COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

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Agenda item # 3

RESOLUTION
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

November 10, 2025

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Fowlkes**, Seconded By:** Mr. Coleman
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: SMART SCALE Project Budget Increase for Route 52 Safety Enhancements (UPC 115470) in Bland County

WHEREAS, the Board's SMART SCALE Project Prioritization Process last approved December 4, 2023 and as revised January 16, 2024, provides that a project that has been selected for funding must be re-scored and the funding decision reevaluated if there are significant changes to either the scope or cost of the project, such that the anticipated benefits relative to funding requested would have substantially changed; and

WHEREAS, the Board's SMART SCALE Project Prioritization Process further provides that if an estimate increases prior to project advertisement or contract award that exceeds the following thresholds, and the applicant is not covering the increased cost with other funds, Board action is required to approve the 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; and

WHEREAS, section 33.2-214 requires projects funded wholly or partially with funds from the State of Good Repair Program pursuant to section 33.2-369, the High Priority Projects Program pursuant to section 33.2-370, the Highway Construction District Grant Programs pursuant to section 33.2-371, the Interstate Operations and Enhancement Program pursuant to section 33.2-372, or capital projects funded through the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement

Program pursuant to section 33.2-373 in the Six-Year Improvement Program to be fully funded within the six-year horizon of the Six-Year Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, the Route 52 Safety Enhancements (UPC 115470) project (the Project) was submitted for consideration by Bland County and selected for $4,491,045 in funding through the High Priority Projects Program in the third round of the prioritization process pursuant to section 33.2-214.1; and

WHEREAS, at application, the Project had a total cost of $4,491,045; and

WHEREAS, the Project demonstrated benefits related to economic development and environment and received a score of 3.45 resulting in a rank of 8 out of 10 projects selected for funding in the Bristol District;

WHEREAS, the Project is being administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), has thus far incurred expenditures of approximately $1,630,746, and is ready for advertisement; and

WHEREAS, since the Project was selected for funding through SMART SCALE, estimated Project costs have increased due to extended right of way negotiations, increased drainage items, full depth asphalt, inflation, and updated unit prices; and

WHEREAS, since application, safety funds have been added to the project and in May 2023, a within threshold High Priority Projects Program budget increase was processed; and

WHEREAS, the Project's cost estimate is currently $8,871,106, resulting in a shortfall of $1,192,926; and

WHEREAS, VDOT recommends Board approval of a SMART SCALE budget increase of $1,192,926 using surplus High Priority Projects Program funds (UPC -21770); and

WHEREAS, taking into consideration the previously approved within threshold budget increase as well as the proposed SMART SCALE budget increase, the Project was re-scored resulting in a revised score of 2.36 and a reduction in rank from 8/10 to 10/10.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, that the SMART SCALE budget increase for the Project of $1,192,926 using surplus High Priority Projects Program funds (UPC -21770), is approved.

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CTB Decision Brief
SMART SCALE Project Budget Increase for the Route 52 Safety Enhancements (UPC 115470) in Bland County

Issue: The Route 52 Safety Enhancement Project (UPC 115470) (the "Project") was screened in for meeting a VTrans need and selected for funding. For reasons stated herein, the Department is recommending a budget increase pursuant to the Policy for Implementation of the SMART SCALE Project Prioritization Process last approved by the Board December 4, 2023, and as revised January 16, 2024 (the "Policy").

Facts: The Board's SMART SCALE Prioritization Process, last approved December 4, 2023 and as revised January 16, 2024, provides that a project that has been selected for funding must be re-scored and the funding decision reevaluated if there are significant changes to either the scope or cost of the project, such that the anticipated benefits relative to funding requested would have substantially changed.

Item VI.2 of the Board's SMART SCALE Prioritization Process states that if an estimate increases prior to project advertisement or contract award that exceeds the following thresholds, and the applicant is not covering the increased cost with other funds, Board action is required to approve the 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

The Route 52 Safety Enhancement Project (UPC 115470) (the Project) was submitted for consideration by Bland County $4,491,045 in funding through the High Priority Projects Program in the third round of the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (Board) SMART SCALE Prioritization Process.

The Project demonstrated benefits related economic development and environment and received a score of 3.45 resulting in a rank of 8 out of 10 projects selected for funding in the Bristol District.

The Project is administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and is ready for advertisement. Thus far, the Project has incurred an estimated $1,630,746 in expenditures.

Since the Project was selected for funding through SMART SCALE, estimated Project costs have increased due to extended right of way negotiations, increased drainage items, full depth asphalt, inflation, and updated unit prices.

Additional safety funds were added to the project and in May 2023, a within threshold High Priority Projects Program budget increase was processed. The Project's cost estimate is currently $8,871,106, resulting in a shortfall of $1,192,926.

Taking into consideration the previously approved within threshold budget increase as well as the proposed SMART SCALE budget increase, the Project was re-scored resulting in a revised score of 2.36 and a reduction in rank from 8/10 to 10/10.

On October 14, 2025, VDOT fully briefed the Board on this matter and recommends Board approval of a SMART SCALE budget increase of $1,192,926 using surplus High Priority Projects Program funds (UPC -21770).

Recommendation: Approval of a SMART SCALE budget increase of $1,192,926 using surplus High Priority Projects Program funds (UPC -21770).

Action Required by CTB: The CTB will be presented with a resolution for a formal vote to approve the SMART SCALE budget increase.

Result, if Approved: If approved, funds will be transferred so that the project can advance.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: None