



# SMART SCALE

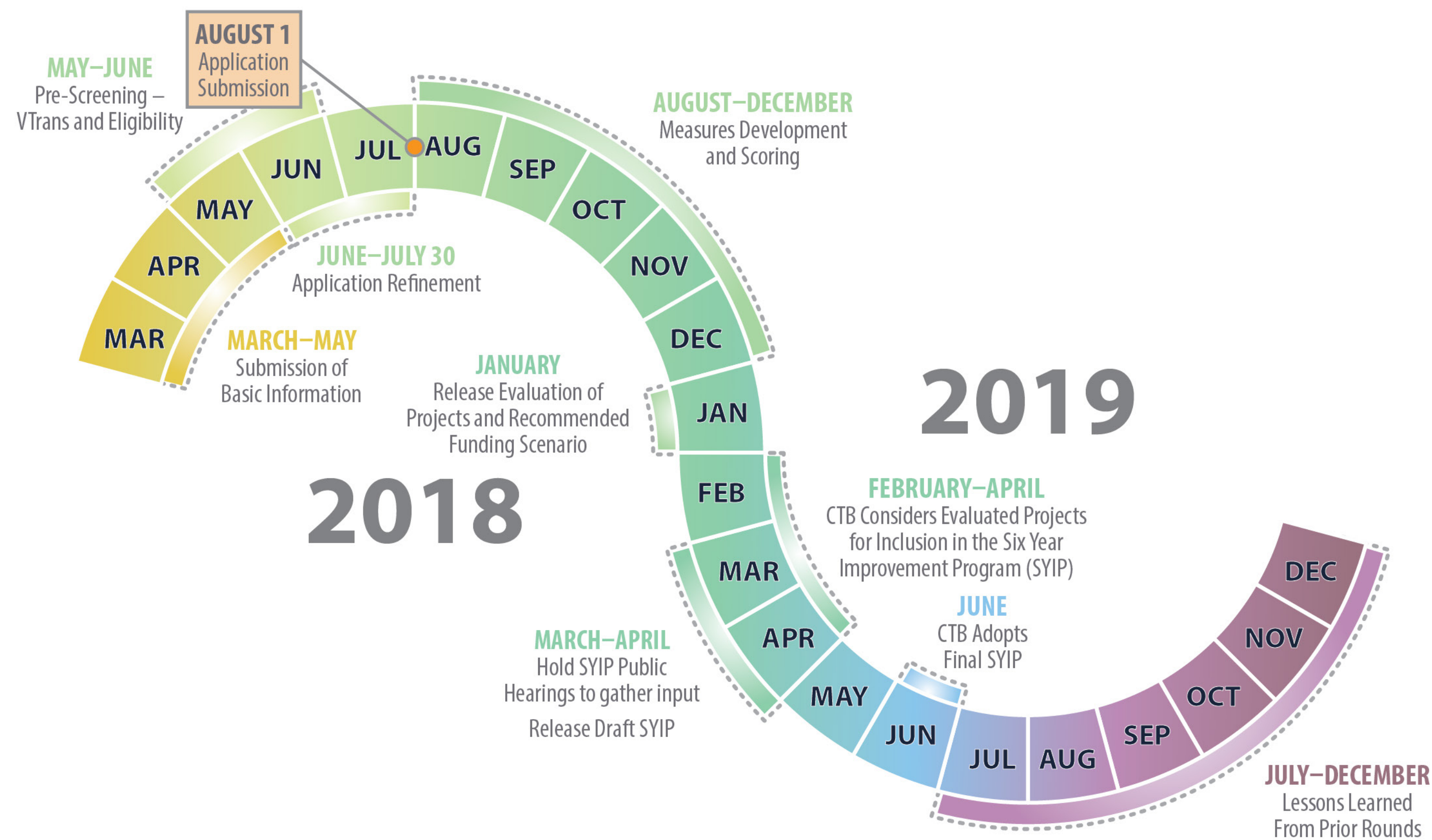
*Funding the Right  
Transportation Projects  
in Virginia*



The CTB is seeking input on proposed policy and evaluation changes for the next round of SMART SCALE. These proposed changes are a result of discussions and workshops held after the second round of application scoring and funding in 2017. A summary of some of the proposed changes is provided here; more details can be found at [VASmartScale.org](http://VASmartScale.org).

## Timeline

Each year that funding is available, SMART SCALE is planned to operate according to the biennial cycle illustrated below.



- Winter/Spring** - Early coordination with DRPT and VDOT prior to application submissions.
- March 1st** - Call for applications and notification of estimated amount of funding available.
- March - May** - Applicants create pre-application with sufficient basic project information for screening and eligibility review.
- June 1st** - Deadline to complete pre-application. No new applications will be allowed after June 1st.
- May - June** - Project pre-screening for VTrans needs and SMART SCALE funding eligibility.
- June - July 30th** - Application refinement.
- August 1st** - Final applications due. All applications made public after submission deadline.
- August - December** - Submitted projects are screened, evaluated, and scored.
- January CTB Meeting** - Results of SMART SCALE screening and evaluations are made public along with the staff recommended funding scenario.
- February - June** - SMART SCALE funding projects will follow existing public comment period and Six-Year Improvement Program approval process.

## Proposed Changes to SMART SCALE Policies and Requirements

- Application Limits**: Limit number of applications allowed per applicant. Use a two-tiered population-based approach to set application limits (4 for smaller applicants, 8 for larger applicants).
- Project Eligibility**: Projects or project elements for repair or replacement of existing assets not eligible for SMART SCALE funding.
- Full Funding Policy**: Benefits associated with fully funded or committed project element(s) excluded from consideration.
- Project Readiness**:
  - New guidance on required level of planning and supporting documentation for major roadway projects.
  - Applicants must coordinate with VDOT/DRPT to assess the level of environmental documentation required.
- Project Support**: Demonstrate that a project has support of key stakeholders and the public at the time of SMART SCALE application.
- Relationship of Major Project Elements**: Project elements must be associated (contiguous or same improvement type).
- Changes in Project Scope and Cost**: New guidance on rescoring.

## Proposed Changes to SMART SCALE Evaluation Measures

- Safety**: Remove DUI crashes and use blended rate for fatal and severe injury crashes.
- Congestion Mitigation**: Adjust person throughput calculation to better reflect the size of project improvements.
- Accessibility**: Eliminate the 45 and 60-minute cap for auto and transit job access, respectively.
- Environmental Quality Measures**: No Changes proposed.
- Economic Development**:
  - Zoned properties must get primary access from project.
  - Project must be specifically referenced in local comprehensive plan or regional economic development strategy.
  - Projects in economically distressed areas receive additional points.
  - Site development buffer reduced to a maximum of 3 miles.
  - Adjust points based on site plan status - conceptual vs. detailed, as well as approval status.
  - Freight tonnage-based measure for intermodal access scaled by the length of the improvement.
- Land Use Coordination**: New measures added to evaluate amount of population and employment located in areas with high -non work accessibility.

## How to Participate

**Public input is a vital element** of the planning and prioritization process. There are several ways you can provide feedback on proposed SMART SCALE changes:

- Attend a Fall Transportation Meeting. Find the one nearest you at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/>
- Mail or email your comments about highway projects by October 20, 2017 to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov).
- Mail or email your comments about rail, public transportation, and transportation demand management by October 20, 2017 to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [DRPTRP@drpt.Virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTRP@drpt.Virginia.gov).
- Provide input online at [www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/comment.asp](http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/comment.asp).