



COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA
Office of the
SECRETARY *of* TRANSPORTATION

SMART SCALE Process Review

February 21, 2023



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Background

- **SMART SCALE is the CTB's project prioritization tool developed to meet the requirements of Chapter 726 of the 2014 Virginia Acts of Assembly.**
 - The SMART SCALE process has been used since 2016 (5 Rounds) to inform the CTB on project funding decisions.
- **Secretary Miller directed OIPI to conduct a full review of the SMART SCALE Process, in collaboration with VDOT and DRPT. Focused on:**
 - Obtaining input from CTB members, stakeholders, legislators, and other concerned parties
 - Review of the related Code requirements and the CTB's SMART SCALE Policy
 - Process analysis of the outcomes of the past funding rounds
- **The objective of the process review is to ensure it is meeting the intended goal – to identify the projects that provide the greatest benefit for the investment.**

Key Components of SMART SCALE Process Review



Statistical Analysis

Analysis of the performance and outcomes of the past funding rounds

Identification of potential biases and related causes



Survey Assessments

Review of process performance and perceptions

Administration, communications, and customer service



Procedural Review

Identify procedural improvements including application updates, communications, and process improvements



Code and Policy

Recommend procedural changes

Recommend CTB Policy changes

Recommended Code changes

Statistical Analysis (ATCS Lead)

Weighting of the Factor Areas and Typologies

- Project Type
- Project Size
- Geography

Potential Biases

- Urban vs Rural
- Project Size

Evaluation Measures

- Factor Analysis
- Current Conditions vs Future Conditions

Survey Assessments


- **Process Review Survey - ATCS Lead**

- <https://publicinput.com/smartscalesurvey>
- Survey sent to 1,900 portal users and General Assembly, with feedback to be leveraged as key component of this Process Review
- Topics include overall impressions of SMART SCALE and identifying elements of SMART SCALE that should remain the same or be improved
- Survey open until March 10th

- **Round Procedural Survey - OIPI Lead**

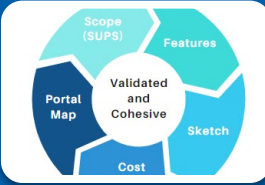
- Focused on Round 5 experience by Applicants
- Will be released by the end of February

Procedural Review (OIP Lead)




SMART Portal

- Pre-Scoping, Pre-Application, Application



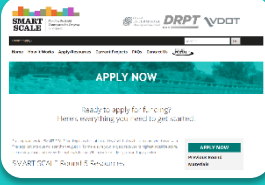
Screening

- VTrans, Readiness, Eligibility



Scoring

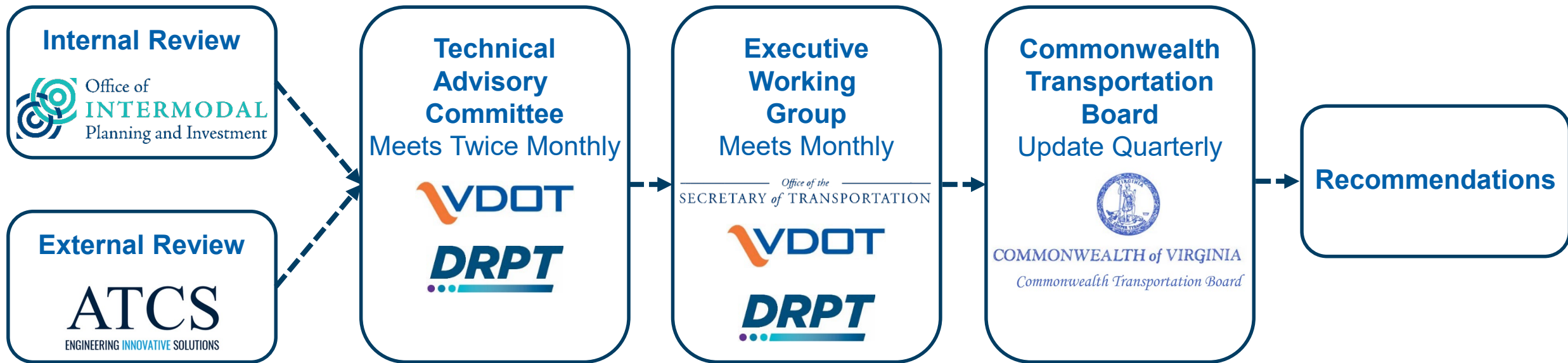
- Process, Methodology



Communications

- Website, References, Training, Videos

Review Organization



Composition of Review Teams

External Review

- **Comprised of ATCS Staff**
- **Purpose**
 - Combine independent Statistical Analysis and Process Review Survey
 - Provide recommendations for improvements to TAC and EWG

Internal Review

- **Comprised of OIPI, VDOT, and DRPT Staff**
- **Purpose**
 - Complete Round Procedural Review
 - Summarize statewide Lessons Learned Workshops, observations from the scoring teams, and the Applicant Survey, Ad Hoc Feedback (i.e., Emails and Letters)
 - Provide recommendations for improvements to TAC and EWG

Technical Advisory Committee

- **Composition**

- Key VDOT Central Office SMART SCALE staff
- Key VDOT District Offices SMART SCALE staff
- DRPT SMART SCALE staff

- **Purpose**

- Synthesize the findings of the External and Internal reviews
- Present findings and selected recommendations to the Executive Working Group

Executive Working Group

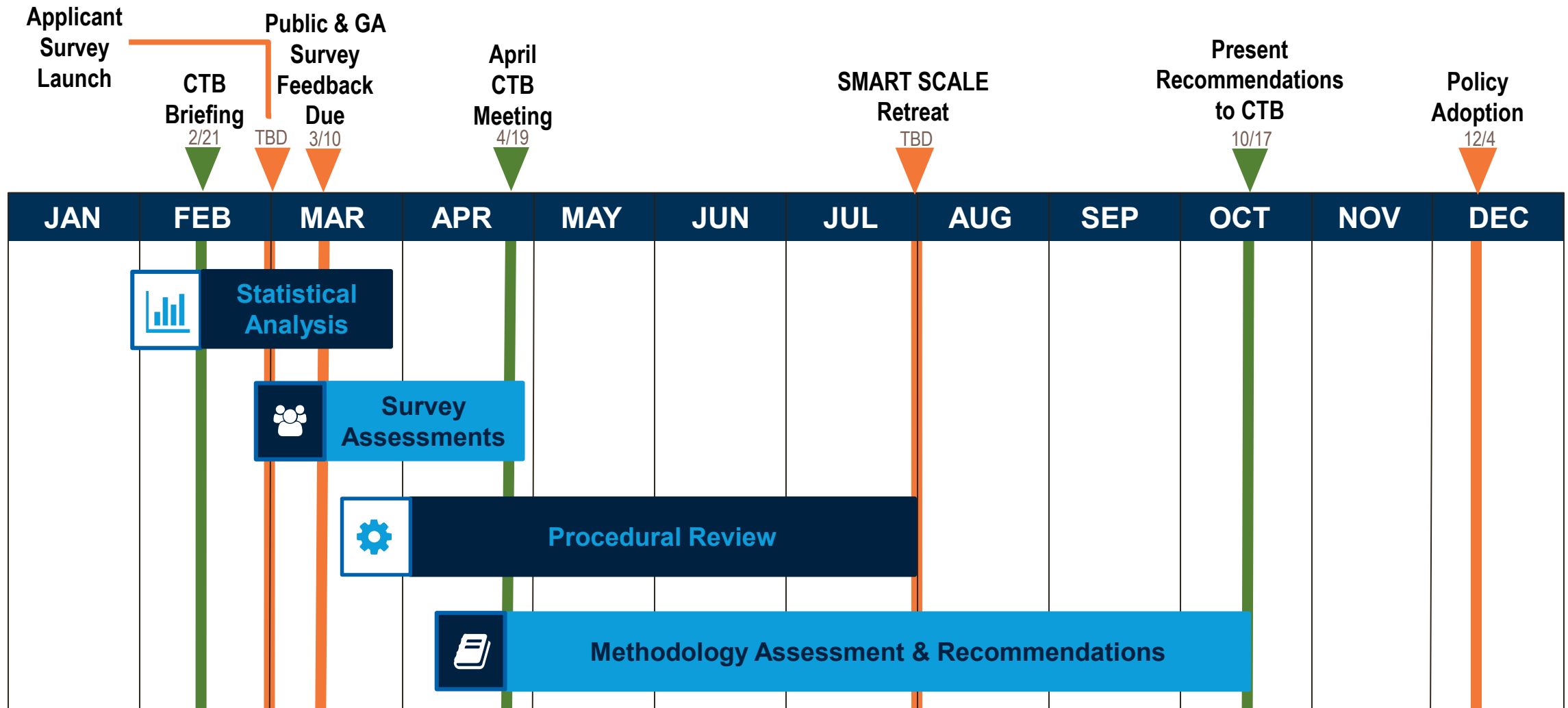
- **Composition**

- Secretary's Office
- OIPI Director and key staff
- VDOT Commissioner and key staff
- DPRT Director and key staff

- **Purpose**

- Consider the findings and recommendations presented by the TAC
- Recommend procedural, policy and code changes to the Secretary and CTB

Team Milestones / Timeline



CTB Meeting Outlook

- **February/March:** Summary of Process Review
- **April:** Overview of survey and historical data analysis. Summary of findings primarily focused on survey responses; no recommendations provided at this time
- **July/August:** Detailed overview of findings
- **October:** Final findings and recommendations presented
- **December:** Policy Adoption and other recommendations



COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA
Office of the
SECRETARY *of* TRANSPORTATION

Thank you.

Please contact Young Ho Chang with any questions or for additional information.

Young Ho Chang
yhchang@atcsplc.com
571-436-3754

