



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Agenda item # 12

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECEMBER 6, 2022

MOTION

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

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, expansion of capacity southbound on Interstate 81 (I-81) corridor between Exit 137 and Exit 128 was identified as a capital improvement need on the I-81 corridor, however it was not included in the original financially constrained list of recommended improvements in the adopted I-81 Corridor Improvement Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has identified and prioritized funding a project to expand capacity of the Interstate 81 corridor northbound between Exit 128 and Exit 137 in the Salem district, as part of the adopted I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the southbound widening of I-81 between Exit 128 and Exit 137 has been previously identified as one of the next projects to be added to the I-81 Improvement Program as funding becomes available; and,

WHEREAS, southbound expansion on I-81 between Exit 128 and Exit 137 is the final segment to complete widening of I-81 between Christiansburg and Salem/Roanoke; and,

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WHEREAS, improving southbound I-81 between Exit 128 and Exit 137 in conjunction with the fully-funded adjacent I-81 northbound segment will reduced overall cost for design and project management, reduce overall cost for construction, specifically median and drainage improvements and reduced overall construction duration which would reduce impacts to the public and freight movements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commonwealth Transportation Board hereby submits the Interstate 81 Corridor Expansion Between Exit 137 and Exit 128 project, for evaluation in Round 5 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 6, 2022

Issue: The CTB is considering the submittal of a project for evaluation in the SMART SCALE process for the purpose of expanding capacity southbound on Interstate 81 (I-81) corridor between Exit 137 and Exit 128, in the Salem district. The improvement was identified as a capital improvement need on the I-81 corridor, however it was not included in the financially constrained list of recommended projects in the adopted I-81 Corridor Improvement Program (CIP).

As part of the adopted I-81 CIP, funding has been prioritized to expand capacity in the northbound direction of I-81 between Exit 128 and 137. The proposed southbound expansion on I-81 between Exit 128 and Exit 137 is the final segment to complete widening between Blacksburg and Salem/Roanoke. By improving southbound in conjunction with the fully-funded adjacent northbound segment, impacts to the public and freight movements will be reduced, as well the cost for design, project management, and overall cost for construction.

Facts: Submission of the I-81 Capacity Expansion between Exit 137 and Exit 128 southbound project by the CTB will allow the project to be scored and considered for SMART SCALE funding.

Recommendation: Approval of the attached resolution.

Action Required by CTB: Approval of the attached resolution.

Options: Approve, Deny or Defer.

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