County of Albemarle

Department of Community Development

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission
From: Jessica Dimmick, Principal Transportation Planner, Community Development Department
CC: Michael Barnes, Kevin McDermott, Tonya Swartzendruber, Alberic Karina-Plun
Subject: Multimodal Transportation Plan – Process and Scope
Date: 10/5/2026

The development of Albemarle County's first Multimodal Transportation Plan (MMTP) will be a significant undertaking. This important effort is one of five work projects to implement AC44, the County's Comprehensive Plan. County staff presented the purpose and general timeline to develop the MMTP to the Board of Supervisors in April 2026.[1] Since then, CDD staff have developed a more detailed scope and process for this effort, which is outlined in this memo.

MMTP Purpose

The purpose of the MMTP is to provide a holistic understanding and vision of the future transportation system in Albemarle County - one that serves all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit riders, auto drivers and passengers, and trucks. This transportation vision will incorporate and enable the County's goals for land use, growth and development, climate action, economic development, and affordability among others. The MMTP will integrate the transportation-related and transportation-adjacent goals, objectives, and actions from the AC44 Comprehensive Plan. Key deliverables will include route network maps for each travel mode (see example in Figure 1) and projects, policies, and programs to strategically build out these transportation networks (see example in Figure 2).

The acknowledgment of limited resources will be a guiding principle throughout the development of the MMTP. The MMTP will likely recommend strategically focusing and phasing investments for each travel mode network to deliver functional portions of these planned transportation networks.

[1] The presentation from the April 15, 2026 Board of Supervisors meeting is available at https://albemarle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=15394230&GUID=2D3EEB42-C637-4E80-BCD2-13A57E2F3F4E.

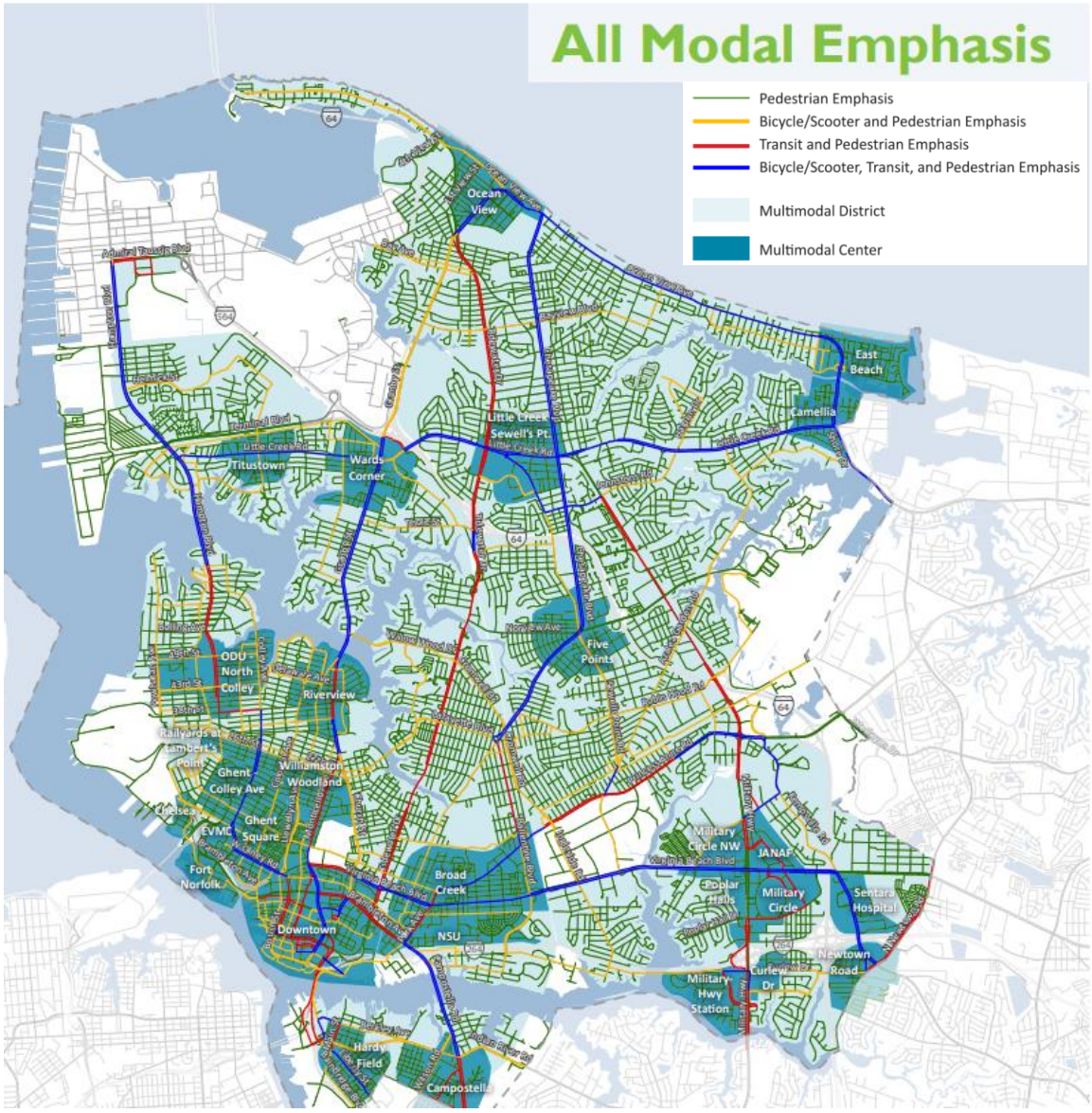

Figure 1: Example of a Multimodal Network Map, from Norfolk, VA

Appendix H: Multimodal Norfolk Resource Allocation Plan

The map is available at www.MultimodalNorfolk.co
Last Updated 4/14/20

ID	Project Name/Description	Need Level [1]	Project Readiness [2]	Project Type	Cost Category [4]	Primary Potential Funding Source [3]
246	Install additional safety features at Boush St and Brooke Ave mid-block crossing. Widen the pedestrian refuge island.	High	Ready	Pedestrian signals and crosswalk projects	Low	CIP (ARPA?)
208.1	School Zone Flashing Beacon at Crossroads Elementary School on Tidewater Drive.	High	Ready	Pedestrian signals and crosswalk projects	Medium	ARPA
150	Complete missing sidewalks on Shoop Ave from Chesapeake Blvd to St Mihiel Ave	High	Ready	Sidewalk projects	Low	CIP
211	Pedestrian Signals on Granby St at Adm Taussig Blvd.	Moderate	Ready	Pedestrian signals and crosswalk projects	Medium	CIP/ARPA
174	Provide a facility for bicyclists and scooters that connects the current protected bike lanes along Llewellyn Avenue to the south along Boush Street to connect to Downtown.	High	Ready	Bike/scooter facility projects	High	CIP
237	Sidewalk and curb ramp replacements at Omohundro Ave and W 35th St	High	Ready	Pedestrian signals and crosswalk projects	Tactical	CIP
208.6	School Zone Flashing Beacon at Southside STEM Academy	High	Ready	Pedestrian signals and crosswalk projects	Tactical	CIP
154	Construct sidewalks on Whitehead Ave from E Berkley Ave to Fauquier St	High	Ready	Sidewalk projects	High	CIP

Figure 2: Example of Multimodal Project Recommendations, from Norfolk, VA

MMTP Process

The process to develop the MMTP is proposed as six steps in three distinct phases, shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed MMTP Development Process

Phase 1: Multimodal System Planning	**Summer 2026 – Fall 2027***
Purpose: Establish the desired networks for each travel mode and the metrics by which progress will be evaluated.	
Step 1. **Process Design and Goal Setting**: Visualizing our destination and charting our course	
Step 2. **Modal Systems and Network Needs**: Identifying the deficiencies, gaps, and needed connections *2a. Needs Analysis and Identification* *2b. Initial Route Network Mapping* *2c. Initial Feasibility Assessment* *2d. Route Network Mapping Refinement*	
Phase 2: Action Planning	**TBD, Target by Summer 2029***
Purpose: Pursue specific projects and action items, which align with annual and biennial funding programs and agency budgets	
Step 3. **Recommendations**: Projects and strategies to close the gaps	
Step 4. **Prioritization**: Identifying projects and initiatives to focus on first	
Step 5. **Funding Plan**: Matching priorities with funding and construction opportunities	
Phase 3: Implementation and Monitoring	**After Plan Completion**
Purpose: Track and report progress	
Step 6. **Evaluation and Refinement**: Post-plan evaluation of progress	

* Timeline dates are contingent upon provision of adequate resources.

A graphic timeline of the MMTP process is provided at the end of this memo. Key activities and deliverables for each step are detailed in Attachment 1. The following sections in this memo provide an overview of the work completed to date, primarily under Step 1.

MMTP Goals

The development of goals (and metrics, as discussed in the next section) for the MMTP will be established in Step 1, based heavily on the transportation goals, objectives, and actions identified in AC44, as well as the goals and objectives from the 2050 CA-MPO Long-RTP, which have been vetted and adopted by the region.

Key Themes

The AC44 transportation goals and objectives are distilled into five key themes. These words are repeated multiple times in the AC44 transportation chapter and in the 2050 CA-MPO LRTP, and they will guide the development of travel networks for each mode as well as selection of project priorities. The meanings of these key themes are important to dissect to clarify the focus of the MMTP effort.

Albemarle County's transportation system will be:

1. Connected: Does a network of connected facilities exist?
2. Accessible: Does the network go where I need it to go? Does it provide access to the places I need to get to?
3. Safe: Can I get where I need to go without risk of bodily harm?
4. Efficient: Does the transportation network move people and goods with minimal waste?
5. Equitable: Does one group of people experience disproportionate levels of service or access compared to another?

Clarity of Focus

Viewed through the lens of the five key themes, the focus of the MMTP effort becomes clear. **The MMTP will focus on strategically building out a connected, accessible, safe, efficient, and equitable network for all modes, within the constraints of limited resources**, to deliver the most functional network with the highest value. Much of the effort will focus on new connections to critical locations for pedestrians and bicyclists, and preparing for future transit service. These are the improvements most needed, reflecting many transportation-related public comments from AC44 and the 2050 CA-MPO LRTP.

The MMTP will identify the needs and desired networks for each mode both individually and together as an integrated system. Table 2 outlines the proposed key topics for each mode, given limited resources and the focus of the key themes.

Table 2: Proposed Focus Topics by Travel Mode

Pedestrian	Bike	Transit	Auto	Freight
• Develop Walkable Nodes (within Activity Centers, to schools, to transit) • Sidewalks and crosswalks on arterials and collectors • Traffic calming on collectors and local streets • Address pedestrian safety hot spots • Pedestrian connections in disability hot spots	• Core bike network in Development Areas, connecting Activity Centers, Employment Centers, and City • Spine networks connecting major development areas throughout entire County • Bike connections to schools and parks • Address bicycle safety hot spots	• Transit station identification within Activity Centers • Transit connections between Regional and Community Activity Centers, Employment Centers, and City • Bus stop improvements and strategic road improvements for transit performance aligned with Transit Prioritization Study	• Focus on fatal and serious injury hot spots • New road connections to maximize street network • Clarify roles - through vs. placemaking corridors • Technology to improve reliability on arterials for autos and transit • Slow speeds, design for 'shared' mentality on collectors	• Understand truck flows • Identify freight networks and reduce conflicts with other modes on those networks • Through truck restrictions

A Note on Traffic Congestion

The MMTP treats traffic congestion as a symptom of a transportation system that can't adequately move people and goods or support Albemarle County's growth. Widening roads isn't the only answer: it's costly, provides temporary relief, and reinforces car dependence and undesirable development patterns. Since some congestion always accompanies a thriving economy, the plan reframes the question to **how can the system accommodate future economic activity and population growth?**

It will address the question through multimodal network improvements, strategic investments on key arterials, and integrated land use planning that shorten trips and encourages mode shift. Funding will pair targeted road improvements with multimodal projects that deliver the most benefit and greatest return for connectedness, safety, efficiency, and equity.

Metrics

The goals and metrics of the MMTP will differ from those in AC44 due to function, but they will reflect the same intentions and values. The core MMTP metrics will be both outcome- and output-based. Outcome-based metrics will measure the desired characteristics and performance of the transportation system, which result from both effort and external factors. Output-based metrics will measure effort and resources expended. Both are valuable in tracking progress over time.

Step 1 in the MMTP will involve developing specific outcome- and output-based metrics for these five themes. Examples are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Example Metrics

Goal Theme	Outcome Metric Examples	Output Metric Examples
Connected	• Percent of the Primary Bike Network that has a dedicated bicycle facility • Average distance between pedestrian crossings on arterial roads	• Miles of bike lanes and shared use paths installed
Accessible	• Number of jobs within a 45-minute transit ride • Minutes reduced between activity centers by mode	• Miles of sidewalk installed within a half mile of a bus stop
Safe	• Number of people killed or seriously injured from traffic crashes	• Dollars spent on traffic safety projects and programs in Albemarle County
Efficient	• Bike/ped/transit Mode Share • Average Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita	• Revenue hours of transit service in Albemarle County
Equitable	• Difference in transit/bike access to jobs in low vs. high income areas	• Miles of bike lanes, shared use paths, and sidewalks installed in low-income areas

Community Engagement

The Albemarle County community has given input on multimodal transportation issues and needs in many previous planning efforts, including AC44, the CA-MPO's 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, and the 2019 Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, among other efforts and forums. Community engagement for the MMTP will start with the robust input that already exists. It will also involve targeted public outreach at major milestones in the plan development process with specific asks that will inform key decisions. Major community touchpoints are identified in Attachment 1. The community engagement process is currently under design.

Conclusion

The proposed process and timeline for Albemarle County's first MMTP is ambitious and exciting. The MMTP implements the transportation-related goals and objectives of AC44. Five goal themes – connected, accessible, safe, efficient, and equitable – will guide the process to develop the MMTP through route network mapping, recommendations, and prioritization. CDD staff requests feedback from the Planning Commission during their October 13, 2026, meeting on the proposed process and goals.

Attachments

Attach. 1: Multimodal Transportation Plan Scoping Document
Attach. 2: October 13, 2026, Presentation to Planning Commission

MMTP Process and General Timeline

