

VDOT ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION RECOMMENDATIONS CTB DIRECTION – JANUARY 15, 2020

| Angel Deem, Chief of Policy
July 19, 2022

Directives from the January 15, 2020 CTB Resolution

- 1. Review the applicable NEPA regulations and implementing guidance for establishing the Purpose and Need (P&N) of a project to assess its consistency with the CTB's relevant policies pertaining to P&N for SMART SCALE and VTRANS.**
- 2. Review and recommend to the CTB whether location decisions issued by the CTB should remain valid for a period of three years from the completion of NEPA unless full funding for construction is secured.**

Directive 1 – Review of P&N

- P&N in NEPA analyzes needs at a project specific level
- VTrans assesses comprehensive needs, SMART SCALE quantifies benefits → both inform priorities for funding
- P&N for a given NEPA study is not limited to the needs/objectives identified in SMART SCALE and VTrans guidance or principles

Recommendation: Future NEPA location studies that identify a congestion relief need will appropriately assess and incorporate VTrans needs and SMART SCALE factors to inform the project specific congestion need

Directive 2 – Review of CTB Location Decisions

- **Current FHWA regulations require revisiting NEPA if the project changes or has not advanced to a major federal approval in three years**
- **This can provide the public and decision makers an opportunity to further comment on the project before it advances**
- **CTB Location Decisions do not have a timeline**

Recommendation: VDOT shall annually brief CTB on all NEPA location decisions that are three years or older. Upon receiving this briefing, CTB may reaffirm, change or rescind the decision.

