

19. LATE ARRIVING MATTERS**A. SOUTHAMPTON BUSINESS PARK - PROPOSED TREE CLEARING**

Attached for your reference please find correspondence from the FSEDI Board of Directors seeking your consideration in granting them the authority to clear the remaining developable acreage (approximately 31 acres) in the Southampton Business Park. They are prepared to cover the cost of removing the trees, other vegetation and stumps, minus the value of the timber.

They've received consistent feedback from prospects that it is difficult for them to fairly evaluate the property during an initial site visit and clearing the trees and vegetation will only enhance the marketability of the site.

Of course, once the vegetation and stumps are removed, our site maintenance costs will increase - 30 acres of grass to periodically mow.

MOTION REQUIRED: If the Board is so inclined, a motion is required granting FSEDI the authority to clear the remaining developable acreage in the Southampton Business Park at their own expense, minus the value of the timber.

B. RT. 35 BRIDGE LIGHTING

VDOT has been collaborating with our local Business Panel (Dr. Edwards has represented the Board on this panel) over the course of the past two years to insure that new Rt. 35 bridge fits its physical setting, while preserving and enhancing the scenic and historic character of downtown Courtland. To that end, the Business Panel has come up with a plan to install decorative lighting on the new bridge, most likely similar to the lighting on the Holland-Councill Memorial Bridge in Franklin (Blackwater River near I.P.).

The plan calls for installation of 22 lights, 11 on each side, with all design and installation costs borne by VDOT. However, VDOT will not assume responsibility for any operational costs (electricity) or maintenance costs (lamps, replacement posts, etc.), and seeks assurance from the County that it will bear these expenses if the lighting is installed.

At this writing, I've asked Mrs. Jarratt (also a member of the Business Panel) to develop an estimate of operational and maintenance costs, which she hopes to have by Monday night.

MOTION REQUIRED: If the Board is so inclined, a motion is required authorizing VDOT to proceed with installation of the bridge lighting, subject to the County's acceptance of all operational and future maintenance expenses.

FS Franklin Southampton ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC.

601 N. Mechanic Street ♦ Suite 300 ♦ Franklin, VA 23851 ♦ 757-562-1958
info@franklinsouthamptonva.com ♦ www.franklinsouthamptonva.com

April 22, 2015

Michael W. Johnson
County Administrator
Southampton County
P.O. Box 400
Courtland, Virginia 23837

Reference: Southampton Business Park Tree Clearing

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Franklin Southampton Economic Development Inc. (FSEDI) has consistently received feedback from site selection consultants, industrial brokers, and directly from prospects that it is difficult to truly understand and consider the remaining property at the Southampton Business Park due to the thick amount of trees. For the property to be considered attractive and competitive, the trees should be removed. A particular case in point was in 2013 while we were working diligently with Project Casper, FSEDI had the front portion of the property cleared to provide the owners of the company with a sense of the space. Most recently at a site visit held this past Monday with a nationally known site selection consultant regarding Project Tomahawk the recommendation was made once again to have the property cleared.

The Franklin Southampton Economic Development Inc.'s Board of Directors would like to request that the Southampton County Board of Supervisors grant FSEDI the authority to have the property cleared and ask that any funds from the removal of the trees be used to offset the costs of the clearing. We would ask that Southampton County agree to maintain the property once it has been cleared. It is imperative that we take steps to strategically position ourselves to be competitive in not only Hampton Roads but the Commonwealth of Virginia. If we are going to continue to market this property and see results it is important we address feedback from industry stakeholders that we see time and time again. Franklin Southampton Economic Development Inc. is hopeful that you will grant us permission to take these next steps and have the remaining property at the Southampton Business Park cleared. This will greatly assist us in our marketing efforts. Thank you for all that you do and for our continued partnership.

Should you have any questions please contact me at 757-562-1958 or at ajarratt@franklinsouthamptonva.com.

Best regards,



Amanda C. Jarratt
President & CEO

Member of Virginia's Hampton Roads
Economic Development Alliance





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April 22, 2015

Mr. Mike Johnson
Southampton County Administrator
Southampton County
P.O. Box 400
Courtland, VA 23837

Reference: Courtland Bridge VDOT Context Sensitive Solutions Project

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I wanted to reach out in regards to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Context Sensitive Solutions Route 35 Bridge Replacement Project. A meeting was held at the Franklin Business Incubator to review and discuss proposed options for the Context Sensitive Solutions funds that VDOT guaranteed over two years ago. Four representatives from the Town of Courtland's appointed Business Panel were in attendance as well as four representatives from VDOT. Based on the proposed options the Town of Courtland representatives unanimously voted they were in favor of using the Context Sensitive Solutions funds to place lights on the Route 35 Bridge. This decision was chosen primarily for enhancing the safety of the bridge for those traveling during dark/dusk hours. VDOT estimated the project would require a total of 22 lights (respectively 11 on each side of the bridge). This project technically exceeds the Context Sensitive Solutions funds of \$100,000 but this additional cost will not be carried over to any locality – VDOT has come up with additional funding to meet the project costs. The type of light has yet to be decided but many agreed they would prefer a more historically appealing light (i.e. lights on the bridge from International Paper to the City of Franklin).

It is important to note that this project will be fully funded by VDOT from the start of the design to erecting the last light pole – but VDOT will NOT pay for the electricity or any maintenance costs associated with the new lights. Due to the bridge being located in Southampton County I wanted to bring this project to your attention as this would need approval from you and/or the Board of Supervisors. I am in the process of getting information about the cost of light poles, lights, etc. to help give you an idea of the maintenance costs associated with this project. Please keep in mind this project will not only assist in making the bridge a safer option for travel it will also light the way into the Town of Courtland.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. If you have specific questions for VDOT please send them to me and I will forward them to the appropriate person. I am available to discuss this further at your upcoming meeting on April 28th as time is of the essence to accommodate this project and keep the bridge construction on schedule.

Sincerely,

Amanda Jarratt
President & CEO