



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Nicholas Donohue
Chairperson

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Agenda item # 6

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

March 18, 2026

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Stant, **Seconded By:** Mr. Coleman

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Location Approval for the Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-B Project

WHEREAS, the Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-B Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) involves the consideration of the construction of roadway improvements to extend Nimmo Parkway or improve existing Sandbridge Road to provide reliable access and connectivity to the Sandbridge Community; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and federal, state, and local agencies, and on behalf of the City of Virginia Beach as the administrator of the Project, is developing an EIS in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and

WHEREAS, VDOT has held two virtual public meetings, one public hearing, and three public comment periods on the Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-B Project EIS for the purpose of sharing information and soliciting public input on key components of the EIS, including the purpose and need, range of alternatives, and recommended preferred alternative; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2026, the City of Virginia Beach, in a letter from the Mayor, endorsed the Nimmo Parkway Alternative, depicted and attached hereto as Exhibit A, as the locally preferred alternative; and

WHEREAS, considering the estimated environmental impacts of the alternatives retained for full analysis in the EIS, cost, and the endorsement taken by the City of Virginia Beach, VDOT recommends the "Nimmo Parkway Alternative" as the preferred

alternative, which entails the extension of Nimmo Parkway by constructing a two-lane road from Albuquerque Drive to Sandbridge Road, with a parallel shared-use path; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Va. Code § 33.2-208 and the policies and regulations of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), including 24 VAC 30-380-10, a Location Public Hearing was held in the City of Virginia Beach at Three Oaks Elementary School on February 19, 2026, for the purpose of soliciting public input on the Nimmo Parkway Alternative; and

WHEREAS, proper notice was given in advance, and all those present at the Location Public Hearing were given a full opportunity to express their opinions and recommendations on the alternatives under consideration, and their statements have been duly recorded and considered by the CTB; and

WHEREAS, the economic, social, and environmental effects of the evaluated alternatives have been examined and given proper consideration and this evidence, along with all other relevant information, has been carefully reviewed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the location of this project be approved as presented under the Nimmo Parkway Alternative at the Location Public Hearing and depicted in Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, should FHWA and VDOT receive substantive comments on the Draft EIS that require the CTB to reconsider its action, the CTB would be briefed before VDOT requests FHWA conclude the NEPA process with a Record of Decision.

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Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Decision Brief

Location Approval for the Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-B Project

Issue: The Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-B Project (the “Project”) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) involves the consideration of transportation improvements to extend Nimmo Parkway, between Albuquerque Drive and Sandbridge Road, or improve existing Sandbridge Road, between Entrada Drive and 0.8 miles east of its terminus at the Atlantic Ocean. The recommended preferred alternative was identified as the “Nimmo Parkway Alternative” in the presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on February 17, 2026. Pursuant to Va. Code § 33.2-208, the CTB is required to locate and establish the routes to be followed by the highways comprising the systems of state highways.

Facts:

- The purpose of the Project is to provide reliable access and connectivity to the Sandbridge Community.
- The Project is being administered by the City of Virginia Beach (the City). The City has contracted VDOT to lead the EIS to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) efforts on their behalf.
- The EIS was initiated to evaluate potential transportation improvements to extend Nimmo Parkway or improve existing Sandbridge Road in the City.
- The CTB was briefed on the alternatives identified in the Draft EIS, including a recommendation on the preferred alternative, at the February 17, 2026, meeting. There have been no changes to the Nimmo Parkway Alternative since that meeting.
- VDOT and the City held three citizen engagement opportunities for the purpose of sharing information and soliciting public input. In accordance with Va. Code § 33.2-208 and the policies and regulations of the CTB, including 24 VAC-30-380-10, a Location Public Hearing was held at Three Oaks Elementary School in the City on February 19, 2026, for the purpose of soliciting public input on the Nimmo Parkway Alternative.
- Approval of the Draft EIS by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and VDOT is anticipated in Summer 2026 and will be followed by opportunities for public input on the Draft EIS and an additional public hearing in accordance with the NEPA process and state and federal law. Comments received on the Draft EIS will be addressed in the Final EIS, which is anticipated to be completed in May 2027.

- The City anticipates using a combination of local, state, and federal funds for the Project. Funding is in place to advance with permitting and more detailed design.
- The recommendation below considers the following factors:
 - The Nimmo Parkway Alternative was endorsed by the City of Virginia Beach on January 20, 2026;
 - The Nimmo Parkway Alternative meets the purpose and need of the project and is consistent with local and regional plans;
 - The Nimmo Parkway Alternative is the least costly and would impact fewer private properties than the other Build Alternative (Improvements to Existing Sandbridge Road) retained for full analysis in the Draft EIS; and
 - The Nimmo Parkway Alternative would also impact fewer wetlands and streams and will be designed to avoid direct property impacts to the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (BBNWR).
 - Ongoing coordination between FHWA, VDOT, the City, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Nansemond Indian Nation regarding potential impacts and mitigation, as part of the EIS.

Recommendations: VDOT recommends approval of the location of the Project as presented at the Location Public Hearing and as shown in the attached Exhibit A.

Action Required by CTB: The *Code of Virginia* §33.2-208, requires the majority vote of the CTB to locate and establish the routes to be followed by the roads comprising systems of state highways between points designated in the establishment of such systems.

Result, if Approved: VDOT will proceed with steps necessary for issuance of the Draft EIS, which will identify a preferred alternative consistent with the CTB's Location Approval. If future permitting or design decisions result in measurable changes to the alternative, VDOT will return to the CTB to confirm the changes are consistent with CTB's approval. Should the Project not advance further in three years after the NEPA process is complete, per CTB policy, VDOT will return to seek a decision from CTB as to whether its action should be reaffirmed, modified, or rescinded.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer

Public Comments/ Reaction: There have been three public comment periods, beginning in August 2024, and continuing through March 2026. The public has had the opportunity to provide input on alternative locations, community and environmental impacts, resources that should be

considered in the EIS, the Project purpose and need, and other considerations. In accordance with Va. Code § 33.2-208 and the policies and regulations of the CTB, including 24 VAC-30-380-10, a location public hearing was held on February 19 at Three Oaks Elementary and was attended by 194 members of the public. A virtual meeting was held on February 18 and was attended by 66 members of the public. Four-hundred-thirty-three (433) comments were received throughout the comment period, which spanned from January 20 to March 2, 2026. The general feedback obtained throughout the comment period expresses support for the Nimmo Parkway Alternative, with approximately 58 percent of comments. Local residents expressed concern with potential impacts to neighborhoods adjacent to the Nimmo Parkway Alternative, including noise, traffic, vehicular and bicycle and pedestrian safety, traffic patterns and access, and flooding. Additional comments focus on the potential for impacts to wetlands and wildlife habitat, including BBNWR, and flooding. All comments received have been from individual citizens, except for one letter from an organization: Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), sent jointly with Lynnhaven River NOW, Back Bay Restoration Foundation, and Wetlands Watch. In their letter, SELC recommended providing additional information to the public and decision makers related to the two Build Alternatives under consideration to inform a comparison, including the length of the alternatives and their respective limits of disturbance; and the potential impacts of those Build Alternatives, including discussion of the quality of wetlands and BBNWR land that may be impacted, flooding impacts, and the future of Sandbridge Road. VDOT has completed the necessary analysis and consideration of alternatives; however, that work has not yet been made available for public review. VDOT is confident that its analysis will adequately address SELC's comments and concerns as well as the comments made by individual citizens. That analysis is being prepared and will be documented and made available to the public in the Draft EIS, which will also include a Draft Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation that analyzes BBNWR, as well as other public parks and historic sites.