



## Colonial Heights City Council Meeting Agenda Item Executive Summary

**MEETING TYPE:** City Council Special Meeting

**MEETING DATE:** February 18, 2020

**ITEM:** Potential Future Trail Projects Discussion

**DEPARTMENT:** City Manager Office/Public Works

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Discussion of potential connections from the River Trail to other areas, including the proposed Ashland to Petersburg Trail.

**BACKGROUND:** The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) initiated the Ashland to Petersburg Trail Study to identify a preferred corridor for a multi-use trail that will extend between Ashland to Petersburg, a distance of approximately 40 miles. Colonial Heights worked with VDOT in stakeholder and public outreach meetings to identify the preferred corridor for the Colonial Heights segment of the Ashland to Petersburg Trail.

Specific to the City, the preferred corridor travels north from VSU within the abandoned Seaboard Line Railroad line along the western City boundary, over Swift Creek at the location of the remnants of the former bridge crossing, and exiting the City just north of Swift Creek Lane (see map).

On February 4th, the City received notification that the trail study had concluded and the final report was available for review. Now that the study has concluded, individual localities can choose to select portions on the preferred corridor, within their respective municipal boundaries, to apply for funding. It is anticipated that localities will utilize the preliminary designs and cost estimates within the final report to compile their funding application. The next opportunity for federal/state transportation funding is March 2020, when Smart Scale applications are due. The Tri-Cities MPO is proposing to submit a funding application for the section of the preferred corridor located on Virginia State University property and crossing over the Appomattox River into Petersburg. Sections of the trail north of VSU, within the Tri-Cities MPO boundaries, will be managed by the localities where the proposed trail is to be located.

At the work session, staff will discuss potential connections from the Appomattox River Trail in Colonial Heights to other locations, including the proposed Ashland to Petersburg Trail. Staff will also provide an update on the bid process for Phase IV of the Appomattox River Trail in Colonial Heights.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**Funding for this item was:**  included  not included in the current-year budget  N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff update and discussion with City Council.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Trail Map; FOLAR Plan - excerpt.

- Staff will be making a detailed presentation on this agenda item at the meeting.**
- Staff will provide brief comments and answer questions on this item at the meeting.**
- This is a routine procedural item and no presentation is planned for the meeting.**

*Councilmembers who have any detailed questions or would like to request additional information regarding this item are encouraged to contact the City Manager at their earliest convenience.*