



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Commonwealth Transportation Board*

Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.  
Chairman

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*Agenda item # 12*

### **RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**December 9, 2015**

#### **MOTION**

**Made By: Mr. Whitworth, Seconded By: Mr. Rosen**

**Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously**

#### **Title: Approval of I-81 Final Report Required by Item 427 L 1 and 2 of the 2014 Appropriation Act**

**WHEREAS**, Item 427 L 1 and L2 of the 2014 Appropriation Act requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to direct the staff of the Bristol, Salem and Staunton districts of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to develop a list of potential improvements to address congestion and safety concerns along the Interstate 81 corridor as a part of the statewide prioritization process enacted by the 2014 General Assembly pursuant to § 33.1-23.5:5 (§ 33.2-214.1, effective October 1, 2014) of the *Code of Virginia*; and

**WHEREAS**, Item 427 L 1 and L2 also requires that, in the identification of potential candidate projects for evaluation, the CTB shall (i) solicit input from local elected officials, state legislators, and other affected stakeholders, and (ii) shall give priority to projects that minimize the impacts on adjacent communities, including historic battlefields, and to projects that can be implemented within the existing right-of-way or with minimal additional right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, Item 427 L 1 and L2 further requires that a final listing, developed pursuant to the provisions of House Bill 2 of the 2014 Acts of Assembly ("HB2"), be prepared, bearing the "prioritized candidate projects identified for potential inclusion in the Six Year Program adopted by the CTB in June 2016"; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 15, 2014, the CTB directed VDOT to take, on behalf of the CTB, those measures deemed necessary to present to the CTB, no later than its November, 2015 meeting and prior to submission to the General Assembly, the finalized list of "prioritized candidate projects identified for potential inclusion in the Six Year Program" to be adopted by the CTB in June 2016, that has been developed in accord with the conditions set forth in Item 427 L 1 and L2.; and

**WHEREAS**, VDOT has prepared a list of I-81 projects (Candidate Project List) as described and set forth in a report (Final Report) attached hereto as Attachment A, in response to the requirements of Item 427 L1 and L2 and pursuant to the CTB's October 2014 direction ; and

**WHEREAS**, VDOT, in developing the Candidate Project List and Final Report, solicited input from local elected officials, state legislators, and other affected stakeholders through a series of meetings held along the I-81 corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, Item 427 L was enacted before HB2 was implemented and based on the implementation timeline of HB2, the I-81 projects could not undergo HB2 prioritization by the January 1, 2016 deadline for the finalized list of "prioritized candidate projects identified for potential inclusion in the Six Year Program" to be adopted by the CTB in June 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, a list of projects set out in the Final Report was generated utilizing various factors described in the report and in the meantime, 14 applications, which address some of the projects or portions thereof on the project list developed pursuant to Item 427 L, were submitted and are currently undergoing prioritization pursuant to the HB2 process, the results of which are anticipated to be available later in 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the CTB did not meet in November 2015, rendering it necessary to present the Final Report and Candidate Project List to the CTB in the December meeting.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CTB hereby approves the Final Report, attached hereto as Attachment A, which includes the Candidate Project List bearing projects that address congestion and safety concerns along the Interstate 81 corridor developed by VDOT as described therein; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CTB hereby authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to make such modifications to the Final Report as he deems appropriate, albeit leaving the Candidate Project List set forth in the Final Report intact, and to take all actions necessary to present the report to the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2016; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that VDOT is directed to report back to the CTB the results of the HB2 prioritization process relating to the 14 applications that have been submitted for I-81 projects when the HB2 prioritization process is complete.

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