

FY 2017 Proposed Work Session Follow-Up

April 10, 2016

The following questions were raised by Mr. Fissette and Ms. Cristol regarding the proposed update to the bike element of the Master Transportation Plan.

What would not happen in the current bike / transportation work plan if the update of the bike element were to be prioritized as #1?

Arlington County already has some foundational work underway on the bicycle element. The Rails to Trails Conservancy is undertaking a scope of work to develop recommendations for a low-stress bicycle network in Arlington, and will identify gaps in our on- and off-street bicycle facilities. The value of this work is \$45,000 and should be completed in June of this year.

In terms of major Transportation Planning work elements for FY 2017, translating the Transit Development Plan recommendations into amendments to the Master Transportation Plan Transit Element is the highest priority and will require staff time (both Transit and Transportation Planning) for the first half of FY 2017. This same staff must also provide ongoing support for site plan and capital project plan review throughout the fiscal year as well as ongoing staff support for the transportation-related committees and commissions. Staff does not recommend deferring any of this time-critical work to focus all staff effort on the update of the Bicycle Element of the MTP.

The Transportation Planning staff has been asked to develop a work plan and schedule for a staff-led process to update the Bicycle element starting possibly in the second half of FY 2017 although some further foundational work (staff-led data collection and analysis) may be achieved in the first half of the fiscal year.

The Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) has cited a cost estimate of \$350k to do the update. What is staff's view of that cost estimate – whether it be for additional limited term staff or for consultants? If different, what is the staff cost estimate? The underlying assumption is that this could be funded with transportation dollars – but correct if you feel otherwise.

It is staff's understanding that this estimate was for a consultant-led comprehensive update to the County's Bicycle Element of the Master Transportation Plan with consultant-led technical work, community outreach and communications (although there is no specific scope of work on input from consultants that underpins this dollar value). As cited above, Transportation Planning staff has been asked for a work plan for a staff-led process to update the Bicycle Element of the MTP. After completing a work plan and schedule, we should be able to define whether any consultant or contract staff resources will be required. This is a planning effort and would not qualify for use of Commercial Real Estate Tax funding (based on the parameters of legislation) but may qualify for use of NVT 2313 local funds (we will conduct further research on this).