

Rio Corridor Plan – Background

Board direction to undertake Plan

Consultant: Line + Grade Civil Engineering

Project scope:

- Conduct an evaluation of the corridor—develop comprehensive design alternatives to serve as a guide for future development and infrastructure rehabilitation projects.
- Provide solutions to enhance the mobility and access for all users—traffic safety and operations improvements which will best serve the future needs of the corridor.
- Planning level recommendations will be developed; improvement types will be shown. Information in plan sufficient allow application for funding and engineering/more detailed design work to move forward. Project feasibility will have been vetted
 - road cross section design (lanes, medians, bike, pedestrian facilities). Character, type, typical size
 - traffic management improvements (intersection improvements/changes; entrance relocation/consolidation
 - transit stop locations/typical design expectations
 - recommendations for transitional area between road right of way (ROW) and building fronts on adjacent properties
- Recommendations to become amendment to Comp Plan/PI29 Master Plan

Two Phases Work

- Phase I: Focus is from near Pen Park Road intersection to Rio29 Small Area Plan (to near Rt 29)
- Phase II: East & south of JW Parkway to City consultant work just beginning

Rio Corridor Plan –Timeline and Review

Phase I schedule of approximately 12 months, with draft plan for review by November-December, 2021

Phase II starting now, draft ready as soon as January/Feb (Scope of work, by May)

Rio Corridor Plan - Components of Work

Four Stages of Work-Phase 1:

Discover Background, assessment existing conditions (Jan-Mar)

Define Vision phase-development of conceptual design alternatives (Apr-June)

Develop Develop unified corridor plan w/ recommendations for improvements (July –Oct)

Decide Review and approval by PC and Board

Rio Corridor Plan – Public Engagement

Public Engagement :

August:

- Consultant presentation of concepts to Rio CAC – August meeting
- To begin contacts with some impacted properties (CATEC, several others), August
- Pop-up locations (the Center, CATEC, Mallside area, JABA, Pen Park area)
- Future additional Pop-ups for Phase II

end

Rio Corridor Plan

Rio Road Plan – Next Steps

Project Launch Publicity

Virtual Kick-off Meeting

- March 11th (evening) and 12th (mid-day)
- Purpose: To provide a general overview of the project including scope, schedule, review process, methods to stay informed and involved, and basic technical background info about the road corridor

Questions, comments?

Rio Corridor Plan – Public Engagement

Outreach "getting the word out"

- County Email Newsletter
- County Website News
- Media Outreach
- Flyer Kiosks & Flyer Distribution
- Direct Communication (email, phone)
- Door Hang-Tag Distribution

Project Hub (www.publicinput.com/riocorridor)

- Site will house information and online participation opportunities for the project
- Albemarle.org website includes a page about the project with link to the project hub <https://www.albemarle.org/government/community-development/planning-codes/rio-corridor-plan>

Community Engagement Field Office

- Pop-Up Locations along the corridor

Virtual Meetings, Workshops, Events

- Review components of the consultant's work, develop shared understanding

Participation Support

- Collaboration with OEI to provide resources to those who need support to participate (translation, printed materials, etc.)
- Phone and Text participation options

Projects recommended or programmed for 2-Lane Rio Road

- 5 foot sidewalk, east side of Rio Road (JW Parkway intersection to Pen Park Rd.); west side of Rio Road (Pen Park Road to Treesdale); crosswalks at intersections. This project is designed and currently out to bid for construction.
- 10-foot shared-use path, westside of Rio Road from JW Parkway path to the Pen Park Road intersection. Design includes tree lawn and street trees.
- Roundabout at Pen Park Road and Rio Road. (Smartscale application was previously submitted for funding – not funded by the State at that time.)
- Roundabout at Pen Park Lane and Rio Road.
- Construct sidewalk or shared-use path from Stonefield to Melbourne Road/JW Parkway shared-use path.
- A trail with public access easement to be incorporated into the Eco-Village development project (west side of curve near Agnese intersection).
- Portion of east-west trail to JWP trail (w/ public access easement) is established from Rio Road to near Meadow Creek in Treesdale and Stonewater developments. A bridge/additional trail needed over Meadow Creek to complete connection.
- Existing constructed along frontage of the Lofts and Catholic School site (connection to next Pen Park Road and Pen Park Lane needed).

Factors Affecting Scope

Cost – maximize benefit of available funding on most critical area for study.

Timing – to have to study completed in a timely manner to guide upcoming grant funding applications and prior to new submittals of potential major developments (Wetsel). Additional, in depth, analysis of remaining Rio Road section may have added up to an additional year to complete (current study to be completed this winter).

Focus first phase of work on the safety & traffic management concerns, and poor quality/performance of pedestrian/bike/transit components of the multi-laned arterial road segment. This segment has the highest traffic volumes and speeds and must serve both through traffic and direct access to local residential areas and businesses. It addresses four known/documented or perceived dangerous intersections – at Hillsdale Dr; Greenbrier Dr.; Belvedere Blvd.; JW Parkway).

Distinct differences in the character of the road between arterial section of Rio Road and the minor collector/neighborhood character of 2-lane section of Rio Road. This distinction creates a logical transition point for planning work, and particularly given that some.

Level of conceptual project planning that has been done for the two-lane portion (Rio Road east) and Small Area Plan portion of Rio Rd.