



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Commonwealth Transportation Board

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*Agenda item # 10*

### RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**March 19, 2024**

#### MOTION

**Made By:** Ms. Green, **Seconded By:** Mr. Fowlkes

**Action:** Motion Carried, Unanimously

#### **Title: Location Decision Review for Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt**

**WHEREAS**, on September 21, 2022, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) adopted a policy to review location decisions three years after their respective approval date; and

**WHEREAS**, in adopting this policy, CTB set forth requirements for VDOT to present and recommend location decisions be affirmed, modified, or rescinded; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to CTB direction, VDOT reviewed location decisions made by the CTB; and

**WHEREAS**, the location decision for the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt project was identified as meeting the criteria for CTB review; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 15, 1996, CTB approved the proposed location of the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt project from Interstate 464/Interstate 64 to Virginia Route 44 (now identified as Interstate 264) in the Cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, State Project U000-131-F12, PE-100 and U0000-134-F23, PE-100;

**WHEREAS**, at its November 17, 2005, meeting, the CTB rescinded its resolution dated February 15, 1996 and approved the location of the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt project as presented at their October 19, 2005, workshop (2005 CTB Location Approval) and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt project has not advanced since the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) signed the Final Environmental Impact Statement on December 15, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the Final Environmental Impact Statement has not yet been posted in the Federal Register and FHWA has not issued a Record of Decision; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2005 CTB Location Approval for the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt project exceeds the three-year period established by CTB policy; and

**WHEREAS**, the project would need to be re-evaluated, funding identified, and the CTB would need to consider the updated analysis in order for the project to advance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the CTB hereby rescinds the resolution of this Board dated November 17, 2005, granting location approval for the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt project.

###

## Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Decision Brief

### **Title: Location Decision Review for Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt**

**Issue:** The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) seeks from the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) a decision to affirm, rescind, or modify the CTB's location decision for the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt Project from Interstate 464/Interstate 64 to Interstate 264 in the Cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

**Facts:** In 1989, VDOT completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing environmental consequences of the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt Project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). VDOT subsequently completed a supplemental Draft EIS in 1994 that supported the CTB's first location decision for the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt Project in February 1996. Following the CTB's 1996 location decision approval, in 1998, the City of Chesapeake withdrew its support for further developing the project, and FHWA suspended further participation in funding of project studies.

In 2003, following coordination between the Cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach and actions to identify the project in the region's long-range transportation plan and transportation improvement program, VDOT and FHWA initiated an EIS for the proposed Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt Project. The Draft EIS was approved in June 2005.

The purpose identified in the 2005 Draft EIS for the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt Project was to:

- Improve capacity to accommodate forecasted traffic volumes, including peak season tourism traffic;
- Provide an alternative east-west connection between Chesapeake and Virginia Beach;
- Enhance access to one of the area's largest employers, NAS Oceana (including Dam Neck Annex);
- Provide an alternate hurricane evacuation and emergency response route; and
- Provide a linkage between multi-nodal centers of employment, retail, commercial, and residential development as identified in the transportation plans of the two cities.

The Preferred Alternative presented in the Draft EIS was composed of 6 of the 11 segments (A, B, C, D, E, and F) analyzed. The CTB approved the 2005 Draft EIS location decision in November 2005 and rescinded the 1996 location decision. Following the CTB's 2005 location decision approval, VDOT completed a Final EIS in 2008, and FHWA rescinded its approval of the Final EIS in 2009 and terminated the environmental review process in 2010.

Decision Brief

Location Decision Review of the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt Project

March 19, 2024

Page 2 of 2

**Recommendations:** There is currently no funding to implement the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt project as approved by the CTB in 2005. Advancing the project at the approved location would require that US Army Corps of Engineers issue a permit, a re-evaluation pursuant to NEPA, and demonstration of fiscal constraint, which would include CTB briefings and the opportunity to issue a new location decision. VDOT staff recommends the 2005 location decision be rescinded.

**Action Required by CTB:** Approve a Resolution to take action rescinding the 2005 Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt project location decision.

**Potential Results:** If the CTB acts to rescind the location decision, VDOT will proceed with the steps necessary to document the rescission of the location decision, including removal of any public-facing information maintained by VDOT. Should a project in this area be advanced that requires a location decision, CTB will be briefed and a new location decision will be sought as appropriate. Should CTB affirm or modify the location decision, the location decision would be valid for another three years. Affirming or modifying the location decision would not impact the current funding scenario, nor advance the timeline for project advancement.

**Options:** Affirm, Modify, or Rescind

**Public Comments/ Reaction:** The CTB received a briefing on the rescission of this location decision during its February 20, 2024, Workshop Meeting. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed rescission as part of the CTB Action Meeting on March 19, 2024.