

# Policy Briefing Summary

## City Council



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<b>Regarding:</b>	<b>VDOT STARS Study Update (Ridge Street at West Main Street Intersection)</b>
<b>Staff Contact(s):</b>	Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager
<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager</b>
<b>Date of Proposed Action:</b>	March 16, 2026

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### Issue

#### Background / Rule

In 2025, the Virginia Department of Transportation ("VDOT") began work on a STARS Study at the intersection of West Main Street and Ridge Street ("Project"). This Project was aimed at moving the existing statue plinth to a safer location for vehicle, bike, and pedestrian movements through the intersection, improving safety and access for all users. VDOT held public engagement on its recommended design concept in January 2026. This Project is slated as the City's SMART SCALE Application for 2026, due in August, which would put the Project in consideration for state funding and inclusion in the Commonwealth's Six (6)-Year Improvement Program.

#### Analysis

City Staff will update City Council on the STARS Study Process and next steps for Project development and public engagement.

#### Financial Impact

At this time, there is no financial impact from the planning process for this potential future project.

#### Recommendation

City Staff will seek Council approval for this project and its SMART SCALE application in July 2026.

#### Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Not applicable.

#### Attachments

1. W Main\_Ridge VDOT Update 31626