

5. Question: What are the funding sources for the Concept B improvements?

*Staff Response: Funding sources are to-be-determined based on Department of Finance and Budget guidance (e.g., local revenue, bonding, regional/state/federal funds). The adopted 2019 Countywide Transportation Plan notes the following with respect to funding sources:*

*“The planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of a multi-modal transportation system are completely dependent upon the availability of adequate funding. The funding of transportation infrastructure requires significant expenditure of capital, typically beyond the resources of local government. Traditionally, the County has depended on State and Federal funds for the design and construction of transportation projects, augmented by private sector contributions, known as proffers. However, as traditional sources of funding dwindled, the County was forced to increasingly rely upon private sector contributions, and to implement funding alternatives, including the sale of bonds and the use of innovative financing options. While the County has been successful in utilizing a variety of means to finance transportation projects, the inherent uncertainty in the timing of infrastructure improvements linked to private sector projects remains a challenge. Also, key projects continue to remain unfunded or underfunded where financing is unavailable or inadequate. Finally, rising construction costs further complicate the issue. Accordingly, the County places an emphasis on setting priorities through annual project review and provides guidelines and direction for funding acquisition and management.*

*Funding sources include local, regional, state, federal, and public-private funding sources (including proffers). Each of the listed funding programs has specific criteria that must be met in order to be used. The County seeks to take advantage of all available resources, or a combination thereof, in an effort to secure adequate funding and advance its transportation initiatives. Leveraging outside, or non-local source funding, is a primary goal for the County.”*

6. Question: What kind of environmental impact studies will be done?

*Staff Response: The County (or its contractor) will be required to submit studies that investigate the presence of and potential impacts to environmental resources during submission of construction plans. These studies address floodplain, wetlands, surficial geology, tree cover, threatened and endangered species, stormwater, and cultural and archaeological resources. Most studies follow a format of first documenting existing conditions, and if that initial investigation*