



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Shannon Valentine
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 786-2701
Fax: (804) 786-2940

Agenda Item #1

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

December 18, 2020

MOTION

Made By: Ms. DeTuncq, Seconded By: Dr. Smoot
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Submittal of a Project by the Commonwealth Transportation Board for SMART SCALE Evaluation

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) SMART SCALE Policy, the CTB may by majority vote, choose to submit up to two projects to be evaluated for funding in each biennial SMART SCALE application cycle; and

WHEREAS, expanding passenger rail across Virginia is a priority and the Transforming Rail in Virginia Initiative announced in December 2019 will double Virginia-sponsored Amtrak service along the I-95 Corridor, enhance service to Hampton Roads, and increase VRE service over the next decade; and,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is also committed to exploring the expansion of passenger rail to the New River Valley and adding a second train along the US-29/I-81 corridor; and,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is proposing a project to enhance passenger rail service across multiple districts as part of Round 4 of the SMART SCALE program; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed project, entitled Intercity Passenger Rail Expansion along the US 29 and I-81 Corridors, would add an additional round-trip train serving Burke Center, Manassas, Culpeper, Charlottesville, Lynchburg and Roanoke; and extend Amtrak service to Christiansburg; and,

Resolution of the Board
Submittal of a Project by the Commonwealth Transportation Board
for SMART SCALE Evaluation
December 18, 2020
Page Two

WHEREAS, the final project scope will include multiple components and improvements to the Norfolk Southern (NS) corridor parallel to the US-29 and I-81 corridors as needed to support the additional passenger train service; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board hereby submits the Intercity Passenger Rail Expansion along the US 29 and I-81 Corridors project, application 7198, for evaluation in Round 4 of the SMART SCALE program.

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CTB Decision Brief

Submittal of a Project by the Commonwealth Transportation Board for SMART SCALE Evaluation

December 18, 2020

Issue: The CTB is considering the submittal of a project for evaluation in the SMART SCALE process for the purpose of expanding passenger rail service in the US 29 and I-81 corridors, including a second round-trip train between Washington, DC and Roanoke; and expanding passenger rail service to the New River Valley. The project will serve multiple CTB districts, including the Culpeper, Lynchburg and Salem districts. DRPT and Norfolk Southern are in ongoing discussions regarding the final components of this project.

Facts: Submission of the Intercity Passenger Rail Expansion along the US 29 and I-81 Corridor by the CTB will allow the project to be considered for SMART SCALE funding.

- The final scope of the project will provide rail capacity improvements to support a second daily Amtrak round trip serving Alexandria, Burke Center, Manassas, Culpeper, Lynchburg and Roanoke; extend Amtrak service to Christiansburg; and reduce conflicts between passenger and freight rail services.
- Total project cost is subject to completion of successful negotiation with Norfolk-Southern. The total amount requested through the SMART SCALE process is \$50M. Other potential funding sources include Commonwealth Rail Funds, funds in the Governor's proposed budget, funds designated by the CTB for multimodal improvements in the I-81 corridor, and Federal sources.

Recommendation: Approval of the attached resolution.

Action Required by CTB: Approval of the attached resolution.

Options: Approve, Deny or Defer.