



SMART SCALE BUDGET INCREASE REQUEST

I-81 Exit 317 Interchange Improvements (UPC 124012)

Staunton District

| Kimberly Pryor, CFO

May 19, 2026

SMART SCALE Policy on Scope Changes and/or Budget Increases, December 2023

- Significant changes to the scope or cost of a SMART SCALE project require a re-evaluation
- Board action is required to approve a SMART SCALE budget increase:
 - i. Total Cost Estimate <\$5 million: 20% increase in funding requested
 - ii. Total Cost Estimate \$5 million to \$10 million: \$1 million or greater increase in funding requested
 - iii. Total Cost Estimate >\$10 million: 10% increase in funding requested; \$5 million maximum increase in funding requested

Project Information

I-81 Exit 317 Interchange Improvements (UPC 124012)

- **Submitted by the Win-Fred MPO in Round 5 of SMART SCALE**
 - Total Original Project Cost: \$37,589,734
 - Total SMART SCALE Request: \$31,063,840
 - Request funded with HPP funds
- **Original Scope Included:**
 - Reconfigure the existing diamond interchange with a Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) and construct a park and ride lot
 - Project is VDOT administered and preparing for Design-Build procurement
- **Benefits were primarily due to Safety, Environmental, and Economic Development**

Factors Contributing to the Shortfall

- **Project required an Interchange Access Report (IAR) to be completed concurrent with initiating design.**
- **Operational issues were identified at two Intersections adjacent to the new interchange – Crown Lane and Welltown Road – and it was determined the termini needed to be extended to meet the operational and safety benefits assumed in the original SMART SCALE application.**
- **Proposed park and ride lot was reduced to accommodate the extended termini.**
- **Project has experienced increased costs across all phases to accommodate the revised design of the DDI and extended termini**
 - Increased design costs
 - Additional right of way/utilities impacts
 - Increase in bid item quantities due to extended termini
- **Project is part of a bundle of projects scheduled for Request for Qualifications release in July 2026 that includes I-81 Widening between Exits 317-319.**

Proposed Project Budget Increase

	Original Application	Proposed Budget Increase
Total \$	\$37,589,734	\$46,980,883 (increase of \$9,391,149)
Project Budget	\$31,063,840 – HPP \$6,525,894 – Local	\$40,454,989 – HPP \$6,525,894 – Local
SMART SCALE Score	7.52	5.78
Rank	12/19	13/19
Expenditures (April 2026)		\$1,451,358

Recommendation for Action

- **Approve proposed HPP budget increase request at June 2026 Action meeting so that the project can proceed to RFQ in July and not delay the I-81 Exit 317 Widening project**
 - **Fund increase from surplus Statewide Highway Priority Program balances**

HPP Deallocated Funds	Amount
Available Currently	\$45,518,804
Less proposed budget increase for UPC 124012	-\$9,391,149
Total Remaining	\$36,127,655



Virginia Department of Transportation