COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
Chairperson

1221 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 482-5818

Agenda item # 6

RESOLUTION
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

December 9, 2025

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Byers**, Seconded By:** Mr. Davis
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission SMART SCALE Factor Weighting Typology Change

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-214.1 of the *Code of Virginia* provides that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (Board) shall develop a statewide prioritization process for certain projects funded by the Board, including those projects allocated funds pursuant to sections 33.2-358, 33.2-370 and 33.2-371 of the *Code of Virginia*, and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), to implement the statewide prioritization process developed by the Board pursuant to Section 2.2-229; and

WHEREAS, the Board adopted the SMART SCALE Prioritization Policy on December 4, 2023, and on January 16, 2024, updated the policy by adopting the Transportation Efficient Lanu Use factor; and

WHEREAS, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) representing the counties of Greene, Louisa, Nelson, Fluvanna, and the non-urbanized portion of Albermarle, finds that it is in the best interest of the planning district and its rural member jurisdictions to change from SMART SCALE Typology Category “C” to Category “D” for SMART SCALE Round 7 and future rounds (Attachment 1); and

WHEREAS, at the September 4, 2025, meeting of the TJPDC, the Commission voted unanimously to pass a resolution requesting the change in SMART SCALE typology.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commonwealth Transportation Board hereby updates the SMART SCALE Prioritization Policy to address the requested TJPDC Factor Weighting Typology change from "Category C" to "Category D" for the upcoming SMART SCALE Round 7 and future SMART SCALE rounds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, there are no further SMART SCALE Prioritization Policy changes, and the SMART SCALE policy adopted December 4, 2023, titled Adoption of Policy and Approval of Guides for Implementation of the SMART SCALE Project Prioritization Process shall in all other respects remain unchanged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board hereby directs OIPI to implement this policy change, including but not limited to update of technical and policy documents consistent with the SMART SCALE Prioritization Policy.

####

ATTACHMENT 1: Letter from Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) requesting SMART SCALE Typology Change

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Decision Brief

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission SMART SCALE Factor Weighting Typology Change

Issue: On September 9, 2025, the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) received a resolution from the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) requesting a typology change from Area Type C to Area Type D.

Facts: The Board was presented with the SMART SCALE Typology Change Request Overview at the December 9th, 2025 Workshop, reflecting the final recommendations for modifications to the TJPDC typology. The PDC is requesting alignment with all other rural PDCs (defined as outside an MPO). Currently, TJPDC is the only rural PDC designated as Area Type C; all others are designated as Area Type D.

Recommendations: OIPI recommends that the Board approve the TJPDC typology change request.

Action Required by CTB: The CTB will be presented with a resolution for a formal vote to revise the TJPDC typology from Type C to Area Type D, which requires a majority vote.

Result, if Approved: OIPI will implement the SMART SCALE typology change in accordance with the updated SMART SCALE Technical Guide.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer

Public Comments/ Reaction: None

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Regional Vision • Collaborative Leadership • Professional Service

The Honorable W. Sheppard Miller III
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street, 4th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

September 4, 2025

Dear Secretary Miller:

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) submits this letter formally requesting that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) change the TJPDC rural Area Type from Category "C" to Category "D" for Round 7 and future rounds of Virginia's SMART SCALE project prioritization process. This change would not impact the urban Area Type of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO), which is presently categorized as Area Type "B" and is not requesting a change at this time.

The TJPDC represents the following rural jurisdictions: the counties of Greene, Louisa, Nelson, Fluvanna, and the non-urbanized portion of Albemarle. Following the conclusion of SMART SCALE Round 6, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and TJPDC staff began discussing Area Type categories, the associated weighting of the scoring factors, and their impacts on project scores.

The results of that analysis showed that the TJPDC is an outlier in the Commonwealth as being the only rural area (area not within an MPO) that is categorized as Area Type C. All other PDCs with rural areas are categorized as Area Type "D", in which the highest weighted factor is safety. Additionally, the analysis illustrated that projects within the rural areas would have generally scored more competitively in SMART SCALE had the TJPDC been Area Type "D" instead of "C".

Staff presented this topic to the TJPDC Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC), which is comprised of staff from all impacted rural jurisdictions. At the June 17, 2025, meeting, the RTAC unanimously voted to recommend that the TJPD Commission, the RTAC governing body, submit a request to change the PDC's Area Type from "C" to "D". Staff then sent a memo to the Chief Administrative Officers of each of the TJPDC's rural member jurisdictions to seek guidance and feedback on requesting the Area Type change.

Finally, staff presented the completed analysis to the TJPD Commission at its August 7, 2025, meeting as informational. At its September 4, 2025, meeting, the TJPD Commission voted unanimously to pass a resolution requesting the change in Area Type.

We believe that this change in Area Type is in the best interest of the TJPDC and its rural member jurisdictions and has broad support across the region. We appreciate the CTB's consideration and look forward to participating in future rounds of SMART SCALE.

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Thank you,

Keith Smith, Chair
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

9/4/25
Date

Christine Jacobs, Executive Director
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

9/4/25
Date

Attachments:
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission Resolution
VDOT SMART SCALE Area Type Weighting Comparisons
VDOT SMART SCALE Scoring Scenario Comparisons

CC:
Mr. John Lawson, Deputy Secretary of Transportation
Mrs. Ronique Day, Deputy Director of the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment
Mrs. Brooke Jackson, SMART SCALE Program Manager
Captain Darrell R. Byers, Culpeper District Commonwealth Transportation Board Member
Mr. Ned Gallaway, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Mike Pruitt, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Philip D'Oronzio, City of Charlottesville Planning Commission
Mr. Michael Payne, City of Charlottesville City Council
Mr. Tony O'Brien, Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Tim Goolsby, Greene County Board of Supervisors
Mr. James Higgins, Greene County Citizen Representative
Mr. Manning Woodward, Louisa County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Tommy Barlow, Louisa County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Ernie Reed, Nelson County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Jesse Rutherford, Nelson County Board of Supervisors

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RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA CHANGE THE THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION SMART SCALE AREA TYPE FROM C TO D FOR ROUND 7 AND FUTURE ROUNDS OF SMART SCALE

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-2141.1 of the *Code of Virginia* provides that the Commonwealth Transportation Board (Board) shall develop a statewide prioritization process for certain projects funded by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the established biennial project prioritization process for selecting projects to be funded from the High Priority Projects (HPP) Program and Highway Construction District Grant Program (DGP) is known as SMART SCALE; and

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-214.1 requires that the CTB solicit input from localities, metropolitan planning organizations, transit authorities, transportation authorities, and other stakeholders in its development of the prioritization process; and

WHEREAS, the six factors considered in SMART SCALE scoring include safety, congestion mitigation, accessibility, land use, economic development, and environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, scoring factor weighting is determined by area type category, assigned by planning district commission and metropolitan planning organization boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) is presently categorized as Area Type C; and

WHEREAS, analyses completed and reviewed by VDOT and TJPDC staff indicates that projects within TJPDC rural areas would have generally scored higher in SMART SCALE had TJPDC been Area Type "D" instead of "C"; and

WHEREAS, a change in area type will affect projects submitted by all rural member jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, SMART SCALE Round 7 will begin March 2026 with a final application deadline in August 2026; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the TJPDC and its member jurisdictions for future application submissions be scored according to Area Type "D" instead of "C".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission is in full support and requests a change in SMART SCALE area Type from Category "C" to "D".

Adopted this 4th day of September 2025 by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.

Keith Smith, Chair
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

9/4/25
Date

Christine Jacobs, Executive Director
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

9/4/25
Date