

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution Endorsing CA-MPO US 29 NB/US 250 EB Ramp Extension/Barracks Road Off-Ramp SMART SCALE Application
Staff Contact(s):	Brennen Duncan, City Engineer, Kellie Brown, Director of NDS
Presenter:	Brennen Duncan, City Engineer
Date of Proposed Action:	June 15, 2026

Issue

Background / Rule

In 2014, the Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation to create new criteria for the allocation of transportation funding. SMART SCALE funding is available to localities through 2-year application cycles. Approved projects are programmed in the SYIP, and funding is allocated to localities 6 years later. Eligible projects address 1) need on Corridors of Statewide Significance, 2) capacity need on regional networks, 3) improvements to support Urban Development Areas, and/or 4) Improvements to address a VTrans specified safety need. The SMART SCALE program is administered by the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI). OIPI partners with VDOT and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) throughout the application process. OIPI, VDOT, and DRPT review project applications for eligibility screening, readiness screening, and project scoring. Once projects are scored by staff, the Commonwealth Transportation Board makes the final determination for project programming.

The Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) is submitting the US 29 NB/US 250 EB Ramp Extension/Barracks Road Off-Ramp as its 2026 SMART SCALE Application, due in August. This project was endorsed by the Policy Board of the CA-MPO at its April 2026 meeting (resolution attached). This will put the project in consideration for state funding and inclusion in the Commonwealth's Six (6)-Year Improvement Program. A Resolution of Support from City Council is not required but will support the project application.

Analysis

This project will include tying together the on-ramp from Leonard Sandridge onto US 250 EB/US 29 NB with the off-ramp at Barracks Road; adding a second left turn lane from the US 29 NB/US 250 EB off-ramp onto NB Barracks Road; constructing sidewalk on the SB side of Barracks Road between the US 29 SB/US 250 WB on-ramp and the US 29 NB/US 250 EB off-ramp terminals and extending to the south terminating at the driveway across from the 7-Eleven.

This project will also improve the sidewalk on the NB side of Barracks Road between the US 29 SB/US 250 WB off-ramp and the US 29 NB/US 250 EB on-ramp to meet ADA requirements. This project will overlap with the US 29 SB/US 250 WB on-ramp improvement project that is being submitted by Albemarle County at the Barracks Road and US 250 WB/US 29 SB ramp intersection. Project map is attached.

Financial Impact

At this time, there is no financial impact to the City. The application includes no local match and would be secured by federal and state funds.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that City Council approve the Resolution of Support for this CA-MPO SMART SCALE Application 2026.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

I move that City Council approve the Resolution of Support for this CA-MPO SMART SCALE Application 2026.

Attachments

1. Barracks_Off-Ramp_Concept - Pre-App_compressed_Revised_3-30-26
2. SMART SCALE CA-MPO R7 Resolution - Locality Projects (1)
3. SMART SCALE R7 Resolution of Support - Barracks Rd Charlottesville Resolutionjvhedits