

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Policy Board  
**From:** Taylor Lowery, Director of Transportation  
**Date:** June 24, 2026  
**Subject:** STARS and Project Pipeline Study Locations

**Purpose:**

Discuss candidate study locations recommended by the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County for upcoming STARS and Project Pipeline study cycle.

**Background:**

Every two years, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) initiates study selection for two planning programs: STARS and Project Pipeline. The STARS program is led by VDOT’s Transportation and Mobility Planning Division (TMPD), and Project Pipeline is led by the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPi).

**Candidate Study Locations:**

To identify potential study locations, local and MPO staff referenced identified [VTrans Needs](#), local priorities, and the adopted Long Range Transportation Plan. Because study recommendations will advance into funding applications for programs such as SMART SCALE and Revenue Sharing, identifying a “lead” early in the planning process is intended to help anticipate coordination needs during both planning and future funding application processes. As these are state-funded studies, VDOT would remain the Project Manager for each.

**Table 1.** Candidate Study Locations

<b>Study Location</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Proposed Study Lead</b>
US 29 at Airport Road	Albemarle County	Albemarle County
US 250 at Free Bridge	Both	CA-MPO
I-64 Exit 118 at US 29	Albemarle County	Albemarle County
Preston/Ridge-McIntire Intersection	City of Charlottesville	City of Charlottesville
Ridge Corridor from W Main St to Cherry Ave	City of Charlottesville	City of Charlottesville

Based on available program capacity, only one of the two study locations within the City of Charlottesville can be advanced for consideration during this study cycle. Policy Board members are asked to identify the preferred City study location as part of the approval of study locations.

**Technical Committee Recommendation:**

The Technical Committee unanimously voted to recommend the selected projects to the Policy Board with the understanding that only one of the Charlottesville projects will be studied by VDOT.

**Draft Motion for Consideration:**

"I move that the Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Policy Board [approve/not approve] the following candidate locations for consideration in the upcoming STARS and Project Pipeline study cycle:

- US 29 at Airport Road
- US 250 at Free Bridge
- I-64 Exit 118 at US 29
- Preston/Ridge-McIntire Intersection or Ridge Corridor from W Main St to Cherry Ave

**Next Steps:**

Once study locations are approved by the Policy Board, they must be approved by the appropriate statewide administrators (VDOT TMPD for STARS studies, or the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for Project Pipeline studies).