

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	March 1, 2016
Title:	Transfer Funds for the Intersection Improvement Project at George Washington's Ferry Farm and Kings Highway
Department:	Public Works
Staff Contact:	Christopher K. Rapp, P.E., Director
Board Committee/ Other BACC:	N/A
Staff Recommendation:	Approval
Fiscal Impact:	\$434,128 from the Tourism Fund to the Transportation Fund
Time Sensitivity:	N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	Background Report	2.	Proposed Resolution R16-80
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☒	Consent Agenda	☐	Other Business	☐	Unfinished Business
☐	Discussion	☐	Presentation	☐	Work Session
☐	New Business	☐	Public Hearing	☐	Add-On

REVIEW:

☒	County Administrator	
☒	County Attorney	
☒	Finance and Budget	

DISTRICT:	George Washington
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BACKGROUND REPORT

The George Washington Foundation (Foundation) is planning a major expansion at George Washington's Boyhood Home at Ferry Farm (Ferry Farm). The expanded facilities will include a visitor center, reconstruction of the boyhood home, expanded parking, and other amenities.

Among these other improvements, the facility will require a new entrance, aligned with the intersection at Ferry Road (SR-606), across Kings Highway (SR-3) from Ferry Farm. The entrance improvements include construction of a left-turn lane from westbound Kings Highway into the new entrance at Ferry Farm, a right-turn lane from eastbound Kings Highway into Ferry Farm, and installation of the fourth leg of the signalized intersection.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is designing improvements to this intersection. The intersection improvements, with a cost estimated at \$3.1 million, are funded in large part by the County, and include an additional left-turn lane and vehicle storage area on south-bound Ferry Road, and an extension of the right-turn lane from west-bound Kings Highway onto north-bound Ferry Road.

Resolution R15-145 budgeted and appropriated funding for the inclusion, design, and construction of the entrance improvements to Ferry Farm within the overall VDOT intersection project.

To further support the intersection improvements, funds in the amount of \$434,128 have been identified within the Tourism Fund. Initially, the County's fuels sales tax was identified as a source of funding for this road project. In addition, the fuels sales tax could have been used to match an equal amount of future revenue sharing funds. However, with the decrease in gasoline prices, fuels sales tax revenue has decreased, and the transfer of Tourism Fund dollars into the Transportation Fund would supplement, and in this case replace, \$434,128 in reduced fuels sales tax revenue.

This entrance improvement at Ferry Farm will encourage the much anticipated tourism asset Stafford has worked to achieve over many years. Ferry Farm will be a signature piece along the Falmouth Redevelopment Area's Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail (now under construction), and complement other activities/projects such as a fairly recent Visitor Center opening, sidewalk replacement, Route 1 intersection beautification and expansion, parking, engineering and design work, Celebration Stage construction, Chatham enhancements, Falmouth Overlook concept completion, Counting House renovation efforts, and other economic development initiatives underway to promote Falmouth as a tourist destination.

With Rockport Analytics' assistance, staff studied the potential economic impact of the Foundation's plan for a visitor center and boyhood home reconstruction. That study concluded that at buildout, Ferry Farm would produce approximately 100,000 annual visitors to Stafford County, and post project completion approximately \$22 million (actual, indirect, and induced expenditures) would be spent locally, with approximately \$1.5 million generated in local taxes.

Staff recommends approval of proposed Resolution R16-80, which authorizes the transfer of \$434,128 from the Tourism Fund to the Transportation Fund to replace lost revenue from the decrease in fuels sales tax. This fund transfer will support the completion of entrance improvements necessary for the expansion of Ferry Farm, as well as improvements to the intersection overall.

R16-80

PROPOSED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF STAFFORD
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

ORDINANCE

At a regular meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors (the Board) held in the Board Chambers, George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center, Stafford, Virginia, on the 1st day of March, 2016:

MEMBERS:

Robert “Bob” Thomas, Jr., Chairman
Laura A. Sellers, Vice Chairman
Meg Bohmke
Jack R. Cavalier
Wendy E. Maurer
Paul V. Milde, III
Gary F. Snellings

VOTE:

On motion of , seconded by , which carried by a vote of , the following was adopted:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TRANSFER OF \$434,128 FROM
THE TOURISM FUND TO THE TRANSPORTATION FUND FOR
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT GEORGE WASHINGTON’S
BOYHOOD HOME AT FERRY FARM AND KINGS HIGHWAY

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is administering the Ferry Road (SR-606) and Kings Highway (SR-3) Intersection Improvement Project (Project), which is funded in part by Stafford County; and

WHEREAS, included within this Project are improvements to the entrance at George Washington’s Boyhood Home at Ferry Farm (Ferry Farm) to accommodate additional traffic generated by the expansion of Ferry Farm by the George Washington Foundation; and

WHEREAS, this expansion will help Ferry Farm become a major historical and tourism attraction; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Resolution R15-145, which budgeted and appropriated funds for the inclusion, design, and construction of the entrance improvements of the overall Project; and

WHEREAS, there is \$434,128 in available funds for a transfer from the Tourism Fund to the Transportation Fund to further support the intersection improvements at Ferry Farm and Kings Highway;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 1st day of March, 2016, that Four Hundred Thirty-four Thousand One Hundred Twenty-eight Dollars (\$434,128) be and it hereby is transferred from the Tourism Fund to the Transportation Fund; and

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Administrator is authorized to execute any documents deemed necessary to carry out this transfer.

AJR:ckr:tbm