



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Summary of Virginia’s Project Prioritization Process for Inputs

The Commonwealth of Virginia has two legislated processes that has been used in determining projects listed in the current Visualize 2045 plan and for projects under development and consideration to include in the next plan underway, Visualize2050.



VTRANS is Virginia's statewide transportation plan. It is prepared for the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) by the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP). VTRANS lays out the overarching vision and goals for transportation in the Commonwealth and plans to achieve those goals as shown below.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES	GOALS
1. Optimize Return on Investments	1. Healthy Communities and Sustainable Transportation Communities
2. Ensure Safety, Security, and Resiliency	2. Economic Competitiveness and Prosperity
3. Efficiently Deliver Programs	3. Accessible and Connected Places
4. Consider Operational Improvements and Demand Management First	4. Safety for All Users
5. Ensure Transparency and Accountability, and Promote Performance Management	5. Proactive System Management
6. Improve Coordination Between Transportation and Land Use	
7. Ensure Efficient Intermodal Connections	

Pursuant to § 33.2-353, VTRANS identifies and prioritizes transportation needs, known as Mid-term needs for the next 10 years. Mid-term needs may be addressed by projects, policies, or programs, and are used to screen funding requests submitted for the SMART SCALE program referenced below.



State legislation § 33.2-214.1 established **SMART SCALE** as Virginia’s data-driven prioritization process for project selection. This statewide process helps Virginia invest limited state and federal tax dollars in the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs. Projects submitted for funding should meet a VTRANS needs for Corridors of Statewide significance (COSS), Regional Network (RN) Urban Development Areas (UDA) and Safety.

Six key factors used in evaluating a project’s merits:

1. SAFETY – reduce the number and rate of fatalities and severe injuries
2. CONGESTION – reduce person hours of delay and increase person throughput
3. ACCESSIBILITY – increase access to jobs and travel options
4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – support economic development and improve goods movement
5. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – improve air quality and avoid impacts to the natural environment
6. LAND USE – support transportation efficient land development patterns

In the future, Resiliency may be another factor used in SMART SCALE project evaluation.

Projects are scored, the public has the opportunity to comment before the CTB makes the best informed decisions in prioritizing projects for funding.