

Open Work Session

Draft Wicomico County Priority Letter – Recommended Transportation Projects

September 15, 2020

Mr. Mark Whitelock, Deputy Director of Public Works, and Mr. Tony Rudy, Airport Manager, came before Council. Mr. Whitelock said they are there to talk about the 2021-2026 Consolidated Transportation Program, and he will let Mr. Rudy start off because he has the majority of the first part, and then he will talk about the Roads projects.

Mr. Rudy said he thinks there were minor changes made from last year's list. He said they had the ARFF vehicle on there, but not knowing at the time what funding sources were going to be available, or if they were going to get the CARES money for that, they decided to keep it on. He said most of the other projects were things they were planning for, and he can go through them one by one unless Council has specific questions about any particular project. Mr. McCain said he does not think Mr. Rudy needs to read every one of them.

Mr. Holloway asked if these projects basically will be requesting some funding from the State, to which Mr. Rudy responded, yes. Mr. Holloway asked if there is any overlap with the \$18 million they got from the federal government, to which Mr. Rudy responded, yes. He explained, some of these projects are identified as CARES Act projects, but, as he said, not knowing what the FAA is going to decide is eligible or not eligible, they figured they would include them with State funding too. He said, if they get the State funding, they may be able to fund some other projects they had not planned for.

Mr. Holloway said, on the Route 13 truck weigh and inspection station, Mr. Whitelock needs to really stress to the State that they need to find another location for that. He said that has been addressed two different times over the years, and he thinks it was about four years ago when it flared up. Mr. Whitelock said they put a total paragraph right at the end of that request, to which Mr. Holloway responded, he appreciates that.

Mr. Hastings said, on the planning initiatives part, he just wants to comment about the Route 13 areas for the planning study. He said he has been watching nonstop, though he rarely goes to North Route 13, but in the area around the mall there have been a lot of folks where homes have been put up, so a lot of folks are walking nonstop, and there are no sidewalks. He said he watched a young family almost get hit by a car a month ago. Mr. Whitelock said this was a two-phase request for more sidewalks and pedestrian moving areas, and he believes some upgraded pedestrian crosswalks. He said also, when coming off the Bypass and going North on 13, merging from that over into the fast lane is kind of dangerous. Mr. Hastings said there really is not much they can do because they are not supposed to have sidewalks on a highway, but, nonetheless, they built all of these streets/roads, but he is not really sure what to classify what North 13 is; however, nonetheless, it is not a great space for walking, and there are a lot of people who are using it as such. He said he does not know how else to provide further safety, but any one of them could drive right now up towards Walmart and see some sketchy spacing where people are trying to get across, and that is just not helpful. He clarified, he is just throwing this out there as a larger piece as he knows there are a lot of different funding components. Mr. Whitelock said he thinks the larger part of that would be for pedestrian walkways with lights for crosswalks,

especially up near Walmart. He said that is where he sees a lot of people trying to cross over. Mr. Hastings said near the car dealerships there is the first light where there is almost always someone standing there trying to cut across. Mr. Dodd asked if that is a County issue or a State issue, to which Mr. Whitelock responded, State.

Mrs. Hurley said they have the Maryland Department of Transportation attending the October 6 meeting, and this year they will be having their public meeting at the Council Meeting instead of at the Civic Center as they have done in years past, so that is going to be October 6 at 7:00 p.m. She clarified, they will be participating remotely by WebEx.

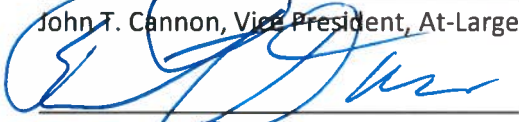
Mr. Dodd asked if everybody agrees with this letter, to which there was a consensus. There was no further discussion.



Larry W. Dodd, President, District 3



John T. Cannon, Vice President, At-Large



Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Nicole Acle, District 2



Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



William R. McCain, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator