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**LEXINGTON RECEIVES TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT:
Pedestrian Improvements will be made on Randolph Street**

The City of Lexington announced today that the City will receive a Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The money will be used for the Randolph Street Courthouse Project to improve pedestrian conditions for the Courthouse block. The City will receive \$234,800 which will provide funding for the undergrounding of the Courthouse block utilities and subsequent removal of utility poles. This project will allow for much safer pedestrian movements in this area because walkers will no longer be negotiating utility poles set within the sidewalk. Furthermore, the removal of utility poles will allow safer travel for disabled persons.

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) program is a federally funded program administered through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Transportation Enhancement activities include community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. For example, projects can include creation of pedestrian facilities, streetscape improvements, refurbishment of historic transportation facilities, and other investments that enhance communities and access. The federal government provides funding for TE projects through our nation's surface transportation legislation.

This project supports the City's downtown development plans to move pedestrians quickly and efficiently from the Courthouse area to the downtown area without automobile usage. Walkability in Lexington has proven not only more convenient for pedestrians, but also has helped create a thriving downtown with businesses serving as destinations and gathering places.

"We are very excited to receive this funding," said Mimi Elrod, Mayor of Lexington. "This funding is an integral part of the City's transportation program and will help make walking a more realistic and safer option for pedestrians in the downtown area. Enhancing the walkability and pedestrian experience is vital in Lexington where so much of the downtown charm is on a pedestrian scale, not necessarily meant for vehicular traffic", Elrod said.

With the assistance of the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, the Region's planning organization; the City of Lexington studied ways to design solutions promoting safe walking in this area and applied for the funding over the course of two years. This project has received funding from VDOT's Transportation Enhancement program for two consecutive years totaling \$364,800.