



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Agenda item #10

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

June 17, 2020

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Whitworth, Seconded By: Dr. Smoot
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: SMART SCALE Project Budget Increase for Interstate 81 at Exit 300 Southbound Acceleration Lane Extension UPC 111054 in Warren County

WHEREAS, section 33.2-214.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, provides that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (Board) shall develop a statewide prioritization process for certain projects funded by the Board, including those projects allocated funds pursuant to sections 33.2-358, 33.2-370 and 33.2-371 of the *Code of Virginia*, and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2020, the Board adopted a revised SMART SCALE Prioritization Process to govern screening, scoring and selecting projects for funding pursuant to section 33.2-214.1; and

WHEREAS, Item 12 of the Board's SMART SCALE Prioritization Process provides that a project that has been selected for funding must be re-scored and the funding decision re-evaluated if there are significant changes to either the scope or cost of the project, such that the anticipated benefits relative to funding requested would have substantially changed; and

WHEREAS, Item 12.a. of the Board’s SMART SCALE Prioritization Process further provides that if an estimate increases prior to project advertisement or contract award that exceeds the following thresholds, and the applicant is not covering the increased cost with other funds, Board action is required to approve the budget increase:

- i. Total Cost Estimate <\$5 million: 20% increase in funding requested
- ii. Total Cost Estimate \$5 million to \$10 million: \$1 million or greater increase in funding requested
- iii. Total Cost Estimate > \$10 million: 10% increase in funding requested; \$5 million maximum increase in funding requested; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2016, the Board adopted the Six-Year Improvement Program Development Policy that states that any project added to the SYIP with funding from the State of Good Repair Program, High Priority Projects Program, or Construction District Grants Program shall be fully funded; and

WHEREAS, section 33.2-214 of the *Code of Virginia*, provides that “the Board shall only include a project or program wholly or partially funded with funds from the State of Good Repair Program pursuant to § 33.2-369, the High Priority Projects Program pursuant to § 33.2-370, or the Highway Construction District Grant Programs pursuant to § 33.2-371 in the Six-Year Improvement Program if the allocation of funds from those programs and other funding committed to such project or program within the six-year horizon of the Six-Year Improvement Program is sufficient to complete the project or program”; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 81 at Exit 300 Southbound Acceleration Lane Extension UPC 111054 Project (the Project) was submitted for consideration and selected for \$3.4 million in funding through the High Priority Projects Program in the second round of the prioritization process pursuant to section 33.2-214.1; and

WHEREAS, the Project was ranked 9 out of 19 projects selected in Round 2 in the Staunton District with a score of 11.1; and

WHEREAS, the Project is in the preliminary engineering phase, and issues have been identified with the bridge component of the Project that require that the existing bridge be replaced in order to accommodate the widening; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recommends a full replacement of the bridge identified in the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project is in the preliminary engineering phase and the estimated cost of the bridge replacement exceeds the approved budget of \$3.4 million by approximately \$5.1 million; and

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WHEREAS, VDOT recommends Board approval of a SMART SCALE budget increase in the amount of up to \$5.1 million using surplus High Priority Project funds (UPC -21770).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, that the SMART SCALE budget increase of up to \$5.1 million for the Project, using surplus High Priority Project funds (UPC -21770), is approved.

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CTB Decision Brief
SMART SCALE Project Budget Increase for Interstate 81 at Exit 300 Southbound
Acceleration Lane Extension UPC 111054 in Warren County

Issue: Interstate 81 at Exit 300 Southbound Acceleration Lane Extension UPC 111054 (the Project) was selected for funding under the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (Board) SMART SCALE Prioritization Policy/Process and the current estimated cost for completion of the Project exceeds the approved budget by approximately \$5.1 million. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recommends Board approval of a SMART SCALE budget increase in the amount of up to \$5.1 million using surplus High Priority Project funds from UPC -21770. Board approval of the budget increase is required.

Facts: Item 12 of the Board's SMART SCALE Prioritization Policy/Process, adopted February 19, 2020, provides that a project that has been selected for funding must be re-scored and the funding decision reevaluated if there are significant changes to either the scope or cost of the project, such that the anticipated benefits relative to funding requested would have substantially changed.

Item 12.a. of the Board's SMART SCALE Prioritization Process states that if an estimate increases prior to project advertisement or contract award that exceeds the following thresholds, and the applicant is not covering the increased cost with other funds, Board action is required to approve the budget increase:

- i. Total Cost Estimate <\$5 million: 20% increase in funding requested
- ii. Total Cost Estimate \$5 million to \$10 million: \$1 million or greater increase in funding requested
- iii. Total Cost Estimate > \$10 million: 10% increase in funding requested; \$5 million maximum increase in funding requested

The Interstate 81 at Exit 300 Southbound Acceleration Lane Extension UPC 111054 (Project) was submitted for consideration and selected for \$3.4 million in funding through the High Priority Projects Program. The Project was ranked 9 out of 19 projects selected for funding in Round 2 in the Staunton District with a score of 11.1.

The Project is currently in the preliminary engineering phase. Since selection, issues have been identified related to the bridge widening component of the project. VDOT Structure and Bridge guidance recommends a bridge replacement when one of two conditions prevails:

- 1) The presence of reactive aggregate that would lead to alkali-silica reaction (ASR), a condition that causes rapid expansion of concrete in the presence of moisture and compromises any bridge component where it is present
- 2) When rehabilitation of a component or the entire structure exceeds 65% of the replacement cost, replacement of the affected component or the entire bridge is warranted

Regarding the identified bridge component of the Project, both conditions prevail. VDOT has determined that replacement of the bridge is the most appropriate course of action to accommodate the widening. The cost of including the bridge replacement in the overall project exceeds the approved budget by approximately \$5.1 million.

VDOT recommends Board approval of a SMART SCALE budget increase to support the revised Project in the amount of up to \$5.1 million using surplus High Priority Projects funds (UPC - 21770).

Recommendation: Approval of a SMART SCALE budget increase in the amount of up to \$5.1 million using surplus High Priority Projects funds (UPC -21770).

Action Required by CTB: The CTB will be presented with a resolution for a formal vote to approve the SMART SCALE budget increase.

Result, if Approved: If approved, funds will be transferred so that the project can advance.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: None