
VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation

DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY - CONTINUED

Proposed Updates to SYIP Development and Management Policy

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Purpose and Background

Purpose

- Present proposed updates to Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) Development and Management Policy that will be voted on at the October 2026 CTB Action meeting
- VDOT to memorialize project development timeframe expectations for all projects in the SYIP

Background

- This presentation is a follow up to the Chief Engineer's presentation for On-Time / On-Budget Performance and the presentation on proposed updates to the Revenue Sharing Program provided to the Board in July 2026
- VDOT has implemented a Portfolio Management approach for SYIP execution to ensure financial resources are fully leveraged and construction project throughput is aligned with funding

Current CTB Policy - Overview

- **Last Updated by CTB in March 2024 to reflect federal and state regulatory adjustments**
- **Development Section of the Policy**
  - Outlines major funding programs to be included in SYIP, timing of updates to various funding programs, timing of required actions, and requirements for funding and advancing projects in the SYIP
- **Management Section of the Policy (Proposed Updates)**
  - Guides major functions and actions within the SYIP on an ongoing basis
  - Outlines expectation that reasonable attempts will be made during design to bring projects within budget while maintaining original purpose and need

Current CTB Policy – Relevant Highlights

- **Management – Part F:**
  - *"Subject to the provisions governing each of these programs, a project that has been selected for funding must be initiated and at least a portion of the programmed funds expended within one year of the budgeted year of allocation or funding may be subject to reprogramming."*
- **Management – Part G:**
  - *"In the event a locally-administered project is not advanced to the next phase of construction when requested by the Board, the locality may be required, pursuant to 33.2-214 of the Code of Virginia, to reimburse VDOT for all state and federal funds expended on the project.*

NOTE – While individual funding programs may have *some* project timeline expectations, there is *no* SYIP-wide policy that holds projects accountable for advancing within expected timeframes

Current Funding Program Timeline Examples

- **Per the Appropriation Act:**
  - **CMAQ & RSTBG Funding**
    - Allocations must be obligated (which assumes initiation) within 1 year of budgeted allocation and obligations must be expended within 3 years of obligation (functionally applies by project phase however)
- **Per CTB Policy:**
  - **Transportation Alternatives (TAP)**
    - Projects must reach construction advertisement within 4 years of project initiation
  - **SGR Local Paving**
    - Projects must reach construction advertisement within one year of budgeted allocation
  - **SMART SCALE**
    - Projects must be initiated and at least a portion shall be expended within one year of budgeted allocation

Proposed Updates

- **Projects shall progress within expected timeframes and in a manner consistent with the VDOT Commissioner's Memorandum on SYIP Portfolio Management dated January 29, 2025, including any future supplements to such guidance.**

- **For projects that are not advanced to the next phase of construction within the Department's expected timeframes, the Department will make recommendations to the Board to either *a) cancel projects, b) deallocate project funding, or c) request additional action.***

- **The Department will provide information to the Board on projects exceeding these timeframes and making slow progress toward construction; this information and the Department's recommendations will be provided in conjunction with the SYIP update process for the Board's use in project selection processes**

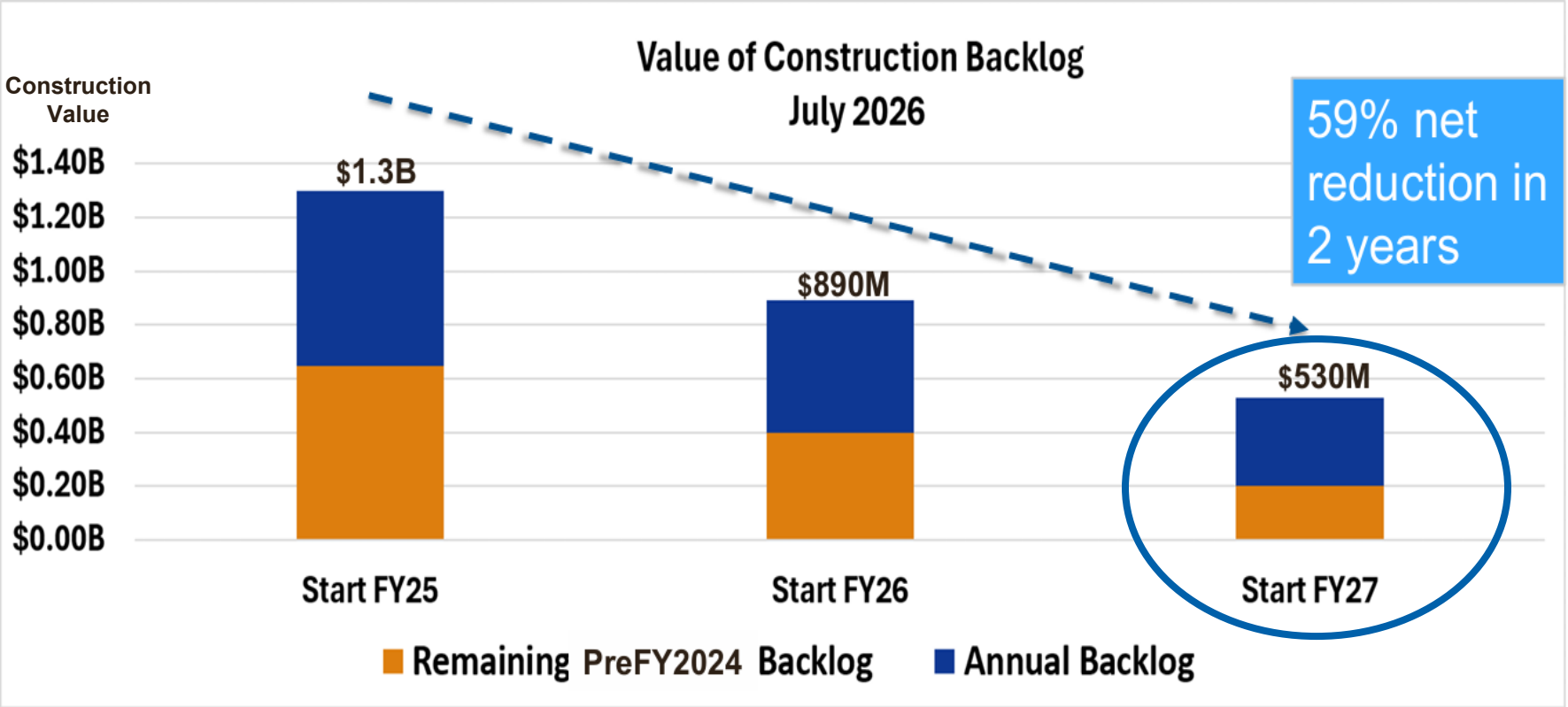
Potential Impact of Updated Policy

- **There are over 4,300 “active” projects in the FY2027-2032 SYIP**
  - **Definition of “active” projects:**
    - Projects not yet funded to start
    - *Projects in design (“in development”)* or construction (“in delivery”)
    - Physically completed projects progressing through financial closeout
- **Currently there are approximately 1,000 projects* that are in development and progressing toward construction**
  - ~51% VDOT Administered for ~$10 Billion in Total Cost
  - ~49% Locally Administered for ~$4.5 Billion in Total Cost
    - Projects include a combination of Preliminary Engineering (PE), Right of Way Acquisition / Utility Relocation (RW), and Construction (CN) phases

*excludes studies, unpaved road projects, and projects scheduled to start in future fiscal years

Potential Impact of Updated Policy - Examples

Construction Backlog

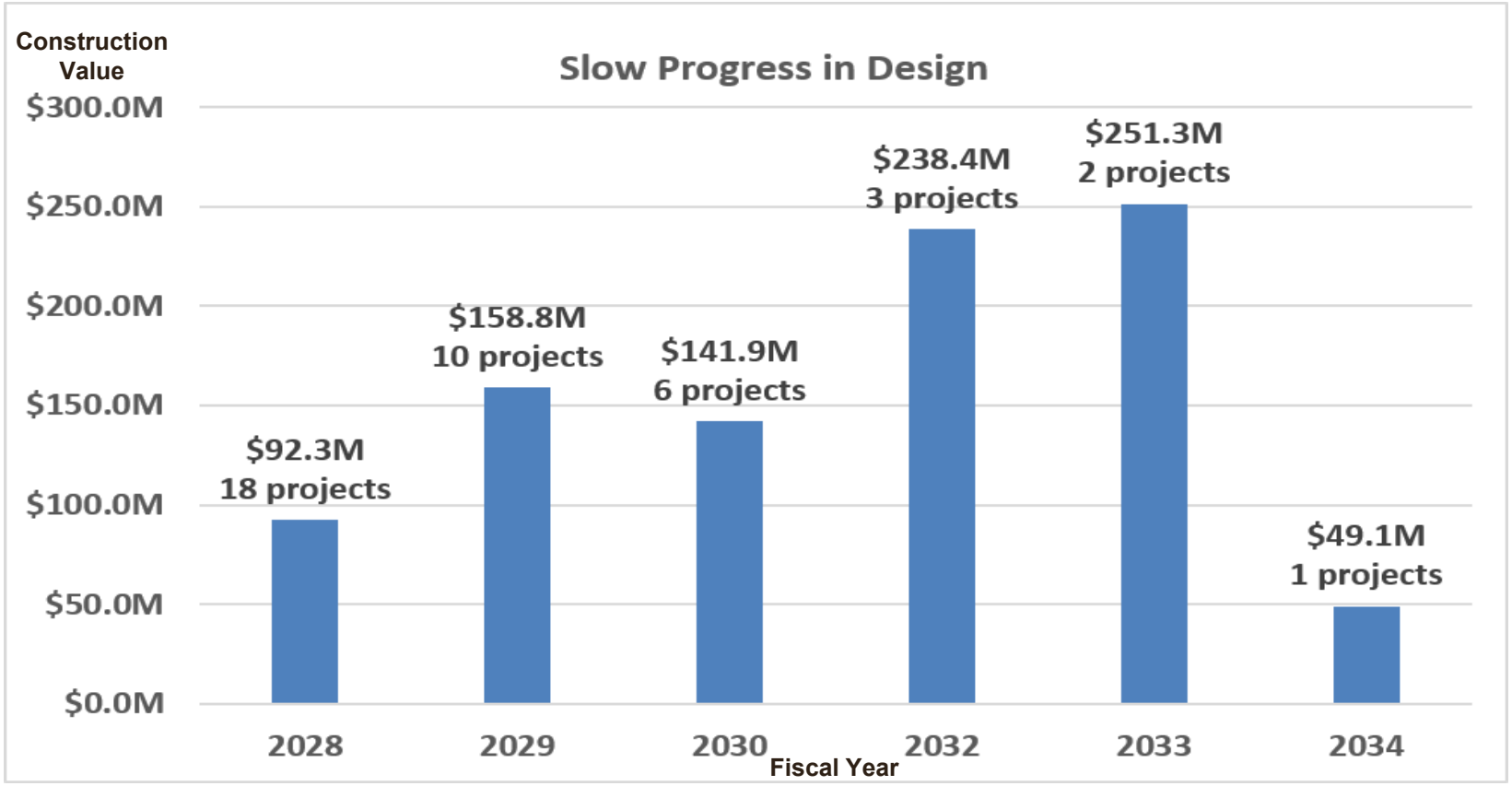


- Pre-FY2024 Backlog = projects scheduled for construction before FY2024
- Annual Backlog = net addition / reduction since start of FY2025

- There are currently 82 projects in the FY27 Construction Backlog
- 23 of these projects are scheduled for construction beyond FY2027
- These represent approximately $298 Million of construction value

Potential Impact of Updated Policy - Examples

Slow Progress Projects* Currently in the SYIP



- Extended preliminary engineering phases averaging 8.5 years between initiation and scheduled construction
- Approximately $932 Million of construction value
- Require additional coordination to prevent further delays in reaching construction.

*Slow Progress Projects are those projects that exceed benchmark timeframes in the Commissioner's Memorandum for Portfolio Management not scheduled for construction in the current fiscal year

Potential Impact of Updated Policy

- **Major Takeaways**
  - ***Most*** projects in the SYIP proceed within expected or reasonable durations.
    - 2.5 to 4.5 years on average depending on size, complexity, or other factors.
    - Projects initiated since VDOT's shift to a Portfolio Management approach (FY2025), on average, have shorter timeframes
    - This policy update will support highlighting and proactively addressing projects that make *slow progress* toward construction

  While a small number of projects in development (by count) represent an elevated risk (63 out of ~1,000 in development), they also represent significant investment (~$1.23 Billion of construction value)

Proposed Role of the CTB in Monitoring

- **VDOT will continue internal monitoring and stakeholder coordination on projects making slow progress looking to proactively address delays**
- **VDOT will provide the CTB with information on projects making slow progress toward construction in conjunction with the SYIP Development process and project selection cycles**
- **Upon VDOT's recommendation, the CTB may take one of the following actions*:**
  - Cancellation of a project
  - Deallocation of project funding
  - Request additional action
    - Examples of additional actions – VDOT assumes administration of the project, request the project to advance within certain timeframes, etc.

*subject to governing provisions of individual funding program policies

Next Steps

- **CTB to vote on proposed policy update at its October 2026 Action Meeting**

- **VDOT will review the progress of projects in the Construction Backlog and projects making slow progress to construction**

- **VDOT will share information with the Board regarding the continued advancement of projects making slow progress toward construction in conjunction with SYIP Development Process and ahead of SMART SCALE Round 7 Consensus Scenario Development**
    - This also includes sharing overall locality performance results from the Locality Sustained Performance Program (LSPP) for consideration in project selection