maps as attachments.			
Is this a new Project?	yes		
Is this project included in the Long-Range Transportation Plan?	yes		
Estimated Start Date:	Oct 2014		
Estimated Completion Date:	Dec 2016		

RSTP FORM-A (Continued)

Need for and Benefit to be Derived from Project: (Probable impact on air quality)

The Commerce Road Improvement project will improve safety through (1) construction of dedicated and segregated bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the project corridor (2) add dedicated left turn lanes (reducing rear end collisions) and (3) reduce the number of median crossovers. The construction of the propose facilities would reduce congestion and improve air quality. Environmental enhancements are proposed through a combination of street trees, trees in the raised medians and treatment of storm water runoff.

Project Cost and Funding:

Total Project Cost: \$ 14,000,000

Indicate Requested RSTP Funding Per Fiscal Year Below:

Year: <u>2015</u>	Requested RSTP Amount: \$ <u>1,000,000</u>
Year: <u>2016</u>	Requested RSTP Amount: \$ <u>1,000,000</u>
Year: _____	Requested RSTP Amount: \$ _____
Year: _____	Requested RSTP Amount: \$ _____

Are there additional funds available for this project? Yes - \$6.7 million urban Funds (Phase 1 PE/RW/CN) Phase 2 CN Only

If yes, provide the following information: Urban Funds UPC 15958

1. A signed letter or initialed memo from the county administrator or town manager (i.e., CAO) supporting the availability of funds for all projects during the three year funding cycle.
2. A timeline indicating when the funds will be available. This can be included as an attachment to the CAO's memo, or, if the project is already noted in the county's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), this could be referenced and attached

RSTP Project Type

(Please check ONE below and then use the associated form to complete your application)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highway Project	USE FORM-B
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intermodal Transportation Project	USE FORM-C
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit Service (New, Expanded, Facilities)	USE FORM-D, Section 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit Vehicle Replacement/Purchase	USE FORM-D, Section 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Transit	USE FORM-D, Section 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning Study	USE FORM-E
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation Demand Management	USE FORM-F
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intelligent Transportation System	USE FORM-G
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bicycle/Pedestrian Project	USE FORM-H
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Contact PDC Staff for Input Data Requirements

RSTP FORM-B
HIGHWAY PROJECTS

1. Traffic Count Data:
"Current" ADT (vpd): 4200 "Current" Year: 2012
"Current" Peak Hour Traffic (vph) _____ "Current" LOS: _____
Forecasted ADT (vpd): 6000 Forecasted Year: 2035
Forecasted Peak Hour Traffic (vph): _____ Forecasted LOS: _____

2. Length of Project Section (miles): 2.0

3. Functional Classification of Project Section: Urban Minor Arterial

4. Peak Hour Average Speed in Project Section:
AM Peak (mph): 45 PM Peak (mph): 45

5. Total accidents in project section over the last three years: _____

6. Will this project improve safety? Yes

If "yes", explain:
The improvements proposed with this project will provide protected turn lanes, improve entrance curb radii for easier turn movements, the intersection of Bellemeade Road will be enhanced to provide left and right signalized turn lanes and a dedicated northbound turn lane, access to some properties will be relocated or eliminated to control access points, left turn lanes are provided from the Bells Road connector and Deepwater connector onto Commerce road, a dedicated bike lane is proposed from Bells road south up to the Bells Road connector then ending at Deepwater Terminal Road to the east, vertical clearance will be maintained or improved at both connector roads and finally sidewalks are provided along the west side of Commerce throughout the project limits.

7. Will this project improve system continuity? Yes

If "yes", explain:
The improvements are along the I-95 overflow route in the event of an emergency along the highway. A portion of the improvements to Commerce Road is part of the NHS (National Highway System). These improvements will also enhance access to the Port of Richmond by improving the Bells Road connector.

8. Will this project help improve air quality? Yes

If "yes", explain:
By making these improvements traffic will flow smoother, less idling time stuck in traffic, left turn lanes provide a way to get vehicles out of the through lane so that following vehicles do not need to stop and the reaccelerate once the turning car proceeds, provide signal improvements at the Bells Road connector and Bellmeade will minimize idling time.

9. Project Readiness:
Do you have a detailed design and cost estimates? No – planned for late 2013

10. Is there community support for the project? Yes
Sponsor Readiness:
Do you have all necessary local, state, and federal permits and approvals? No – planned for late 2013.
11. Is this a Bridge Rehabilitation /Replacement project? Yes
If "yes," what is the Bridge Condition per the VDOT Sufficiency Index? Bridge #127-8073: Sufficiency index = 49.9, and is also structurally deficient.