



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Agenda item # 7

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

March 21, 2018

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Whitworth Seconded By: Ms. Hynes

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: High Volume Unpaved Road Program Policy Modification

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2014, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (the Board) established a policy and selection criteria for providing supplemental funding for High Volume Unpaved Roads, defined as unpaved roads carrying more than 500 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that there is a reduced number of high volume unpaved roads and the demand for the program has diminished since the program's inception; and

WHEREAS, the existing policy does not allow for flexibility to modify the annual allocations to the program; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need to adjust the existing policy so that annual allocations to the program may be adjusted commensurate to program needs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board adopts the following modified policy and criteria governing the selection of high volume (more than 500 vehicles per day) unpaved road projects for funding pursuant to §33.2-358(C):

1. The Board will set aside up to 10% of the CTB formula set-aside for paving unpaved roads carrying more than 50 vehicles per day [which equates to 0.5% of the total CTB formula set-aside pursuant to §33.2-358(C)] to fund projects on unpaved roads that carry more than 500 vehicles per day.
2. VDOT will solicit applications from counties on an annual basis to provide supplemental funding for providing a hard-surface on such unpaved roads.

3. The maximum request permitted under the program will be \$500,000 per locality, per fiscal year.
4. Projects will be prioritized for funding based on a technical score that considers traffic volume, project readiness, local funding, safety, and access to community facilities.
5. Once projects have been identified and prioritized in accordance with the foregoing process, the project list will be presented to the full Board for its consideration and approval.
6. The Commissioner of Highways is directed to establish administrative procedures to ensure adherence to and compliance with the provisions of this policy and legislative directive.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, any excess balance in the High Volume Unpaved Roads Program may be released so that the allocations may be redistributed to Counties with unpaved roads carrying more than 50 vehicles per day, in accordance with §33.2-358 and that the maximum request permitted under the program be increased to \$500,000 per locality, per year.

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CTB Decision Brief

High Volume Unpaved Road Program Policy

Issue: VDOT is proposing and seeks the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) revision of the June 14, 2014 CTB High Volume unpaved Road Program Policy, which established an application based process for the allocation of CTB formula unpaved road funding to support paving of high volume unpaved roads.

Facts: Legislation passed during the 2014 General Assembly Session (Chapters 87 and 741 of the 2014 Acts of Assembly), changed the threshold for CTB formula unpaved road funding, set out in §33.2-358 (C), from 200 vehicles per day to 50 vehicles per day. However, the CTB recognized that there were still high volume unpaved roads that likely had higher construction costs. To address this issue, the CTB established, in June 2014, a policy to authorize VDOT to solicit applications from counties with unpaved roads carrying more than 500 vehicles per day so that supplemental funding would be provided to hard-surface these roads. The policy requires that ten (10) percent of the formula unpaved road funding be set aside to fund the High Volume Unpaved Road program. When this policy was established, there were 28 Counties with eligible road segments totaling 44 centerline miles. Today there are ten (10) counties with eligible road segments, totaling 14.65 miles.

Since the inception of the program, the demand for the funding has diminished significantly. In 2017, 1.63M was available for allocations and three (3) Counties requested a total of \$705,000 and, in 2018, \$1.77M was available for allocation and four (4) Counties requested a total of \$1,198,000. The current policy does not provide flexibility to reduce program allocations as demand decreases and, as a result of the limited requests, the program now has a balance of approximately \$1.6M with an additional \$2M programmed for fiscal year 2019 and \$2.1M program for 2020. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the program expires after the 2020 allocations.

Recommendations: VDOT recommends that the CTB modify the current CTB policy, established in June 2014, to allow for "up to" 10% of the CTB unpaved roads formula funds to be set-aside for the High Volume Unpaved Road Program. This change will allow allocations to the program commensurate to program demands. VDOT also recommends that the CTB allow any excess balance in the High Volume Unpaved Roads program be released. Funds not allocated to or released from the High Volume Unpaved Roads program will be re-distributed to Counties with unpaved roads carrying more than 50 vehicles per day and allow more unpaved roads to receive funding.

Action Required by CTB: Approval by majority vote of the CTB is needed to implement the modifications of the existing "High Volume Unpaved Road Program Policy." The CTB will be presented with a resolution for a formal vote.

Result, if Approved: VDOT will adjust allocations made to the program commensurate with program needs. Released funds will be re-distributed to Counties with unpaved roads carrying more than 50 vehicles per day.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer

Public Comments/Reactions: None