

Proposed Spot Improvement Screening Framework

Board Transportation Committee June 29, 2021

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Background

- The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and Board offices receive a high volume of citizen requests for new transportation projects, particularly intersection improvements and pedestrian projects
- FCDOT received funding in FY2019 to develop a Spot Improvement Screening Framework
- Coordination with Active Fairfax team about important locations and metrics
- Presentation will summarize work to date, and next steps



Need: Transportation Safety Trends

 2020 Early Estimates – Motor Vehicle Fatalities Nationwide



Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities in 2020

- Number of fatalities is up an estimated 7.2% compared to 2019
- Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) decreased by about 13.2%
 - The projected fatality rate for 2020 would be the highest since 2007
- Pedestrian fatalities projected to remain unchanged compared to 2019
- Projected pedal cyclist fatalities increased from 2019 to 2020 by 5 percent

Sources: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Traffic Safety Facts, Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities in 2020, May 2021

U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Traffic Safety Facts, Early Estimates of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rate by Sub-Categories in 2020, June 2021

Spot Improvement Process Steps

- 1. Framework: Defines a safety and equity-based methodology for developing a priority list of multimodal "spot improvement" locations for future projects
- 2. Screening: Will be used to screen and prioritize County intersections and midblock locations, and create a database of priority locations
- 3. Projects: Allow County to focus resources on highest priorities when new funding is available, and prioritize the hundreds of currently unfunded requests. Inform the project selection process for future Transportation Priorities Plans (TPPs)

Framework Input

- Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT)
- Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD)
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Fairfax County Chief Equity Officer
- Other jurisdictions:
 - Loudoun County
 - District of Columbia
 - La Quinta, California





Screening Process

Data/Criteria

Safety

- Bike/Ped Crashes
- Vehicle Crashes
- Severity (Injury/Fatal)

Equity

- County Vulnerability Index
- Equity Emphasis Areas

Bicycle/Pedestrian

- Intersections Without Crosswalk or Sidewalk/Ramp
- Missing links

Transit

- Missing/Substandard Facilities
- Proximity to Transit Service

Other Factors

- Proximity to Activity Center
- Proximity to Nearby Projects

Initial Ranking

- High
- Medium
- Low

Screening

- •TPP
- VDOT SYIP
- Proffers
- •Corridor Studies

Staff Recommendations

Next Steps

- 1. Framework (current step): Finalize Framework
 - a. Pilot project to screen sample subarea: Annandale
 - Chosen because Equity Emphasis Area and high fatal/severe injury crash rate
- 2. Screening (future step): Develop database with screening results Countywide priority locations
 - a. Would require additional funding to develop the database with priority locations
 - b. Could be done in phases

Next Steps

- 3. Projects (future step): Use results of Countywide screen to prioritize citizen requests, and to inform future TPP project selection process
 - a. Would require additional funding to implement new projects

Feedback requested from the Board:

- Board input on proposed factors to be included in the Framework
- Board feedback on recommended pilot area Annandale
- Board input on future steps (require future funding)
 - Step 2: Screening Board feedback on whether we should do this in phases
 - Step 3: Projects Board feedback on the types of projects that are most important.

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