



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the
SECRETARY of TRANSPORTATION

SMART SCALE Update

Brooke Jackson, P.E. – SMART SCALE Program Manager

Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment

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SMART SCALE Update Agenda

- **Process Overview**
- **FY 2026 Overview**
- **FY 2026 Screening and Validation**
- **FY 2026 Funding Requests**
- **Next Steps**

History and Purpose

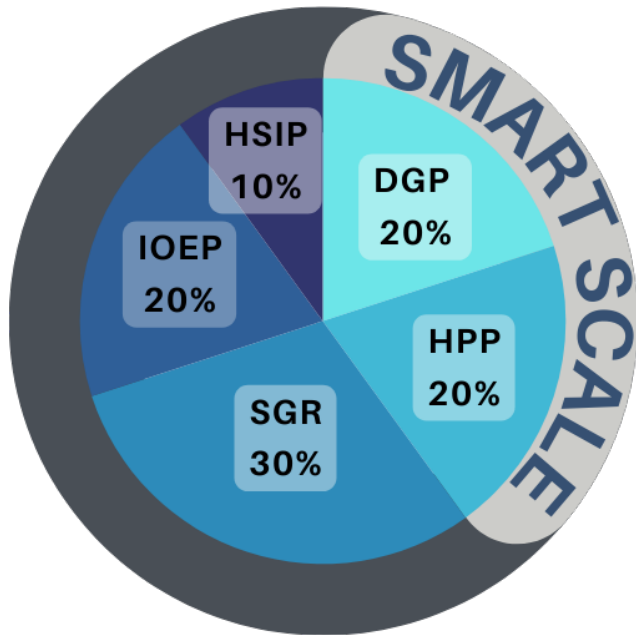
- **SMART SCALE was created to improve the transparency and accountability of project selection and stabilize the Six-Year Improvement Program**
- **Effective July 1, 2014 (Virginia HB2 as defined in § 33.2-214.1), required developing a prioritization process that the CTB was to use for project selection by July 2016.**
 - Needed to remove the political element and select projects that bring the best value
- **It reformed Virginia's transportation programming process by requiring the use of a data-driven, outcome-based prioritization process**
 - SMART SCALE has improved the transparency and accountability of project selection
 - The process scores projects based on an objective and fair analysis that is applied statewide
- **SMART SCALE is a tool to help CTB select projects that provide the greatest benefits for tax dollars spent**

Virginia HB 2 Defines the Process

- **Benefit-Cost Relationship Required**
- **Six Factor Areas Required (SCALE)** – safety, congestion mitigation, accessibility, land use*, economic development, and environmental quality
- **Multi-Modal Project Evaluation** – must consider highway, transit, rail, roadway, technology operational improvements, and transportation demand management strategies
- **Meet a VTrans Need**
- **Projects must be fully funded when added to the SYIP**

**Note: Land Use is required in populations over 200,000 defined in the 6th enactment clause*

Virginia HB 1414 Defines Funding to Construction Programs



Program	Formula Percentage	Update Cycle
Construction District Grant (DGP)	20%	Even FYs
High Priority Projects (HPP)	20%	Even FYs
State of Good Repair Program (SGR)	30%	Annual
Interstate Operations and Enhancement Program (IOEP)	20%	4 Years
Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	10%	Annual
Revenue Sharing (state and local match)	NA	Odd FYs
Transportation Alternatives (TAP)	NA	Odd Fys

Updates from the 2023 SMART SCALE Review

- **Administrative Improvements**

- Applications must pass readiness gates before submission to improve application quality and reduce staff resources

- **Policy Improvements**

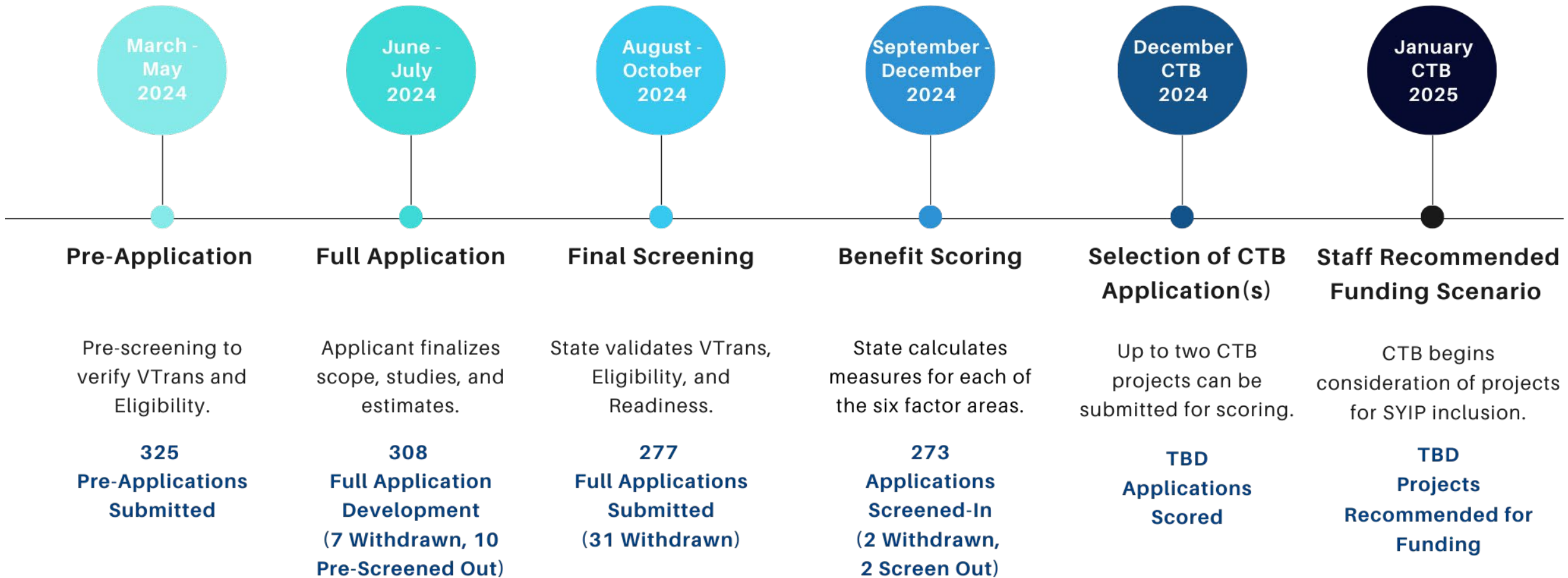
- Refine High-Priority Projects Program (HPP) Eligibility
- Calculate congestion benefits for 7 years in the future
- Modify the Land Use factor to a multiplier of all other factor areas and modify factor weightings
- Utilize forward-looking economic development measure developed by VEDP
- Tie consensus funding decisions to performance in delivering projects

SMART SCALE Summary Compared to Previous Rounds

PROJECT APPLICATIONS	FY 2017 ROUND 1	FY 2018 ROUND 2	FY 2020 ROUND 3	FY 2022 ROUND 4	FY 2024 ROUND 5	FY 2026 ROUND 6
Pre-Application Submitted	N/A	N/A	557	484	490	325
Full Application Submitted	321	436	468	406	413	277
Scored	287	404	433	397	394	TBD
Funded	163	147	134	167	164	TBD
Total Funding Requested*	\$7.4 B	\$8.6 B	\$7.4 B	\$6.3 B	\$8.3 B	\$7.5 B
Total Funding Allocated	\$1.7 B	\$1.1 B	\$0.9 B	\$1.4 B	\$1.6 B	TBD
Value of Projects Supported	\$3.3 B	\$2.4 B	\$5.1 B	\$1.9 B	\$2.4 B	TBD

*Total of scored applications funding requested

Fiscal Year 2026 Program Cycle Timeline



Application Validation

Applications are evaluated at Pre-Application Submission and Full Application Submission with three designations:

- **Ready**
- **Application Withdrawn**
- **Screened Out**
 1. Does not meet VTrans Need
 2. Project Readiness
 3. Project Eligibility

Screening and Validation Summary

District	Pre-Application				To Full App	Full Application						Ready
	Number of Pre-Apps	Withdrawn	Screen Out Readiness	Screen Out Eligibility		Withdrawn in Full App Development	Submitted	Screen Out VTrans	Screen Out Readiness	Screen Out Eligibility	Withdrawn after Submission	
Bristol	21	-	-	-	21	1	20	-	-	-	-	20
Culpeper	25	-	-	-	25	1	24	-	-	-	-	24
Fredericksburg	49	1	4	-	44	10	34	-	-	-	-	34
Hampton Roads	36	1	-	-	35	3	32	-	-	-	1	31
Lynchburg	15	1	1	-	13	-	13	1	-	-	-	12
Northern Virginia	29	1	-	-	28	3	25	-	1	-	1	23
Richmond	79	3	4	1	71	3	68	-	-	-	-	68
Salem	40	-	-	-	40	6	34	-	-	-	-	34
Staunton	31	-	-	-	31	4	27	-	-	-	-	27
Grand Total	325	7	9	1	308	31	277	1	1	-	2	273

Total FY 2017	N/A				-	-	321	9	12	11	2	287
Total FY 2018	N/A				-	19	436	5	6	19	2	404
Total FY 2020	557	13			544	76	468	9	11	3	12	433
Total FY 2022	484	23			461	55	406	2	1	4	2	397
Total FY 2024	490	6			484	71	413	-	9	2	8	394

Summary of Funding Requests

Round	Funding Requested (billions)	Funding Leveraged (billions)	Average Request (millions)	Average HPP Request (millions)	Average DGP Request (millions)
FY 2017	\$7.4	\$6.0	\$25.7	\$32.6	\$19.5
FY 2018	\$8.6	\$2.3	\$21.2	\$25.9	\$19.3
FY 2020	\$7.4	\$4.9	\$17.0	\$24.1	\$12.9
FY 2022	\$6.3	\$1.1	\$15.7	\$17.3	\$15.7
FY 2024	\$8.3	\$1.5	\$21.1	\$24.4	\$21.6
FY 2026	\$7.5	\$1.1	\$27.4	\$35.2	\$22.2

*Data as of October 3, 2024

**Does Not Include Potential (up to two) CTB Applications

Summary of Full Application Request By District

District	Number of Applications	Request (Millions)*	Total Cost (Millions)*
Bristol	20	\$290	\$290
Culpeper	24	\$790	\$790
Fredericksburg	34	\$850	\$940
Hampton Roads	31	\$595	\$670
Lynchburg	12	\$320	\$320
Northern Virginia	23	\$1,185	\$1,710
Richmond	68	\$2,050	\$2,435
Salem	34	\$1,060	\$1,080
Staunton	27	\$370	\$405
Grand Total	273	\$7,510	\$8,640

*Data as of October 3, 2024 – Rounded to nearest \$5M

**Does Not Include Potential (up to two) CTB Applications

Summary of Request by Principal Improvement Type

Principal Improvement Type	FY 2024			FY 2026		
	Number of Applications	Request (millions)	Total Cost (millions)	Number of Applications	Request (Millions)*	Total Cost (Millions)*
Highway	294	\$7,225	\$8,645	219	\$6,570	\$7,605
Bike/Pedestrian	97	\$1,075	\$1,190	50	\$780	\$875
TDM	0	\$0	\$0	1	\$25	\$25
Rail Transit	0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Bus Transit	3	\$20	\$30	3	\$135	\$135
Rail Freight	0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Grand Total	394	\$8,320	\$9,865	273	\$7,510	\$8,640

*Data as of October 3, 2024 (cost estimate validation is in progress) – Rounded to nearest \$5M

**Does Not Include Potential (up to two) CTB Applications

Next Steps

- **Now through January – Validation of cost estimates and complete scoring**
- **December CTB Meeting**
 - Action on up to two CTB projects to evaluate, if applicable
- **January CTB Meeting – Provide Project Scorecards and Staff Recommended Funding Scenario released**



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Thank you.

