



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 482-5818
Fax: (804) 786-2940

Agenda item # 5

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

January 14, 2025

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Byers, **Seconded By:** Mr. Good

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: SMART SCALE Project Cancellation
5th Street SW and Ridge Project (UPC 124409) – Culpeper District

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (the "Board's") SMART SCALE Project Prioritization Process last approved December 4, 2023, and as revised January 16, 2024, (the "Policy") states that a project that has been selected for funding through either the High Priority Projects Program or Highway Construction District Grant Program may be cancelled only by action of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board's Policy states that surplus Construction District Grant Funds no longer needed for delivery of a project will remain in the applicable Construction District Grant Program and may not be used in other districts and, further, provides that such surplus funds may either be reserved to address budget adjustments for current SMART SCALE projects or for allocation in the next solicitation cycle for SMART SCALE; and

WHEREAS, the Board's Policy states that surplus High Priority Projects Program Funds no longer needed for delivery of a project will remain in the statewide High Priority Projects Program and, further, provides that such surplus funds may either be reserved to address budget adjustments for current SMART SCALE projects or for allocation in the next solicitation cycle for SMART SCALE; and

WHEREAS, the Board's Policy states that in cases where programmed funds are no longer needed for delivery of a project due to estimate decreases, contract award savings, schedule changes, etc., the unexpended surplus funds are SMART SCALE unless superseded by the terms of a signed project agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville submitted the 5th Street SW Corridor Improvements Project for consideration and it was selected for \$6,103,034 in funding through the Construction District Grant Program in the third round of the prioritization process pursuant to Va. Code § 33.2-214.1; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville submitted the Ridge Street Safety Improvements Project for consideration and it was selected for \$8,738,020 in funding through the Construction District Grant Program in the fourth round of the prioritization process pursuant to Va. Code § 33.2-214.1; and

WHEREAS, after selection, the 5th Street SW Corridor Improvements Project and the Ridge Street Safety Improvements Project were consolidated into a single project for purposes of project delivery and subsequently renamed the 5th Street SW and Ridge Project (UPC 124409) (the “Project”) for a combined total cost of \$14,841,054; and

WHEREAS, the Project is locally-administered and has not yet started; and

WHEREAS, the Project is significantly underfunded due to inflation, unit costs, and higher than anticipated right of way costs; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2024, the City of Charlottesville requested cancellation of the Project in order to focus on delivering projects within their portfolio already underway before undertaking new starts; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on December 4, 2024, the Board was briefed on the proposed cancellation of the Project and transfer of all Construction District Grant funds to the Culpeper District Construction District Grant deallocation balance entry (UPC -21761); and

WHEREAS, VDOT recommends that the Board take action to cancel the Project and transfer all Construction District Grant funds allocated to the Project to the Culpeper District Construction District Grant deallocation balance entry (UPC -21761).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, that the 5th Street SW and Ridge Project (UPC 124409) is hereby cancelled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board that all Construction District Grant funds allocated to the Project be transferred to the Culpeper District Construction District Grant deallocation balance entry (UPC -21761).

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CTB Decision Brief
SMART SCALE Project Cancellation
5th Street SW and Ridge Project (UPC 124409)

Issue: The 5th Street and Ridge Project (UPC 124409) (the “Project”) was screened in for meeting a VTrans need and selected for funding. For reasons stated herein, on October 15, 2024, the City of Charlottesville requested cancellation of the Project. Board approval is needed for cancellation of this Project pursuant to the Policy for Implementation of the SMART SCALE Project Prioritization Process last approved by the Board December 4, 2023, and as revised January 16, 2024 (the “Policy”).

Facts: The City of Charlottesville submitted the 5th Street SW Corridor Improvements Project for consideration and it was selected for \$6,103,034 in funding through the Construction District Grant Program in the third round of the SMART SCALE prioritization process. The City of Charlottesville submitted the Ridge Street Safety Improvements Project for consideration and it was selected for \$8,738,020 in funding through the Construction District Grant Program in the fourth round of the SMART SCALE prioritization process. After selection, the 5th Street SW Corridor Improvements Project and the Ridge Street Safety Improvements Project were consolidated into a single project for purposes of project delivery and subsequently renamed the 5th Street SW and Ridge Project (UPC 124409) for a combined total cost of \$14,841,054. The Project consisted of improvements to reduce congestion, improve safety, and accommodate bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit at the intersection of Ridge Street, Cherry Avenue and Elliot Avenue. The Project also included multimodal improvements along Ridge Street, including sidewalks, curb ramps/extensions, signal improvements, and bicycle facilities. The Project is locally administered and has not yet started.

The Project is currently significantly underfunded due to inflation, unit costs, and higher than anticipated right of way costs. On October 15, 2024, the City of Charlottesville requested cancellation of the Project in order to focus on delivering projects within their portfolio already underway before undertaking new starts. The Board was briefed on the proposed cancellation at its meeting December 4, 2024.

The Board’s Policy states that a project that has been selected for funding through either the High Priority Projects Program or Highway Construction District Grant Program may be cancelled only by action of the Board. In the event that a project is not advanced to the next phase of construction when requested by the Board, the locality or metropolitan planning organization may be required, pursuant to Va. Code § 33.2-214, to reimburse the Department for all state and federal funds expended on the project.

The Board’s Policy states that Surplus Construction District Grant Funds no longer needed for delivery of a project will remain in the applicable Construction District Grant Program and may not be used in other districts. In addition, the Prioritization Process provides that such surplus funds may either be reserved to address budget adjustments for current SMART SCALE projects or for allocation in the next solicitation cycle for SMART SCALE.

Decision Brief

SMART SCALE Project Cancellation 5th Street SW and Ridge Project (UPC 124409)

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Policy states that in cases where programmed funds are no longer needed for delivery of a project due to estimate decreases, contract award savings, schedule changes, etc., the unexpended surplus funds are SMART SCALE unless superseded by the terms of a signed project agreement.

Recommendation: VDOT recommends that the Board cancel the Project and transfer all Construction District Grant funds to the Culpeper District Construction District Grant deallocation balance entry (UPC -21761).

Action Required by CTB: The CTB will be presented with a resolution for a formal vote to cancel the Project and transfer all Construction District Grant funds to the Culpeper District Construction District Grant deallocation balance entry (UPC -21761).

Result, if Approved: If approved, the Project will be removed from the Six-Year Improvement Program and all Construction District Grant funds allocated to the Project will be transferred to the Culpeper District Construction District Grant deallocation balance entry (UPC -21761).

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: None