

# AGENDA

## Newport News City Council Work Session

June 8, 2010

*10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
City Hall*

- 4:00 p.m. I. VDOT Urban Construction Initiative - Resolution and Agreement
- 5:00 p.m. II. Closed Meeting
- Legal
  - Boards, Commissions & Committees
  - Personnel
- 6:00 p.m. III. Dinner

**ITEM 1**

- **VDOT Urban Construction Initiative - Resolution and Agreement**

# CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

June 2, 2010

**TO:** The Honorable City Council  
**FROM:** City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** VDOT Urban Construction Initiative - Resolution and Agreement

City Council is being asked to approve a resolution requesting that the City of Newport News become a member of the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) Urban Construction Initiative (UCI) and authorizing the City Manager to execute such agreements as necessary.

Historically VDOT has been the administrator of transportation improvement projects using Federal and State funds within the City and only with some special projects has the City requested by resolution to VDOT the authority to administer these types of projects. Times have been changing and the City has for several years managed the administration of smaller transportation projects. It now seems to be the time to take over administration of all transportation improvement projects because VDOT has been steadily reducing their capacity to administer projects and is indicating that they will be generally unable to support future projects. VDOT will take more of an oversight role of the projects in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Detailed information concerning the UCI can be found on the VDOT web site at these links.

Urban Construction Initiative Program Administration Guide	<a href="http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/local_assistance/UCI/UCI_Guide_Update_09_final.pdf">http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/local_assistance/UCI/UCI_Guide_Update_09_final.pdf</a>
How to Join the Urban Construction Initiative	<a href="http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/local_assistance/UCI/Urban_Construction_join.pdf">http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/local_assistance/UCI/Urban_Construction_join.pdf</a>

Over the past ten years VDOT has made significant strides in defining and detailing the process of transportation project administration. We believe that with VDOT assistance and guidance we can transition into complete administration of these types of funded projects: Urban, Highway Safety Improvement Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), Enhancement and National Highway System (NHS). With some experience, we hope to become UCI Certified, a more streamlined project and program process, a higher status than just a UCI participating locality. The attached document from VDOT identifies the Program Advantages and Program Realities of the UCI.

What does this change mean to the City and City staff?

1. From a financial perspective, the City will need to front-fund all these projects by phases, seeking reimbursement monthly from VDOT for work completed minus our share of the costs if any.
2. The City will need to hire some combination of in-house staff or outside consultants to administer this program, design the projects, to acquire the right-of-way, to provide inspection and testing services during construction, and to process the required Federal and State paperwork. All valid costs should be reimbursable from the projects. As funding increases and decreases, staffing levels will need to be adjusted.
3. The City will have more control over the design and administration of the project than currently, however, we will be held responsible to the State and Federal governments for compliance with all their requirements or risk not being reimbursed.
4. The City should be able to move projects forward more quickly as we can focus our resources toward that effort. Currently we are dependent on the speed and availability of VDOT staff to move a project forward. The City will still be dependent on the availability of key VDOT staff at critical points along the project path but will have greater authority to make decisions independent of VDOT.
5. The City will no longer be able to point its finger at VDOT or FHWA when things go wrong with a project, conversely, we will get credit when projects go smoothly.
6. Local/City design standards/specifications can only be used if they exceed Federal and State standards/specifications or if the City gets Federal and/or State approval of our standards/specifications.
7. There will be impacts on the Department of Purchasing, Department of Finance and City Attorney's Office dealing with these Federal and State requirements/regulations. However, we will no longer need to execute individual City-State Agreements for the administration of each small project.

There are several projects that VDOT is currently administering and we plan for them to continue to administer to completion, examples include: Middle Ground Boulevard from Warwick Boulevard to Jefferson Avenue; Fiber Link to I-64/Jefferson Avenue to Operations Center; Signal System Upgrade. There are other projects that VDOT is currently administering that the City will take over, examples include: Bikeway – J. Clyde Morris Boulevard Corridor Phase Two, Four and Five; Jefferson Avenue Wide Sidewalk; and Warwick Boulevard Wide Sidewalk. Major future projects the City will administer in priority order include: Jefferson Avenue from Green Grove Lane to Fort Eustis Boulevard; Atkinson Boulevard from Warwick Boulevard to Jefferson Avenue; and Harpersville Road from Warwick Boulevard to Jefferson Avenue.

I recommend that City Council pass the attached resolution and authorize my signature on the agreement for the City to join the Urban Construction Initiative and begin administering State and Federal funded transportation projects within the City. In order to be included in the Initiative beginning in Fiscal Year 2011, this resolution and agreement must be in VDOT's hands for their approval no later than June 23.



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Neil A. Morgan

NAM/TMS/mat

Attachments

## ITEM II

- **Closed Meeting**