



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2014-155: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$417,418 from the Virginia Department of Transportation and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Public Works' Bike Sharrows / Lanes project in the Transportation category by \$417,418 for the purpose of funding the Floyd Avenue Bike Boulevard project to optimize travel for bicyclists and pedestrians on Floyd Avenue between its intersections with North Laurel Street and North Thompson Street.

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: September 2, 2014

PETITIONER

City of Richmond

LOCATION

Floyd Avenue, between its intersections with North Laurel Street and North Thompson Street

PURPOSE

To accept \$417,418 for the design and construction of the Floyd Avenue Bike Boulevard project from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Consistent with the recommendations of the Mayor's Pedestrian, Bicycling and Trails Planning Commission that was established on May 21, 2010 and City Council Ordinance No. 2010-181-163, adopted on September 27, 2010 for improved bicycling and pedestrian facilities, the Floyd Avenue Bike Boulevard Project will improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety along the entire length of Floyd Avenue (27 blocks) through the Fan and Museum Districts.

The Floyd Avenue Bike Boulevard project is recommended in the City's 2013 Richmond Strategic Multi-modal Transportation Plan (RSMTP) as a bike improvement project.

Floyd Avenue Bike Boulevard Project

A bike boulevard is a local street that has been modified to function as a through street for bicyclists and pedestrians while discouraging through automobile travel. A bike boulevard retains access for all modes, but optimizes travel for bicyclists and pedestrians. Measures such as chokers (bulb-outs), residential traffic circles, and traffic diverters are used in conjunction with signage and pavement markings (sharrows, enhanced crosswalks) to achieve this.

Floyd Ave serves as a predominantly residential connector from VCU to the Carytown area, through the Fan and Museum Districts. As a result it gets a lot of bike and pedestrian traffic seeking to avoid busier Main Street and Cary Street. A bike boulevard is planned between N. Laurel Street and N. Thompson Street, a total of 4.3 miles/27 blocks.

The total project cost estimate is \$521,773. The amount of \$50,000 (\$40,000 Transportation Alternatives and \$10,000 City) was previously approved and accepted by O&R 2013-230-212 to complete the study and concept plan.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has recommended approval of FY14 Transportation Alternatives Program (TA) funding in the amount of \$417,418 for The Floyd Avenue Bike Boulevard project on May 1, 2014 meeting. This funding will require 20% match from the City in the amount of \$104,355 which is budgeted in FY13 CIP budget for Bike Sharrow/Lanes Project. Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved and allocated these funds at the June 19th meeting and the funds were available in July 2014.

The project study and concept plan are under way. The project design began in Summer 2014, and construction will be complete in Summer 2015.

The Department of Public Works recommends approval of the proposed ordinance.

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