

# 2018 Fall Transportation Meetings

## COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT  
OF RAIL AND PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION



## A MESSAGE FROM SHANNON VALENTINE



I want to welcome you to the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB's) fall transportation meetings.

The CTB is a 17-member board appointed by the Governor. Our Board is responsible for Virginia's transportation system and oversees the policies, programs, and performance of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP). The CTB's core areas of focus are planning, allocating funds, and providing oversight to address transportation needs and challenges.

Innovative approaches are strengthening interconnectivity between regions of the Commonwealth, and advances in transportation technology are increasing Virginia's access to world markets. We are committed to partnering with residents, communities, and businesses to better connect all Virginians to jobs, education, health care, business opportunities, and arts and culture.

In January 2019, the CTB will announce an initial draft of infrastructure projects selected for funding based on their score using the SMART SCALE prioritization process, with the final selection being announced in June. This is an objective, data-driven process that rates transportation projects based on safety, congestion mitigation, accessibility, environmental quality, economic development, and land use. SMART SCALE applications for round three were submitted from March through July of this year.

I look forward to working with you to thoughtfully and collaboratively solve core transportation issues in ways that ensure a safe, efficient, multimodal transportation network that is the platform for Virginia's economy.

### Shannon Valentine

*Secretary of Transportation*  
Commonwealth of Virginia



## Virginia's Transportation Financial Outlook

The Commonwealth Transportation Fund receives revenues from dedicated state and federal sources. The major state revenues are based on Virginia's official revenue forecast developed by the Department of Taxation. The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation estimate the federal revenues from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Revenues from the fund and other dedicated money sources finance the Six-Year Financial Plan adopted by the CTB. The plan totals \$36.9 billion for FY 2019-2024.

The first priority for funding is maintaining existing infrastructure. This comes primarily from the financial plan's Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund.

Some of the other funding sources in the plan go specifically to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission for transportation improvements in those regions. Funding also goes to rail and public transportation, administration and other programs. Dedicated revenue is made available for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Capital Fund beginning in Fiscal Year 2019.

House Bill 1887 modifies how the Commonwealth distributes transportation revenue from the financial plan's construction funding sources to maintain a State of Good Repair and address capital improvement needs.

The CTB prioritizes funding for State of Good Repair work to rehabilitate aging infrastructure based on bridge and paving needs.

The SMART SCALE prioritization system determines how funds will be programmed to capital improvement projects through the High Priority Project Program and the Construction District Grant Program.

**After maintenance and other programs and needs are financed, remaining construction funding is distributed according to a new funding formula:**

- State of Good Repair of structures and pavement – 45 percent
- High-Priority Projects Program for key statewide needs – 27.5 percent
- District Grant Programs – 27.5 percent

Together, the State of Good Repair and SMART SCALE improve the Commonwealth's ability to fund the right projects generating the greatest benefit.



## Commonwealth Transportation Board

**Shannon Valentine**

*Secretary of Transportation and Chairperson*

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*At-Large Rural*

**Stephen C. Brich**

*VDOT Commissioner*

**Jennifer Mitchell**

*Director, DRPT*



## **What is the Six-Year Improvement Program?**

As required by law, the CTB allocates public funds to transportation projects over six-fiscal years, comprising the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). The CTB updates the SYIP annually. Projects include improvements to the interstate, primary, secondary, and urban highway systems, public transit, ports and airports, and other programs. Throughout the SYIP development process, there are various points of coordination with regional, metropolitan, and local groups, as well as opportunities for public participation. The Fall Transportation Meetings are one such example.

## **How are projects and programs added to the Six-Year Improvement Program?**

VTrans, the statewide, long-range transportation plan, guides the state's investment decisions for transportation improvements that yield the greatest benefits for the Commonwealth.

Project planning begins by examining trends and identifying needs, and then prioritizing the needs and developing recommendations to address the prioritized needs. These recommendations are reviewed and included in the state's long-range plan.

Candidate projects can be submitted for consideration through VDOT, DRPT, or regional planning bodies. Individual projects are selected for funding and included in the SYIP.

## **How are projects funded?**

SMART SCALE is an objective, data-driven prioritization process that scores transportation projects based on the following factors: safety, congestion mitigation, accessibility, environmental quality, economic development, and land use.

Beginning in 2014, the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), working with localities across the state, led the effort to develop the scoring process, with support from VDOT and DRPT. Two rounds of SMART SCALE prioritization have been successfully completed. Between 2015 and 2017, 757 applications were received, 691 projects met the requirements to be considered for scoring, and 310 projects were funded for a total of \$2.45 billion.

Beginning in 2017, the SMART SCALE process transitioned to a biennial schedule, with applications accepted from March to July of even-numbered years and final project selections made in June of the following year. SMART SCALE requires all candidate projects to meet a need identified in VTrans and be scored according to the key factors listed above.

The SMART SCALE process provides stability to the SYIP because, once projects are programmed, they will be fully funded through construction. Visit the SMART SCALE Dashboard at <http://dashboard.vasmartscale.org> for the latest on project status. Visit [smartscale.org](http://smartscale.org) for more information on the SMART SCALE process.



**By law, each construction district receives a percentage of funding under SMART SCALE's District Grant Program for construction projects based on a multitude of factors, including population and vehicle miles traveled.**

<b>District</b>	<b>Share of SMART SCALE funding under District Grant Program</b>
Bristol	6.8%
Culpeper	6.3%
Fredericksburg	6.9%
Hampton Roads	20.0%
Lynchburg	7.1%
Northern Virginia	20.9%
Richmond	14.7%
Salem	9.6%
Staunton	7.8%

*Percentages used in second round of SMART SCALE funding*

Candidate project applications can be submitted for funding through the SMART Portal for SMART SCALE, Revenue Sharing, Transportation Alternatives, Highway Safety, and State of Good Repair. Individual projects are selected for funding and included in the SYIP in June of each year.

In even-numbered fiscal year updates, the Board selects projects for funding through the High-Priority Projects Program and the Construction District Grant Program. In odd-numbered fiscal year updates, the Board selects projects for funding through the Revenue Sharing Program and Transportation Alternatives Program. Several programs are updated annually, including the State of Good Repair Program, Highway Safety Improvement Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, and Regional Surface Transportation Projects Program.

**DRPT administers federal and state funding for public transportation services and programs throughout the Commonwealth. DRPT works with local, regional, state, and federal governments, as well as private entities, to provide funding for projects and programs through the SYIP by:**

- Providing leadership, advocacy, technical assistance, and funding support;
- Conducting statewide rail and public transportation studies;
- Assessing feasibility and environmental impacts of new and expanded services; and
- Planning and programming new services and capital improvement projects.

**Projects advance primarily through partnerships between DRPT, local and regional governments, and private entities. The agency funds a portion of project costs, with a share of expenses borne by grant recipients. The SYIP includes grants for:**

- Operating and capital costs related to public transportation;
- Transportation demand management and commuter services; and
- Operating and capital costs to provide statewide passenger rail service as well as freight rail capital improvements.

**DRPT funds numerous passenger and freight rail projects annually through its four grant programs:**

- Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital Fund
- Rail Enhancement Fund
- Rail Preservation Fund
- Rail Industrial Access Fund

**DRPT administers funding assistance to public transportation and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) through the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund (CMTF). Beginning in FY 2019, these funds are distributed in accordance with the Code of Virginia and specific appropriations as follows:**

- \$1.5 million for paratransit capital projects and enhanced transportation services for the elderly and disabled
- \$1.2 million for state safety oversight

**The remaining funds are allocated, pursuant to the Code of Virginia, as follows:**

- 53.5 percent to Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) for capital purposes and operating assistance
- 31 percent for state operating assistance grants
- 12.5 percent for capital assistance grants
- 3 percent for special projects, including TDM, experimental transit, operation studies, and technical assistance

Beginning with the FY 2020-2025 SYIP, DRPT will administer significant new reforms to its statewide transit capital and operating allocation recommendations. Known as MERIT (Making Efficient and Responsible Investments in Transit), these reforms include a project-based prioritization process for transit capital as well as allocating operating assistance based entirely on service delivery factors. Additionally, larger transit agencies will be required to conduct comprehensive strategic planning as a condition for receiving state support.

The Commonwealth also administers additional dedicated annual funding to the WMATA and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) through two newly established funds, the WMATA Capital Fund and the Commuter Rail Operating and Capital Fund.

## **What is the role of DRPT in transportation planning for the Commonwealth?**

The mission of DRPT is to facilitate and improve the mobility of all Virginians and to promote the efficient transport of goods and people in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner. There are over 50 transit agencies and commuter service programs that provide a choice of alternatives to driving single-occupant vehicles. Carpools, vanpools, transit, passenger ferry, commuter rail, biking, and teleworking are smart ways for Virginians to get to work and travel around the state.

**DRPT participates in the fall transportation meetings to gather public comments to better understand the local priorities for rail and transit and to inform the public about the following:**

- Project evaluation and selection for the SMART SCALE program for public transportation and rail;
- DRPT's grant application process and how to apply for grants. DRPT's capital grant application period runs from December 1 – February 1 annually;
- Localities' processes for planning, identifying, and proposing projects; and
- How to advance rail and transit projects through localities.

## **What is the role of OIPI in transportation planning for the Commonwealth?**

OIPI is part of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation and was created in 2002 to encourage and facilitate the coordination of multimodal planning across the various transportation modes within the Commonwealth. Since then, OIPI has led multiple statewide planning efforts, produced detailed performance reports, and collaborated with various entities to promote a safe, strategic, and seamless transportation system. OIPI is responsible for three key areas: VTrans (development of the Commonwealth's statewide long-range transportation plan), performance management (establishment of performance targets and monitoring), and SMART SCALE (development and implementation of the Commonwealth's project prioritization process).

New to OIPI is the Office of Transportation Innovation, with a mission to drive and enable innovation in Virginia's transportation ecosystem to ensure advanced technology and ideas are leveraged to solve the most pressing transportation problems. Work in this arena is guided by a vision to foster a strong, shared culture of entrepreneurship, ideas, and innovative solutions that showcase Virginia as a world leader in transportation and a crucial gateway to business.

## **What is the role of VDOT in transportation planning for the Commonwealth?**

VDOT is responsible for building, maintaining, and operating the Commonwealth's roads, bridges, and tunnels, which make up the third largest state-maintained highway system in the country. The network consists of 128,000 lane miles of roadway, 21,000 structures and bridges, six tunnels, and three ferry routes.

VDOT's mission is to plan, deliver, operate, and maintain a transportation system that is safe, enables easy movement of people and goods, enhances the economy, and improves quality of life. In partnership with localities and regional planning organizations, VDOT is committed to executing programs safely, ahead of schedule and under budget, maximizing use of resources, creating system efficiency, and improving infrastructure condition. Innovation, safety, and transparency are cornerstones of VDOT's daily business, which is carried out with a \$5.4 billion annual budget and a team of 7,700 employees along with many private sector partners.

## **What is the CTB's role after projects are identified?**

The CTB members set priorities, evaluate the input received from these fall public meetings as well as the spring public hearings, and then approve the projects to be included in the SYIP update based on resource availability.

## Who makes transportation decisions?

### Commonwealth Transportation Board *(Governor appointed)*

- Determines priorities and funding for various VDOT and DRPT programs and needs, including:
  - SMART SCALE
  - State of Good Repair
  - Transit
  - Transportation demand management programs
  - Freight and passenger rail
  - Road and rail safety projects
  - Bicycle and pedestrian facilities
  - Other transportation-related enhancements
- Adopts the SYIP each year, which is the basis for Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

### County Board of Supervisors *(Locally elected)*

- Identifies priorities for improvements in the county
- Sets priorities and provides local funding for road, rail, public transportation, commuter services, and special transportation facilities
- Requests funding through various VDOT and DRPT programs

### City or Town Council *(Locally elected)*

- Identifies priorities for improvements within its corporate boundaries
- Sets priorities and provides local funding for road, rail, public transportation, commuter services, and special transportation facilities
- Requests funding through various VDOT and DRPT programs

### Regional Planning Bodies

- Identify priorities for improvements within their regional boundaries
- Choose priorities for certain federally-funded projects to be included in the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Set priorities and provide regional funding for road, rail, public transportation, commuter services, and special transportation facilities
- Request funding through various VDOT and DRPT programs

### General Assembly

- Provides legislative directives and appropriates funding



## How to Participate

**Input from the public is a vital element of the planning and prioritization process. Citizens are encouraged to look at the displays and ask questions of the staff members, then do one of the following:**

- Complete a comment sheet and drop it in the designated box
- Provide comments to staff members
- Mail or email comments by October 20, 2017 (refer to corresponding addresses below)

In addition to the nine Fall Transportation Meetings, you can view the same displays and boards as the Fall Transportation Meetings and can be accessed online by visiting <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/>.

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### On the Web:

<http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/>