



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

**Transportation Partnership  
Opportunity Fund (TPOF)  
2023 Updated Guidelines and Criteria**

John Lawson – Deputy Secretary of Transportation  
May 23, 2023



# Authorization and History of the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF)

- **TPOF was created by Chapter 847 of the 2005 Acts of Assembly and amended by Chapter 684 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly**
  - **Purpose was to provide funds to address the transportation aspects of economic development opportunities, including, but not limited to, the creation of jobs and to promote private investment and economic development.**
- **The Act authorized monies to be awarded or directed from the fund by the Governor as grants (up to \$5 million), revolving loans (up to \$30 million), or other financing tools and equity contributions to an agency or political subdivision of the Commonwealth for qualifying projects**

# Authorization and History of the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF)

- Requires semi-annual reporting by the Governor and Grant specific reporting by the Secretary of Transportation to the House and Senate
- The guidelines and criteria were developed by VDOT on behalf of the Commonwealth Transportation Board in 2005 and updated in February 2016 and July 2018
- The TPOF Advisory Panel, chaired by a Deputy Secretary of Transportation, and consisting of VDOT's Chief Financial Officer, an Executive Officer of the applicable modal oversight agency (if necessary), a Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade, and a representative of the Department of Planning and Budget will evaluate those applications to ensure that the applicant(s) meets the transportation and economic development evaluation criteria

# 2023 Updates to the Guidelines and Criteria

- Updated to reflect the new purposes, uses and reporting requirements set out in Chapter 547 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly
- The existing applicant process for grants, loans and other special financing methods, funds remains unchanged
- The Governor may direct Funds to the Board for transportation projects determined to be necessary to support major economic development initiatives or to enhance the economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs
  - Recommended by the Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Commerce and Trade
  - No cap on directed funds but there are additional approvals and reporting requirements
- Property acquisition and new or improved infrastructure to support economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs has been added as a use of the fund

# 2023 Updated Guidelines and Criteria Major Changes – Funds directed to the Board

- **If funds are directed from the Fund by the Governor to the Board in excess of \$5 million the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report on it to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations within 30 days**
- **The report shall include:**
  - The name of the transportation project
  - The locality in which the transportation project is being developed
  - The amount of the grant or loan made or committed to the transportation project
  - The purpose for which it will be used
  - The number of jobs retained or created or projected to be retained or created by the transportation project
  - The expected rate of return on investment of the transportation project
  - The amount of a company's investment in the Commonwealth

# 2023 Updated Guidelines and Criteria Major Changes – Funds directed to the Board

- **If any direction of funds pursuant to this purpose in a cumulative amount in excess of \$35 million on any one project shall be submitted for review to the Major Employment and Investment (MEI) Project Approval Commission (Commission)**
  - The Commission will complete the review within 14 days
  - If the Commission recommends against such direction of funds, authorization by the General Assembly is required
  - The funds may be directed as planned if the Commission doesn't provide a recommendation concerning the Governor's planned use of the funds within 14 days

# Next Steps

---

- **June** – CTB approval of the updated Guidelines and Criteria and direction to VDOT staff to deliver the revised Guidelines and Criteria to the Governor

# Capitalization of TPOF

- **History of Previous Funding provided to TPOF - \$405 million**
  - \$23,600,000 and \$26,400,000 from the Toll Facility Revolving Account and from the Highway Construction Fund, respectively, pursuant to Chapter 951 of the Acts of Assembly of 2005;
  - \$305,000,000 pursuant to and directed by Chapter 847 of the Acts of Assembly of 2007; and,
  - \$50,000,000 made available July 1, 2011 from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund pursuant to Item 452 H. of Chapter 890 of the Acts of Assembly of 2011
  - House Bill 1887, effective July 1, 2015, provides the TPOF with one-third of all interest, dividends, and appreciation that may accrue to the Transportation Trust Fund and the Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund
- **Balance as of December 31, 2022 - \$3,940,324**
- **Most recent semi-annual report of the Fund has been included with this presentation.**





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

Thank you.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL  
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

