



County of Albemarle  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Albemarle County Planning Commission

**FROM:** Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Principal Planner – Transportation

**DATE:** October 19, 2021

**RE:** Appointment of Planning Commission Member to Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization's Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Advisory Group for Smart Scale 2022 Application Process

For the upcoming Round 5 of Smart Scale, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) has developed a new process to choose which four projects they will submit for potential funding. Early in the process, Albemarle County staff discussed potential Smart Scale projects of regional interest with City of Charlottesville and CA-MPO staff. The initial list of staff-identified potential projects was presented to the CA-MPO's Technical and Citizen Transportation Advisory Committees. Those committees narrowed the short-list to four projects, which were presented to the CA-MPO Policy Board for approval. The four projects that have been approved for submission are:

- District Avenue Roundabout
- Avon Steet Corridor Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements
- 5th Street Extended Multimodal Improvements
- Rivanna River Bike and Pedestrian Bridge: South Pantops to Woolen Mills

It should be noted that CA-MPO's new process is also intended to identify if any of the projects would benefit from additional public engagement prior to application submission. The CA-MPO's committees and Policy Board determined that the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge project would benefit from additional public engagement. For this reason, CA-MPO has created an advisory group for the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge project.

The Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge between South Pantops and Woolen Mills has been recommended by the Pantops Master Plan, the Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and other Albemarle County and City of Charlottesville plans. VDOT consultants conducted a feasibility study in early 2020, working with staff from Albemarle County, City of Charlottesville, and the TJPDC to identify two potential alignments for further investigation. Those two alignments, estimated costs, and other considerations were shared with the public during a webinar in November 2020; public feedback received at that webinar was shared with the CA-MPO Policy Board shortly thereafter. Further public engagement is expected to identify a preferred project alignment, set expectations for bridge design/character, clarify the expectation for complementary infrastructure at either end of the project, and more.

The CA-MPO Policy Board requests that the Albemarle County Planning Commission identify one of its members to join the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge advisory group. Additional members of the advisory group include representatives from the City of Charlottesville Planning Commission, the Pantops CAC, and others. The advisory group is expected to meet no more than monthly from November until pre-applications are submitted in May.

It is staff's recommendation that this body appoints an interested member to represent the Albemarle County Planning Commission on the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Advisory Committee.

Please contact Jessica Hersh-Ballering, Principal Planner – Transportation at [jhballering@albemarle.org](mailto:jhballering@albemarle.org) with any questions.