Resolution to Initiate the Combined US Route 29/Hydraulic/Hillsdale Area Transportation Development Process

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board supports and promotes the welfare and safety of the residents and businesses of the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Policy Board is invested in the current and future traffic issues on and surrounding US Route 29; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Policy Board encourages planned growth and development along the US 29 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Policy Board recognizes that the US 29 corridor is a Corridor of Statewide Significance as well as a vital regional and local road of significance that must accommodate the needs of state, regional and local traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Policy Board identified through the 29 H250 neighborhood study of 2005 that the housing, land uses, transportation, environmental, and business uses within the Hydraulic and Hillsdale corridors are directly linked to traffic conditions along the US Route 29 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), which approves the Commonwealth’s Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for state transportation funding, funded the Route 29 Solutions Package of Projects and of which progress is commencing expeditiously as listed below:

2. Route 29/Rio Road Grade Separated Interchange – to be completed by December 2, 2016
3. Route 29 Widening Project – to be completed by October 30, 2017
4. Hillsdale Drive Extended North – to be completed by October 30, 2017
5. Berkmar Drive Extended – to be completed by October 30, 2017
6. Adaptive Signal Timing Improvements in the US 29 Corridor – to be implemented starting upon completion of construction
7. Route 29/Hydraulic Road Intersection – Preliminary Engineering
8. Hillsdale Drive Extended South – Preliminary Engineering and Construction
9. Additional AMTRAK Regional Rail Service
WHEREAS the Hydraulic Road Intersection and Hillsdale South are part of the Route 29 Solutions Program; and

WHEREAS, the CTB Six Year Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2017-2022 includes project 106138 Hillsdale Extended South for $10,000,000 in preliminary engineering, design and construction beginning in FY2018; and

WHEREAS, the CTB Six Year Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2017-2022 includes project 106139 US 29 Hydraulic Road Intersection for $10,000,000 in preliminary engineering-only beginning in FY 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Best Buy Ramp, Route 29 Widening, Hillsdale Drive Extended North, Route 29/Rio GSI, and Berkmar Drive Extended all are expected to be completed no later than October 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the process of the facilitated Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP) has been instrumental in providing exemplary community and business engagement, transparency, community/VDOT/contractor communication, and comprehensive project development leading to a successful Route 29 Solutions multi-project completion; and

WHEREAS, the construction contracting methods, with the advice and consultation of PDAP, has resulted in a model project development process, and project completion, meeting or exceeding expectations in design, budget, community and business input, traffic maintenance and congestion relief; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen’s Transportation Advisory Committee and the MPO Technical Committee have had the opportunity to review and provide input regarding these projects and recommendations for further Route 29 transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, the MPO Policy Board understands that to fully benefit from Route 29 Solutions completed projects along the corridor and as provided in the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan and MPO Transportation Improvement Program for preliminary design; Charlottesville Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Goal 7.5; Albemarle County Places 29 Master Plan (Project #36 FY2023-2032) and Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan, improvements at the Hydraulic and Route 29 intersection and adjacent Hillsdale Drive connection to US 250 by-pass should be considered for expeditious implementation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Policy Board recommends to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Virginia Secretary of Transportation, the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and the Charlottesville Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization to immediately initiate the process for planning the transportation improvements of the Hydraulic and Route 29 intersection and nearby roadways as identified in the MPO’s Long Range Transportation Plan (2040 LRTP) and to enact and implement recommendations in coordination with comprehensive land use planning including but not limited to the following:

1. Continue the facilitated collaborative panel process to determine a potential range of reasonable options for reducing congestion and improving mobility in the general area of the Hydraulic - US 29 Intersection, including the option of doing nothing.
2. Request the CTB to combine the Hillsdale South and Hydraulic Intersection planning and preliminary engineering budgets into one consolidated planning and preliminary engineering budget.
3. Request the CTB to amend the Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) to advance funding for small area planning and panel discussions to begin in FY17.
4. Request the Secretary of Transportation to authorize the MPO to lead and use transportation financial resources to conduct a small area planning process for the Hydraulic Intersection general area of the City and County, such small area planning to include transparent citizen, business and community engagement.

5. Request the Secretary of Transportation to begin the transportation planning process so that adequate information will be available to apply for Smart Scale funding by September, 2018, should a project or projects move forward from the collaborative planning process.

Adopted this 28th day of September, 2016 by the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization.

ATTESTED:

[Signature]
Kristin Szakos, Chair
Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Policy Board

9/30/2016
Date