

2017 Fall Transportation Meetings

What is SMART SCALE?

Transportation needs will almost always be greater than the funds available to address them. SMART SCALE is about funding the right transportation projects for Virginia and ensuring the best use of limited tax dollars.

SMART SCALE is the method of scoring transportation projects that are ultimately considered for funding in the Virginia's six-year improvement program (SYIP). Projects are scored based on an **objective, outcome-based process** that is transparent to the public and allows decision-makers to be held accountable to taxpayers; project evaluation within SMART SCALE is based on a set of quantitative, benefit-focused measures in six factor areas, weighted uniquely to reflect the priorities of each region. After projects are scored and prioritized, Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has the best information possible to select the right projects for funding.

SMART SCALE was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2014 (§33.2-214.1) acknowledging that new transportation revenue in Virginia, established through action by the prior administration, needed to be tied to a **transparent decision making approach**. The Secretary's Office, in partnership with the Office of intermodal Planning and Investment (OPI), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) worked with Virginia's 15 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and 23 Planning District Commissions (PDCs) as well as local partners to develop and test the process.

More information on the overall process, project details and scoring is available at VASmartScale.org.

SMART SCALE By the Numbers

The first round of SMART SCALE began in August 2015. Since then, over 750 applications have been received over two rounds of project selections. Of those, 309 projects were funded, for a total of \$2.45 billion.

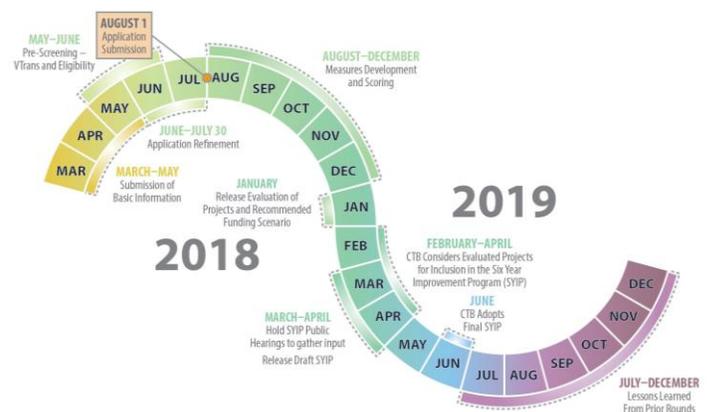


SMART SCALE does not cover all types of funding within the SYIP. There are many other sources of funding, including maintenance and rehabilitation, safety, operations, and other Federal and Commonwealth funding categories.

SMART SCALE Process Schedule

SMART SCALE is planned according to a biennial cycle. For the third SMART SCALE cycle, beginning in 2018, applicants will have five months to complete their SMART SCALE applications. Eligible entities will be able to submit project applications beginning in March 2018, and final project applications will be due in August 2018 – but project sponsors are encouraged to coordinate well before August with VDOT and DRPT staff.

SMART SCALE Biennial Cycle





Virginia's Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), VDOT and DRPT will screen, review, validate, and evaluate the projects over a five month period, from August through December 2018. By mid-January 2019, the list of projects and scores will be released to the public and the CTB, allowing the CTB to consider the project lists for inclusion in the SYIP. In Spring 2019, the CTB will release the draft SYIP and hold public meetings to gather input. In June 2019, the revised final SYIP will be released and considered for adoption by the CTB.

Continuing to Improve SMART SCALE

At this year's Fall Transportation Meetings, the CTB is seeking input on proposed policy and scoring changes for the next round of SMART SCALE, which will begin on March 1st 2018. These proposed changes are a result of continuous process improvement discussions and workshops held following the first two rounds of SMART SCALE. A summary list of some of these proposed changes is provided below; more details can be found at VASmartScale.org.

Proposed Policy and Guidance Improvements

Application Limits – Limit the number of SMART SCALE applications allowed per applicant based on two population tiers.

Project Readiness – Add guidance on the required level of project planning and documentation. Applicants must demonstrate that a project has public support, such as a resolution of support from a governing body, at the time of its application submittal to SMART SCALE.

Project Eligibility – Add guidance on project eligibility when a portion of the project includes maintenance or State of Good Repair elements.

Relationship of Major Project Elements – Add guidance that project elements must be related either by location or function.

Proposed Scoring Changes

Congestion – Scale person throughput measure based on corridor length.

Safety – Remove crashes resulting from DUIs from safety-

related scoring. Use blended rate for fatalities and severe injuries.

Economic Development – Refine calculation of Project Support for Economic Development:

- Zoned properties must get primary access from project;
- Site must be specifically referenced in local and regional planning documents to receive Economic Development points;
- Reduce project impact buffer to three miles;
- Distinguish between conceptual and detailed site plans; and
- Additional credit within economically distressed areas.

Land Use – Provide more specific definitions of “mixed-use development; provide new methodology for measuring access to key non-work destinations such as food, healthcare, and education.

Access to Jobs – Eliminate the 45 and 60-minute cap for auto and transit job access, respectively.

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/>
- Provide comments to staff members at a Fall Transportation Meeting.
- Complete a comment sheet and drop it in the designated box.
- Mail or email your comments by **October 20, 2017** (refer to email addresses below.)
- Provide input online at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/>

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