

October 2, 2025

The Honorable (Senators Cifers, Deeds, and Reeves; Delegates Callsen, Fowler, Freitas, Garrett, Griffin, and Laufer)

Xxx

Xxx

Dear _____:

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) greatly appreciates your efforts on behalf of the localities and citizens that you represent. We are writing to inform you that at its meeting held on October 2, the TJPDC unanimously endorsed this letter to communicate to you our request and plea for additional state investments to support transportation infrastructure in the Commonwealth.

The Planning District's member localities recognize that revenues for expanding and maintaining all modes of infrastructure are critical for meeting Virginia's well-documented and ongoing transportation challenges. They are needed to attract and retain businesses, residents, and tourism, as well as to keep pace with growing public needs and expectations. We encourage the State to prioritize such funding for state, regional and local transportation needs.

As the State continues to adjust SMART SCALE prioritization and the funds distribution process, we believe there should be adequate state funding and local authority to generate transportation dollars for important local and regional projects across modes. We have noted that while the most recent SMART SCALE round saw fewer applications submitted statewide, there also was a significant drop, both in number and percentage, in the number of applications that were funded. Funding allocated for successful applications in FY26 also was less than in the FY18 round.

	FY18 Round	FY20 Round	FY22 Round	FY24 Round	FY26 Round
Applications Submitted	436	468	406	413	277
Applications Funded	147	134	167	164	53
Funding Requested	\$8.6 B	\$7.4 B	\$6.3 B	\$8.3 B	\$8.2 B
Funding Allocated	\$1.1 B	\$0.9 B	\$1.4 B	\$1.6 B	\$1.0 B

While we are cognizant of pressures to fund and maintain overall transportation system and network improvements in Virginia, we also see and experience, on an everyday basis, the need for supporting projects that make a difference in our local communities. We have been active in seeking support for those projects. In VDOT's Culpeper District, for the FY26 round, a total of 13 applications were submitted by the TJPDC, Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO (CAMPO), and localities in the PDC region (Nelson County also submitted one application for the Lynchburg District, which was funded). Only three of 24 applications for the Culpeper District were funded through SMART SCALE's District Grant Program, totaling about \$56 million (two in Culpeper, one in Warrenton). One project submitted by CAMPO was funded through the High Priority Program at a cost of over \$36 million.

Our bottom-line request is simple: We call on the State to provide stable and consistent revenues for Virginia's long-term transportation infrastructure needs, including necessary funding to support project construction at the state, regional and local levels.

Again, we thank you for your efforts and appreciate your consideration of our position and recommendations as you press forward with considering legislation and shaping budgets in the upcoming General Assembly session. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keith Smith, Chair
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

cc: TJPDC Legislators