



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of January 21, 2023

DRAFT FOR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DATE: January 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Approval of priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2029 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Endorse the priorities for FY 2029 CMAQ and RSTP funding, as shown in Table 1.
2. Adopt the resolution (Attachment A) authorizing Arlington County's applications to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for CMAQ and RSTP funding for FY 2029.

ISSUES: No issues have been identified as of the date of this report.

SUMMARY: CMAQ and RSTP funds are important sources of transportation revenue for the County. Funds are allocated by NVTA on a six-year schedule. Each year, the Arlington County Board approves a prioritized list of CMAQ and RSTP requests to submit to NVTA for the last year of the six-year timeframe. In most years, NVTA is not able to fully fund all requests, so projects with a lower priority are less likely to receive funds.

This year, the Board is requested to approve the County's list of priorities for FY 2029. The requests for FY 2024 - FY 2028 have already been determined by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and included in Virginia's Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP). A summary of the FY 2024 - FY 2028 approximate allocations and the FY 2029 request are both shown in Table 1.

The five projects funded or requesting funding throughout the six-year timeframe are:

- Arlington County Commuter Services (ACCS)
Arlington Boulevard Trail: Edison to George Mason
Capital Bikeshare
Transportation System Management (TSM) and Integrated Corridor Management (ICM)
Traffic Signal Optimization

County Manager:

County Attorney:

Staff: Dan Malouff and Rich Roisman, Department of Environmental Services

**BACKGROUND:** The CMAQ and RSTP programs are federal sources of funds that can be used for planning, design, and construction for the County’s transportation program. These funds have provided critical support for Arlington’s air quality and transportation programs since FY 1993. Each year the County submits a Board-approved list of funding recommendations to the NVTA, which uses a competitive process to determine Northern Virginia funding allocations.

**DISCUSSION:** Table 1 below outlines the approximate CMAQ and RSTP grant amounts the County plans to receive for FY 2024 – FY 2028, which have been approved by the CTB and included in the SYIP. This is based on funding projections of CMAQ and RSTP, the levels of which are determined by the federal government. The table also summarizes the recommended new requests for FY 2029.

It is unlikely that FY 2029 requests will be fully funded. Therefore, the projects have been prioritized according to importance. During the grant application process, staff will emphasize relative priorities described on Table 1 while seeking maximum overall funding. Detailed project descriptions and additional information regarding NVTA’s grant process are below the table.

Following endorsement by the Arlington County Board, the NVTA Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee (RJACC) will develop a strawman allocation proposal for all CMAQ and RSTP funds in Northern Virginia, then submit the proposal to the NVTA and the CTB, which have the authority to ratify the proposed program. It is estimated that the combined amount of money available to Northern Virginia jurisdictions in any given fiscal year will be approximately \$80-\$90 million, of which Arlington can reasonably expect slightly less than 10 percent.

**Table 1: FY 2024 – FY 2029 CMAQ and RSTP funding plan and requests**

Priority FY 2029	Project Title	Funding Source	FY 2024 Planned	FY 2025 Planned	FY 2026 Planned	FY 2027 Planned	FY 2028 Planned	FY 2029 Request
1	Traffic Signal Optimization	CMAQ			\$590,000			\$750,000
2	ACCS	CMAQ RSTP	\$500,000	\$5,707,000	\$5,605,000	\$5,080,800	\$6,500,000	\$7,000,000
3	Arlington Blvd Trail (Edison to George Mason)	CMAQ					\$1,000,000	\$250,000
N/A	Capital Bikeshare	CMAQ				\$468,600		
N/A	TSM and ICM	RSTP	\$600,000	\$600,000				
<b>Total</b>			\$1,100,000	\$6,307,000	\$6,195,000	\$5,548,800	\$7,500,000	\$8,000,000

## **Description of Priorities for CMAQ and RSTP**

### **Traffic Signal Optimization:**

#### **\$750,000 requested from CMAQ in FY 2029**

Once every three years, Arlington County undertakes a comprehensive program to optimize its computerized traffic signal control system to improve timing for efficient and safe traffic flow. The benefits of traffic signal optimization include improved pedestrian and bicycle movement, efficient vehicular flow, reduced fuel consumption, reduced mobile emissions, improved corridor-wide signal coordination, and reduced delays for emergency and transit vehicles. Since Arlington anticipates receiving funds for this project in FY 2023 and 2026, a request in FY 2029 is appropriate for the schedule.

### **Arlington County Commuter Services (ACCS):**

#### **\$7,000,000 requested from CMAQ in FY 2029**

ACCS is Arlington's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) provider. ACCS relies on CMAQ grants to fund a large portion of its annual operating budget, which provides outreach, promotion, and distribution of efficient transportation information to employers, building managers, and the hospitality industry through Arlington Transportation Partners (ATP), as well as operations of Commuter Stores throughout the County, and an internet store (CommuterDirect.com) that provides customers with information and tickets for all regional transit systems. ACCS programs convert approximately 42,000 car trips to alternate modes on a normal non-pandemic weekday.

### **Arlington Boulevard Trail -- Edison to George Mason:**

#### **\$250,000 requested from CMAQ in FY 2029**

Arlington Boulevard Trail will provide a more convenient, more comfortable, and safer bicycle and pedestrian route along the Arlington Boulevard corridor, compared to current conditions. The program is being planned and delivered in phases. This phase will construct a new section of protected on-street bicycle lanes along the current route of the Arlington Boulevard Trail, between N. Edison Street and N. George Mason Drive. It will convert one lane of service road to an on-street protected bikeway. Remaining sections of on- and off-street bikeway would be enhanced through signage and markings for enhanced wayfinding and identity. The project was partially funded in FY 2028, but more funding is needed.

### **Capital Bikeshare:**

#### **No FY 2029 request**

Capital Bikeshare is the regional public bikeshare service for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. It began in Arlington in 2010 and has since grown to include 500 bikeshare stations with more than 4,300 bicycles available throughout Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland. We do not plan on having CMAQ funding for Capital Bikeshare every year. Funding planned for FY 2027 will likely be used for bicycle replacement, including potentially an increase in the percentage of electric-assist bikes available.

**Transportation System Management (TSM) and Integrated Corridor Management (ICM):  
No FY 2029 request**

In May 2006, Arlington completed its Communications Master Plan to assess the needs of the County's transportation communications network. The recommended plan resulted in replacing 52 miles of aging copper wire cable with faster, more reliable, and more scalable fiber-optic cable. The upgraded cabled enabled the County to deploy improved Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies leading to ICM strategies that will help maximize capacity on the County's existing roads. This ongoing program will continue to upgrade county infrastructure in future years, however staff does not anticipate a need for funding in FY 2029 specifically, so there is no request this round.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

*Level of Engagement:* Communicate

*Outreach Methods:* Priorities are originally derived from the Arlington County Master Transportation Plan and Capital Improvement Plan and reviewed annually during public presentations to the Transportation Commission.

*Community Feedback:* The Transportation Commission was briefed on this request on December 1, 2022 and again on January 6, 2023. During its January 6 meeting, the Commission voted to [REDACTED] these recommendations.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Approval by the County Board of the County Manager's recommendation will be an endorsement of transportation project priorities for Arlington County to NVT A for FY 2029 CMAQ and RSTP funding. CMAQ and RSTP funds are provided by the federal government with a 20 percent match requirement. Since FY 2006, the Commonwealth of Virginia has provided the match. Therefore, no local match is required, and there is no fiscal impact to the County.

Note that at NVT A's request, due to higher-than-normal demands for funding region-wide in FY 2024, Arlington's planned FY 2024 funding for ACCS is significantly lower than usual. This was offset by increased funding for ACCS in fiscal years leading up to FY 2024, particularly FY 2020 and 2021. The County is required to bank funds from earlier years to spend in FY 2024, resulting in increased administrative work. There is no expectation this situation will repeat in FY 2029.

**Attachment A**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ARLINGTON COUNTY’S APPLICATIONS TO THE  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (NVTA)  
FOR CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) AND  
REGIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (RSTP) FUNDING  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2029**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia (“County Board”) desires to submit applications to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for allocation of funds through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program and the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) for Fiscal Year 2029; and

WHEREAS, \$750,000 of these funds will be requested for Traffic Signal Optimization; and

WHEREAS, \$7,000,000 of these funds will be requested for Arlington County Commuter Services; and

WHEREAS, \$250,000 of these funds will be requested for the Arlington Boulevard Trail: Edison to George Mason;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County Board hereby supports the making of applications and authorizes and directs the County Manager to make applications to NVTA for up to \$8,000,000 of Fiscal Year 2029 CMAQ and RSTP funding for the transportation priorities described above.

ADOPTED this 21st day of January, 2023.