



Virginia's Transportation Process for Project Funding, Selection, & Prioritization



September 14, 2023

Presented by:

Amir Shahpar, P.E.



Outline

- **Virginia's Project Selection & Funding Process**
 - VTrans
 - SMART SCALE
 - Project Pipeline & STARS Studies
 - Commonwealth Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP)
 - NVTAs TransAction & Six Year Plan (SYP)
 - Localities' Comprehensive Plans & CIPs (various)
- **Common Goals & Priorities**
- **Virginia's Approach to Visualize2050 Plan Update**

VTrans: Virginia's Statewide Transportation Plan



- **Federal mandate: Long-Range Transportation Plan**
- **State Legislation § 33.2-353**
 - **Tasked the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop and update VTrans every four years**
 - **VTrans lays out the overarching vision, principles, and goals for transportation in the Commonwealth and plans to achieve those goals**
 - **VTrans identifies mid and long-term transportation needs and promotes:**
 - **Economic development and all transportation modes, intermodal connectivity, environmental quality, accessibility for people and freight, resiliency, and transportation safety.**
 - **Mid-term needs are used for funding eligibility under SMART SCALE, and guiding Revenue Sharing funds**

VTrans Principles and Goals



Guiding Principles

- **Optimize Return on Investments**
- **Ensure Safety, Security, and Resiliency**
- **Improve Coordination Between Transportation and Land Use**
- **Ensure Efficient Intermodal Connections**
- **Efficiently Deliver Programs**
- **Consider Operational Improvements and Demand Management First**
- **Ensure Transparency and Accountability, and Promote Performance Management**

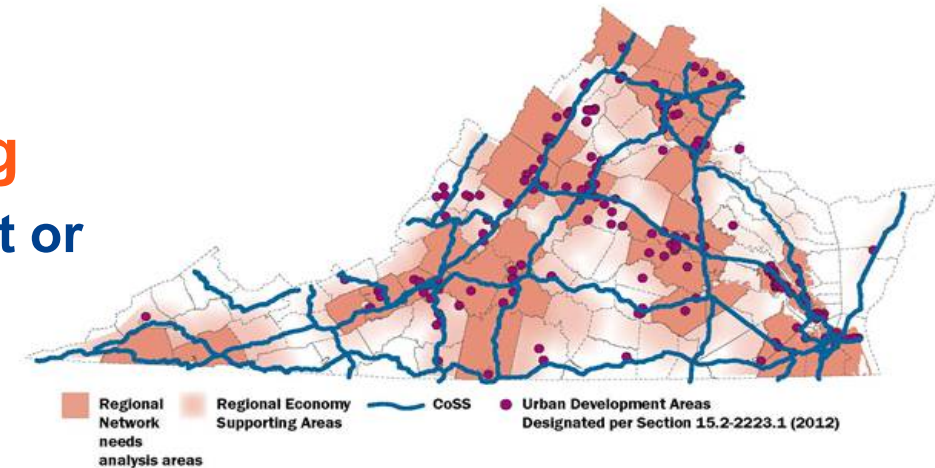
Goals

- **Healthy Communities and Sustainable Transportation Communities**
- **Economic Competitiveness and Prosperity**
- **Accessible and Connected Places**
- **Safety for All Users**
- **Proactive System Management**

SMART SCALE

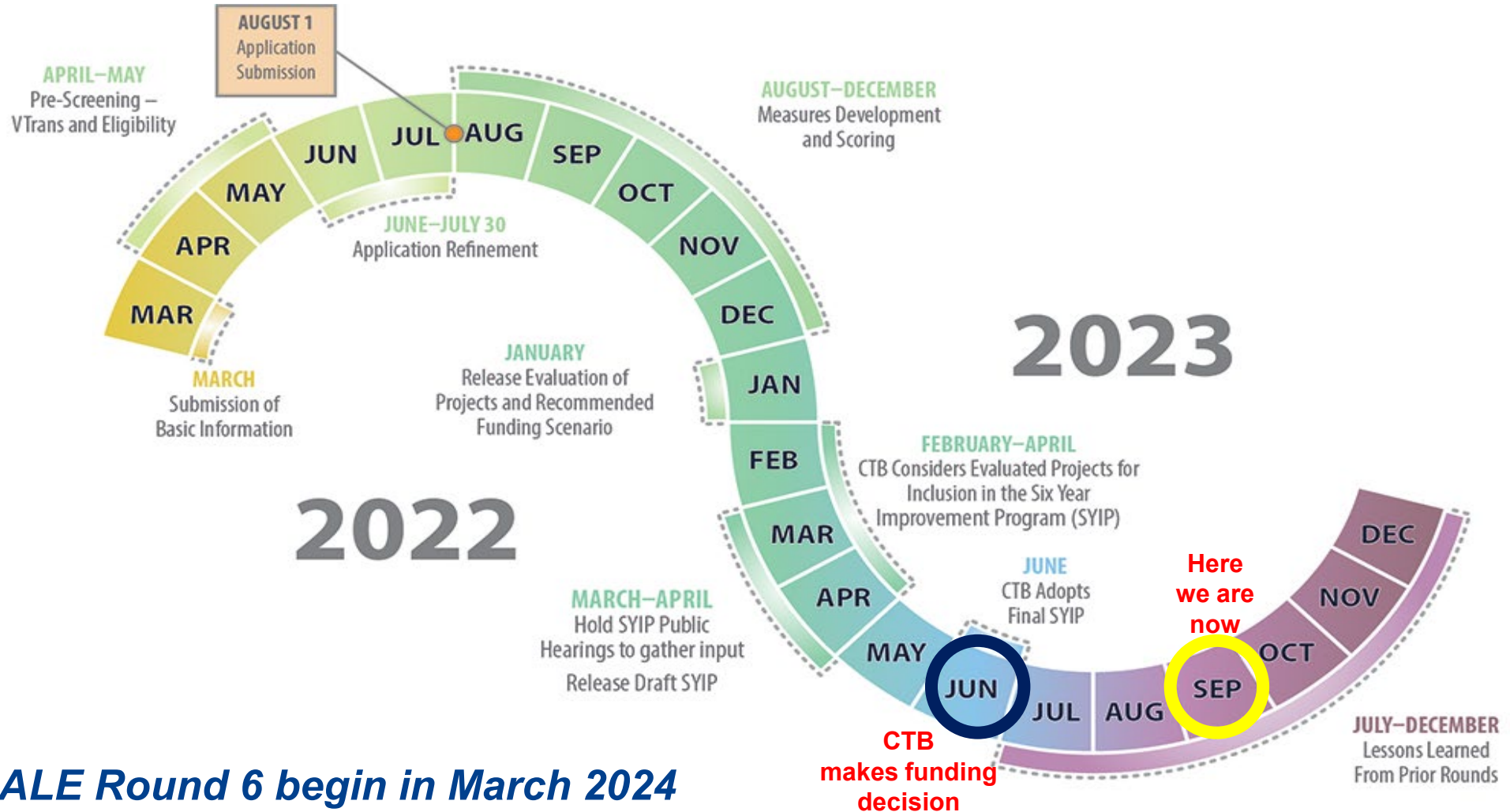


- **State Legislation § 33.2-214.1**
 - Established SMART SCALE as the statewide prioritization process for project selection
- **SMART SCALE; Performance Based Planning**
 - Measures benefits relative to the cost of the project or strategy in different factor areas
 - CTB assigns weights to the factors based on the VTrans principles and goals
- **Since 2017 SMART SCALE allocated approx. \$1.5B to 63 projects in NoVA**
- **In FY24, \$154M allocated to 13 projects**
 - SMART SCALE funding will be available in FY 2024 – 2029 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP)



VTrans Travel Markets

SMART SCALE Schedule (for Round 5)



SMART SCALE Round 6 begin in March 2024

SMART SCALE Factor Areas

Quantitative Performance Scoring to Allocate Transportation Funding

Factor Area (Weight)	Definition
CONGESTION (45%)	Reduce person hours of delay and increase person throughput
LAND USE (20%)	Support transportation efficient land development patterns
ACCESSIBILITY (15%)	Increase access to jobs and travel options
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (10%)	Improve air quality and avoid impacts to the natural environment
SAFETY (5%)	Reduce the number and rate of fatalities and severe injuries
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (5%)	Support economic development and improve goods movement
<i>RESILIENCY (TBD)</i>	<i>Factor in future rounds</i>

- **Public involvement process** is essential throughout and before the CTB finalizes project selection for funding.
- CTB is reviewing the SMART SCALE policy for revisions before Round 6.

Project Pipeline & STARS Studies



- **Project Pipeline**
 - Focus planning/project development on CTB VTrans priorities
 - Streamline project planning and improve project readiness
 - Improve and develop tools make use of powerful data and improve collaboration
 - Solve more problems with limited transportation dollars
- **Strategically Targeted and Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS)**
 - Overall goal of STARS is to develop solutions that can be programmed in the VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) and/or Maintenance
 - STARS recommendations submitted in SMART SCALE have had an 80% funding success rate (Rounds 1 - 4)
- **Both Project Pipeline & STARS have a public involvement component**

Commonwealth Six Year Improvement Program

- Summarizes planned expenditures for VDOT, DRPT, and VPRA
- Updated annually
- Two public meetings a year to get preliminary input on project funding and to comment on final draft plan funding
 - Spring Meeting – Legislated Joint meeting with Commonwealth and Regional Agencies
 - Fall Meeting (occurs in some years)
- Public involvement also occurs for established projects in development

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVRTA) Legislative Mandate



SB 576 (2002): NVTA was created by Virginia General Assembly on July 1, 2002

NVTA is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Northern Virginia to develop regional transportation priorities and policies

Board members: The Chairs and Mayors of member localities, GA members/appointees, Governor's appointees, Agency and Town representatives

HB599 (2012): NVTA is required to follow a rating and evaluation process for prioritization

Congestion reduction (auto, transit)

Accessibility to jobs

Emergency mobility

HB2313 (2013): Established dedicated revenues for NVTA

70% Regional Revenues (NVTA prioritization) – capital improvements only; no O&M

30% Local Fund Revenues (jurisdictional discretion) – both capital and O&M

NVTA's Process



TransAction

- Long-range transportation plan for NoVA
- Updated every five years
- Fiscally and geographically unconstrained
- Identify current and future transportation needs & priorities
- Analyze regional impacts
- Extensive public engagement
- Current plan adopted in December 2022 (horizon year 2045)
- Collaborative process with jurisdictions, agencies, incl. TPB, WMATA, MoCo, PGC, DDOT



Six Year Program (SYP)

- Only projects (or subsets of projects) that are included in the current version of TransAction are eligible to be funded by NVTA's regional revenues through its Six Year Program process
- Allocates NVTA's regional revenues to multimodal regional transportation projects
- Updated every two years
- Model-based & off-model analyses
- Extensive public engagement
- Most recent SYP adopted in July 2022
- On the verge of surpassing \$1B milestone for distribution of 30% revenues
- Total of \$3.1B invested on BRT, bus, Metro, VRE, bike-ped, road, intersection, parking & technology projects

NVTA Goals, Objectives, Performance Measures & Core Values



Goal	Objective	Performance Measure	Weight	Alignment with Core Values
Mobility: Enhance quality of life of Northern Virginians by improving performance of the multimodal transportation system	A. Reduce congestion and delay*	A1. Total Person-Hours of Delay in autos	10	
		A2. Total Person-Hours of Delay on Transit	10	
	B. Improve travel time reliability*	B1. Duration of Severe Congestion	10	
		B2. Transit person-miles in dedicated/priority ROW	10	
Accessibility: Strengthen the region's economy by increasing access to jobs, employees, markets, and destinations for all communities	C. Improve access to jobs*	C1. Access to jobs by car, transit, and bike	10	
		C2. Access to jobs by car, transit, and bike for EEA populations	10	
	D. Reduce dependence on driving alone by improving conditions for people accessing transit and using other modes	D1. Quality of access to transit and the walk/bike network	15	
		E. Improve safety and security of the multimodal transportation system	E1. Potential for safety and security improvements	10
Resiliency: Improve the transportation system's ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions.	F. Reduce transportation related emissions	F1. Vehicle Emissions	10	
	G. Maintain operations of the regional transportation system during extreme conditions*	G1. Transportation System Redundancy	5	

Common Priorities and Goals

TPB Framework Document Goals	Virginia DOT			NVTA	
	VTrans	SMART SCALE	Revenue Sharing	TransAction	Six-Year Program
Safety	X	X	X	X	X
Reliability	X	X	X	X	X
Maintenance *	X		X	@	@
Affordable & Convenient	X	X		X	X
Efficient System Operations	X	X	X	X	X
Environmental Protection	X	X	X	X	X
Resilient Region	X	X	X	X	X
Livable & Prosperous Communities	X	X	X	X	X

* The Commonwealth has a robust maintenance and SGR program – performance-based project selections. Established targets.
 @ By legislation NVTA's 70% Regional Revenues cannot be used for operation & maintenance but 30% Local Funds can be.

Virginia's Approach to Visualize2050 Plan Update

- Working with VDOT Central Office to prepare project inputs for new projects
- Collaborating with VA localities on their project inputs and developed review plans prior to submitting the projects
- Working with our localities to review and address public comments on Visualize 2045 projects
 - Fairfax and Prince William counties have held public involvement meetings to inform residents on the Plan Update
- Collaborating with TPB staff to ensure meeting project submission deadline



Virginia's Approach – Coordination with Localities

SEPTEMBER 2023	OCTOBER 2023	NOVEMBER 2023	DECEMBER 2023
<p><u>Fri. Sept 8</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Update Due to VDOT <p><u>Fri. Sept 15</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Update Due to VDOT <p><u>Wed. Sept 20</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPB Board Meeting <p><u>Fri. Sept 22</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green List Completed Project Inputs Due to VDOT <p><u>Fri. Sep 29</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Update Due to VDOT 	<p><u>Fri. Oct 6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Update Due to VDOT <p><u>Fri. Oct 13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Update Due to VDOT <p><u>Wed. Oct 18</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPB Board Meeting <p><u>Fri. Oct 20</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Update Due to VDOT <p><u>Fri. Oct 27</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Update Due to VDOT 	<p><u>Fri. Nov 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Update Due to VDOT <p><u>Thu. Nov 9 **</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Update Due to VDOT ** Fri. Nov 10, Veterans Day Holiday Observed <p><u>Wed. Nov 15</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPB Board Meeting <p><u>Fri. Nov 17</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green, Orange, and NEW Completed Project Inputs for submissions Due to VDOT 	<p><u>Fri. Dec 15</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VDOT GOAL Deadline to SUBMIT ALL Project Inputs in PIT <p><u>Wed. Dec 20</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPB Board Meeting <p><u>Fri. Dec 29</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TPB Deadline to submit ALL Final project inputs in the PIT

Questions & Comments