



*June 16, 2018*



## Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

### **NVTA Approves Full-Funding of \$54 MILLION for Route 15 Improvements**

This past Thursday the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) recommended full funding (\$54 million) for the Route 15 Bypass Widening: Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road project. The Route 15 project ranked extremely high and was 7th of all 60 projects considered for funding.

NVTA funds will provide the majority of revenue for improvements through the **southern** section of the Route 15 corridor including the White's Ferry intersection.

Our hard work over the past year has been extremely successful. In less than one-year's time we have established a stakeholder working group, conducted extensive public outreach, presented and analyzed various corridor solutions, and secured this vital funding for Route 15 improvements.

As a matter of fact, we were able to secure the majority of the funding for the project in an unprecedented six months. A special thank you to all the residents and stakeholders who submitted

comments in support of the project. Please find the [summary](#) of the public comments NVTA posted online.

My deepest thanks to our staff, residents, stakeholders, Kimley-Horn, and my colleagues on the Board who have supported this project from the very beginning. We have much more work ahead but this milestone would not have been possible without your tremendous support.

Most importantly, I wish to thank each of the members of the NVTA, including Chairman Nohe for support of this project. We appreciate your recognition of this regional congestion problem and your commitment to a solution.

## **FUTURE ROUTE 15 FUNDING IN PROCESS**



Speaking of the work we have ahead of us, we have directed staff to prepare funding applications for two programs: Smart Scale, which is a competitive funding program in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and BUILD, which is a Federal grant.

Before I share the specific funding information below, I would like to mention the county's website page [Route 15 North of Leesburg](#). This extensive resource includes links to all information and studies related to the Route 15 project including summaries for the stakeholder meetings, all information and maps shared at each of the public input meetings, data and traffic analysis and each item considered by the Board of Supervisors. If you need any help finding a specific resource please do not hesitate to contact my office.

**SMART SCALE:** The Safety and Operational Study, which covers the **northern** portion of the Route 15 corridor from White's Ferry Intersection to the Point of Rocks Bridge, has indicated the need for further roadway improvements. Proposals for these improvements can be found on the website under the link: [Route 15 Safety and Operational Study Concepts A and B](#).

On May 1, 2018, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to submit pre-applications for Round 3 of the Smart Scale Funding (FY2020-2025); the Route 15 Safety and Operational Study area is included in the list of projects. Staff was also directed to provide the Board with a follow up item in July 2018 to present recommendations and suggested priorities for up to ten roadway projects. We will have some idea in January of 2019 as to how the application ranked; the final decision will be made in June 2019 when the Commonwealth Transportation Board votes on the next Six Year Improvement Plan (FY 2020 -2025)

**BUILD:** The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program provides federal grant funding for planning and construction of transportation projects. On June 5, 2018, the Board directed staff to submit BUILD grant applications for three projects, including the Route 15 Safety and Operational study area. An application will be prepared to seek funding for preparation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, which is required for transportation projects that are designed and constructed using Federal funds. The estimated cost for the NEPA study is \$1.5M.

**Best Regards,**

***Supervisor Geary Higgins  
Catoctin District***

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