

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Martin E. Nohe and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Executive Director

DATE: October 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Approval of Additional Comments on Proposed Modifications to the Smart Scale Process

- 1. Purpose.** To seek Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTVA) approval of additional comments on the proposed modifications to the Smart Scale Transportation Funding Prioritization Process for submission to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation.
- 2. Suggested Motion:** *I move Authority approval of the additional comments on the proposed modifications to the Smart Scale Transportation Funding Prioritization Process and direct the Executive Director to submit the additional comments to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation on behalf of the Authority.*
- 3. Background:** The Secretary of Transportation's office has been working on an effort to modify the Smart Scale process. On June 21, 2017, and July 18, 2017, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) received presentations from Deputy Secretary of Transportation Nick Donohue on proposed modifications to the process, and discussed the proposals. A Draft Updated Smart Scale Policy and Technical Guide, based on these presentations and discussions, was released on August 21, 2017.

The CTB scheduled public meetings across the Commonwealth to provide information on the Smart Scale process and various transportation initiatives. The public meeting in Northern Virginia will be held on Monday, September 18, 2017, at 4:00pm, at the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Northern Virginia District Office. Comments on the proposed changes are due on October 20, 2017.

The Authority approved comments to be transmitted to Secretary Layne at its September 14, 2017 meeting. At this meeting, the Authority noted that additional comments would be submitted to Secretary Layne per any updates regarding the proposed changes.

If the schedule in the current proposal for Smart Scale modifications is adopted, the submission of basic information on possible applications for the next round of funding will occur in March-May 2018, and final applications will be due August 1, 2018.

4. Proposed Additional Comments. On Thursday, September 28, 2017, Ms. Backmon met with the RJACC to discuss any additional comments to the proposed changes on behalf of the region. Based on the fact that there is still a level of clarity need on three proposed areas, **staff recommends that the CTB delay taking action on the following changes:**

- **Congestion** ---- The current proposal recommends modifying the measure to account for an increase in person miles traveled allowed by the project within the capacity of the facility. The draft guide also notes that the Smart Scale team is currently evaluating options to revise the congestion mitigation measure.
 - a. Given that congestion reduction is given the highest weight at 45% for Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, more information is needed on how the proposed changed would impact project evaluation. Although the draft guide notes that the Smart Scale team is currently looking at options to revise the congestion mitigation measure, no information is available on any options currently being evaluated.
- **Economic Development – Site Development**----The current proposal recommends several changes to the Economic Development Measures, including:
 - Providing up to 0.5 points for a project within economically distressed areas.
 - Considering the establishment of maximum square footage based on project type and based on current level of development - cannot exceed x% of total current square footage in jurisdiction(s).More information is needed such as an evaluation of a few “test scenarios” to understand the impact of the scoring based on square footage.
- **Land Use**----The current proposal notes that Commonwealth staff has developed new methodology which examines accessibility to key non-work destinations, such as grocery stores, healthcare, education, etc. The proposal also includes specific definitions of mixed-use development.
 - More information is needed such as an evaluation of a few “test scenarios” to understand the impact of the proposed change.

Coordination: Regional Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee