COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Nicholas Donohue
Chairperson

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Agenda item # 2

RESOLUTION
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

July 22, 2026

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Good**, Seconded By:** Ms. Green

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Recreational Access to the
Jackson River Sports Complex
Project RECR-107-182 – City of Covington

WHEREAS, § 33.2-1510 of the *Code of Virginia* sets forth that the General Assembly of Virginia has found and declared that it is ". . . in the public interest that access roads and bikeways to public recreational areas and historical sites be provided . . ." and sets aside highway funds for such purpose, "… [w]hen the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation has designated a public recreational area as such … and recommends to the [Commonwealth Transportation] Board that an access road or bikeway be provided or maintained to that area"; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) have adopted a joint policy to govern the use of the Recreational Access Fund pursuant to § 33.2-1510 of the *Code of Virginia*; and

WHEREAS, the Covington City Council has, by appropriate resolution, requested Recreational Access funds to provide roadway access to adequately serve recreational facilities located off of W Edgemont Drive and said roadway access is estimated to cost $250,000; and

WHEREAS, this request has been considered by the Director of DCR and has been found to comply with the provisions of § 33.2-1510 of the *Code of Virginia* and has designated the site a public recreation area.

NOW, **THEREFORE**, **BE IT RESOLVED,** that $250,000 of the Recreational Access Fund is allocated to improve access to the Jackson River Sports Complex off W Edgemont Drive, Project RECR-107-182, contingent upon:

1. All right of way, environmental assessments and remediation, and utility adjustments being provided at no cost to the Commonwealth; and

2. Execution of an appropriate contractual agreement between the City of Covington and VDOT to provide for the:

    a. Design, administration, construction and maintenance of this project;

    b. payment of all ineligible project costs, and of any eligible project costs in excess of the allocation amount for the roadway access project from sources other than those administered by VDOT.

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CTB Decision Brief

Recreational Access – City of Covington
Jackson River Sports Complex

Issue: Pursuant to § 33.2-1510 of the *Code of Virginia*, the City of Covington has requested funds from the Recreational Access Program to improve roadway access to the Jackson River Sports Complex.

Facts: Section 33.2-1510 of the *Code of Virginia* provides that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) shall expend from funds set aside for the construction of access roads and bikeways to public recreational areas and historical sites. CTB Policy requires that the locality provide all rights of way, utility adjustments, and environmental assessments and remediation at no cost to the Commonwealth. Further, this section of the *Code of Virginia* grants the CTB the authority to construct access roads and bikeways to public recreational areas and historical sites when the governing body of the locality in which the access road is to be provided passes a resolution requesting the road and when the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has designated the public recreational area as such and recommends to the CTB that an access road be provided to that area.

The Jackson River Sports Complex is a 75-acre park located along the Jackson River, within the City of Covington. This facility opened in 2004, and houses 5 lighted multi-use athletic fields, a 2,500-foot paved walking trail along the Jackson river, the River Rock amphitheater, along with several more amenities. This project will improve the park's entrance, construct a new 500-foot road to a newly constructed Putt Putt facility, and pave existing gravel sections of the sports field access road. The City of Covington will administer the design and construction of the proposed access project.

Recommendation: VDOT recommends the allocation of $250,000 from the Recreational Access Fund be approved for design and construction of this project, subject to certain contingencies as set forth in the accompanying resolution.

Action Required by the CTB: The *Code of Virginia* and the CTB's Recreational Access Fund Policy specify that the CTB shall approve the allocation of funds for the design and construction of the access road project. A resolution is provided for formal vote.

Result, if Approved: VDOT and the City of Covington will proceed with the Recreational Access project.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: None