



**TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA**

**Regional Surface Transportation Program  
(RSTP) Funds Application**

**Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Intersection Improvement**

**Date: September 16, 2014**

**RSTP Project Profile – Candidate Project #**

Please limit overall application to a maximum of 5 pages (11 pt. font 1.5 spacing) – supporting materials such as a previous study or aerial photography may be submitted as an addendum and not subject to 5 pages maximum.

- 1. Project Sponsor(s): Town of Vinton, Virginia
- 2. Proposed Implementing Agency: Town of Vinton, Virginia
- 3. Project Description and Attached Aerial Showing Proposed Improvement Location: Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection Improvement Project – Please see Attachment A.
- 4. Detailed Scope of Work, proposed Schedule and Relation to Other Projects or Project Phases, Project Status, and Other Funding Sources: (attach document if extra space is needed – please refer to overall application limit noted above)  
Attachment A: Aerial Location Map, Project Description and Scope of Work  
Attachment B: Schedule and Relation to Other Projects and Project Phases

*Items 5-9 Pertain to Highway Projects:*

- 5. Functional Classification: Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street – Urban Collectors
- 6. Existing Traffic Volume and Level of Service with Improvement: AADT = 7400
- 7. Existing Volume/Capacity: AADT = 7400
- 8. Future Traffic Volume or Projected Ridership with Service Implementation: AADT = 8850
- 9. Future Volume/Capacity and Level of Service: AADT 8850
- 10. Estimated Project Cost by Phase Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way (including utilities) and Construction (including administration): (attach a detailed cost estimate and/or budget to support your application)  
PE: \$233,493.00  
CN: \$2,101,438.00

**Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection Improvements - Cost Estimate**

**Preliminary Engineering Phase**

<u>Task by Project Development Phase</u>	<u>Project Cost</u>
PE Phase	\$ 233,493
Construction Costs	\$2,101,438
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS (PE &amp; CN)</b>	<b>\$2,334,931</b>

## **RSTP Candidate Project Rating Factors**

### **A. Regional Project Consideration:**

This improvement project entails the street and intersection improvements to Walnut Avenue from the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge to the City of Roanoke/Town of Vinton corporate limits. This section of the road is not striped with a bicycle lane and does not have pedestrian amenities such as sidewalks and crosswalks. Also, the intersection at 8<sup>th</sup> Street is very dangerous and needs an improved redesign for safer traffic flow for trains, vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. This Project would complement the recently completed VDOT Walnut Avenue Replacement Bridge Project and the planned improvements to Walnut Avenue from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to West Lee Avenue. It would provide a safer route and intersection for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians who commute from southeast and downtown Roanoke, to downtown Vinton, East Roanoke County, and Bedford County. The Project was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> most important regionally by the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program in the Regional Project Consideration and Projects.

### **B. Support the Economic Vitality of the Metropolitan Area:**

The connection between communities encourages economic vitality. The proposed improvements would provide continuous motorist, pedestrian, and bicycle accommodations from southeast and downtown Roanoke, the largest employment and commercial center in the area, into the heart of downtown Vinton. There are several businesses and industries located adjacent to this project including Southern States Mill, Viking Fence Company, Alvaro's Market, and Bob's Restaurant. Additionally, currently under construction in downtown Vinton, is the new Vinton Branch library scheduled to be completed by fall 2015. This connection to downtown Vinton will be an extension of the \$700,000 CDBG the Town received in 2012 to revitalize the downtown area. The safer route will create a better way for citizens in the region to get to the amenities and businesses in downtown Vinton and to the Vinton Farmer's Market for farm fresh fruits and vegetables. Southeast Roanoke and this portion of Vinton is a lower income area as evidenced by census tract data used by the federal government to qualify areas that are 80% of the average national per capita income (\$27,915).

### **C. Increase the Safety and Security of the Transportation System:**

Southeast Roanoke City, Town of Vinton, and East Roanoke County would all benefit from increased safety and mobility with the proposed improvement to the street and intersection. The upgrades to the street along Walnut Avenue to the downtown business district will allow people to walk and bike safely with the creation of sidewalks and a striped section of the road for bicyclists for the Share the Road Program. Improving bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on Walnut Avenue and at the intersection enhances public safety and accessibility by reducing vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian conflicts. This project would also

enhance transportation facilities for those with special needs.

**D. Increase the Accessibility and Mobility Options Available to People and/or Freight:**

The proposed improvements would give the population in this area increased modes of travel and accessibility. This road and intersection improvement would allow people in the area easier access to fresh produce and other food items, as well as provide them increased accessibility to other areas of the region. By connecting the Town of Vinton to the rest of the greenway system via sidewalks and bike lanes along Walnut Avenue, the citizens will be able to more safely get to other areas of the Town and Roanoke City by walking or cycling. This will increase their mobility. The increased access will also allow these citizens, who often do not have a vehicle, to get from place to the place, a way to get fresh vegetables at the Vinton Farmer's Market, accessibility to the grocery store through the connectivity of trails and sidewalks, and the ability to obtain healthcare. This project will complement the recent replacement of the Walnut Avenue Bridge at Glade Creek and the planned Walnut Avenue Phase I Improvement Project, which will increase vehicle safety and pedestrian access across the bridge and also include pavement striping along the pavement to encourage a Share the Road Program for multi-mobility use.

**E. Protect and Enhance the Environment, Promote Energy Conservation, and Improve Quality of Life:**

Improving bicycle and pedestrian connections between the City of Roanoke and the Town of Vinton protects and enhances the environment by promoting walking and bicycling as an alternative mode of travel to the passenger vehicle. The proposed improvements to the street and intersection will increase access for residents to the regional greenway network, markets, employment, and cultural centers. Improved safety, accessibility, and access to new markets via alternative modes of travel reduce greenhouse gases, rates of obesity, while promoting conservation and quality of life.

**F. Enhance the Integration and Connectivity of the Transportation System, Across and Between Modes, for People and/or Freight:**

This improvement project will actually serve to connect the greenway system to the downtown business district in Vinton and the Vinton Farmer's Market. Currently there are no sidewalks for pedestrians or a striped lane for bicyclists in this area. The existing Tinker Creek Greenway along with the proposed and funded Glade Creek Greenway, the proposed pedestrian bridge connections, the new Walnut Avenue Bridge, and the funded Walnut Avenue Phase I Sidewalk Improvement Project will integrate with the Walnut Avenue Phase II Improvement and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection Project, which will connect to downtown Vinton. Interconnection of the trail network with these major surface streets and employment centers enhances connectivity between multiple modes of transportation.

**G. Promote Efficient System Management and Operation:**

Currently, this section of Walnut Avenue from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the City of Roanoke Corporate Limits is not properly striped for pedestrian or bicycle use and has a hazardous intersection at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the railroad crossing. This interconnectivity for southeast and downtown Roanoke to Town of Vinton and East Roanoke County to multiple modes of transportation promotes a more efficient and functional corridor for the residents, visitors, and businesses along Walnut Avenue.

**H. Emphasize the Preservation of Existing Transportation System:**

Walnut Avenue is an existing busy urban collector roadway that connects the Town of Vinton and East Roanoke County to downtown City of Roanoke. The proposed improvements will enhance the function of this roadway to include the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists while providing a connection to the Roanoke Valley’s greenway network.

**I. Cost/Benefit Consideration:**

The Town of Vinton is retrofitting improvements within the available Town right-of-way which maximize the modes of travel and potential number of users via alternative modes for this corridor. By offering multiple modes of travel and providing safer intersections, demands placed on the roadway as well as accidents can be reduced. The costs associated with maintenance and reconstruction of roadways associated with vehicular demand can also be reduced. Providing alternative modes of travel and safer intersections is cost effective solution that provides a multitude of benefits to the general public, business community and the region.

**J. Projects included in previous plans that had a public input process associated with the plan:**

The Walnut Avenue Bridge and the funded Walnut Avenue Phase I Sidewalk Improvement Project will provide sidewalk and bicycle connections to the existing Tinker Creek Greenway and the proposed funded Glade Creek Greenway. Street improvements to Walnut Avenue from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to West Lee Avenue will establish sidewalks and crosswalks to a section of roadway that is heavily traveled and currently does not have either sidewalks or crosswalks. The proposed Phase II of the Walnut Avenue project will increase safety at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street intersection and improve the railroad crossing at that location. This Walnut Avenue Phase II Street and Intersection Improvement (8<sup>th</sup> Street/railroad crossing) has been listed in the VDOT Six-Year and Long Range Plan lists.

## **Attachment A – Location and Scope of Work**

### **Walnut Avenue and 8th Street Intersection Improvements**

**Project Location:** Please see attached aerial map showing the street and intersection improvements along Walnut Avenue from the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge to the City of Roanoke/Town of Vinton corporate limits. This section of the road is not striped with a bicycle lane and does not have pedestrian amenities such as sidewalks and crosswalks. Also, there is an intersection at 8<sup>th</sup> Street that is very dangerous and needs improved design for safer traffic flow. This project will also include enhancements to the railroad crossing on Walnut Avenue.

**Project Description:** Curb and gutter, sidewalks, bike lanes and/or a shared-use path, and a signalized intersection for Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street intersection. A round-about will not be feasible due to limited right-of-way available, as well as the existing Norfolk and Southern railroad track/crossing.

**Scope of Work:** The Project would consist of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along Walnut Avenue from the Walnut Avenue Bridge to City of Roanoke/Town of Vinton Corporate Limits, and a signalized intersection at the Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection.



Aerial Map Depicting the Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection Improvement Project

## **Attachment B – Schedule and Other Project Phases**

### **Project Request Location:**

Walnut Avenue and 8th Street Intersection Improvements along Walnut Avenue from the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge to the City of Roanoke/Town of Vinton corporate limits.

Project Engineering: July 2015 to January 2016

ROW Acquisition; January 2016 to July 2016

Project Advertisement: July 2016

Begin Construction: September 2016

End Construction: September 2017

### **Currently Under Review with Expected Completion Fall 2015:**

Walnut Avenue Phase I - \$100,000

Sidewalks/gutter - \$88,200

Striping of pavement for Share the Road Program - \$800

Crosswalks (7) – \$1,000

Landscaping (trees for traffic calming/shade) - \$10,000

### **Currently Under Review with Expected Completion Spring 2016:**

Glade Creek Greenway - \$162,000.00

**RESOLUTION NO. 2077**

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VINTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014, AT 7:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VINTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 311 SOUTH POLLARD STREET, VINTON, VIRGINIA**

***A RESOLUTION requesting that the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVAMPO) fund the following Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Projects:***

- 1. City of Roanoke and Town of Vinton Joint Application for a Tinker Creek Pedestrian Bridge.***
- 2. Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection Improvement.***
- 3. Comprehensive Traffic Intersections Improvements.***

**WHEREAS,** the Council of the Town of Vinton has been advised of the availability of the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Revenue Sharing Program; and

**WHEREAS,** the focus of the RSTP applications is to provide connections to the residents of the Town of Vinton to the Roanoke Valley Greenway System, and

**WHEREAS,** these connections can be provided by implementing bicycle and pedestrian accommodations through a pedestrian bridge and improvements to the Town's street intersections; and

**WHEREAS,** the connection between communities encourages economic vitality; and

**WHEREAS,** it is necessary to file an application to be considered for the allocation of the RSTP funds.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Vinton, Virginia, that:

1. The Town of Vinton wishes to apply for the RVAMPO Fiscal Year 2014-15 RSTP funds for the following:
  - a. City of Roanoke and Town of Vinton Joint Application for a Tinker Creek Pedestrian Bridge Project with an estimated cost of \$1,459,500.00.
  - b. Walnut Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection Improvement Project with an estimated cost of \$2,334,931.00.
  - c. Comprehensive Traffic Intersections Improvements with an estimated cost of \$2,750,000.00.
2. The Town agrees to provide administrative services to manage the proposed Projects.

3. The proposed pedestrian bridge and improvements to street intersections will enable residents from the Town of Vinton and the Roanoke Valley, to travel safely from their neighborhoods to Downtown Vinton, Walnut Avenue, Virginia Avenue, and to the City of Roanoke's existing Tinker Creek Greenway.

This Resolution adopted on motion made by Council Member Nance, seconded by Vice Mayor Hare, with the following votes recorded:

AYES: Adams, Nance, Weeks, Hare, Grose

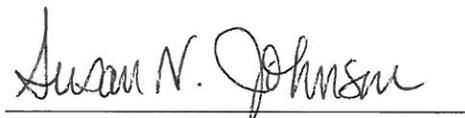
NAYS: None

APPROVED:



Bradley E. Grose, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan N. Johnson, Town Clerk