

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO Policy Board  
**From:** Taylor Jenkins, Director of Transportation  
**Date:** December 17, 2025  
**Subject:** SMART SCALE Round 7 – Project Locations

**Purpose:**

To seek approval from the CA-MPO Policy Board on which project locations to submit for SMART SCALE Round 7 applications.

**Background:**

SMART SCALE is Virginia's data-driven prioritization process used to fund transportation projects in two construction programs: the High Priority Projects Program (HPPP) and District Grant Program (DGP). Established by the Code of Virginia [§ 33.2-214.1](#), projects must address a statewide VTRANS need to be eligible and the SMART SCALE process considers project cost and calculated “benefits” for six factor areas:

- Safety
- Congestion Mitigation
- Accessibility
- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Environmental Quality

The pre-application window for Round 7 of SMART SCALE opens on March 2, 2026.

**Project Locations Under Consideration:**

While the CA-MPO is eligible to submit **four final applications** requesting funding at the direction of the Policy Board (slots are based on population size), applicants are permitted to submit up to **five pre-applications** due to the possibility of an application screening out for not meeting eligibility or readiness requirements. Staff will be asked to prioritize which four to proceed with, however, if no projects are screened out.

The following projects are identified as eligible and capable of meeting readiness requirements for the CA-MPO to submit:

1. US 29 SB / US 250 WB Off-Ramp Extension (Old Ivy Rd)
2. US 29 NB / US 250 EB On-Ramp Extension (Old Ivy Rd)\*
3. US 29 NB / US 250 EB Off-Ramp Improvements at Barracks Rd (ramp extension, dual left turns, and sidewalk improvements)
4. 5<sup>th</sup> Street/I-64 Improvements (DDI, shared use path connection, and sidewalk connection)
5. US 29/I-64 Exit 118 Improvements (interchange and park-and-ride improvements)

*\*Staff recommend identifying the US 29 NB / US 250 EB on-ramp extension as the “fifth” application slot, considering that the US 29 SB / US 250 WB off-ramp is experiencing greater operational issues out of the two along Ivy Road.*

**Recommendations for Action:**

**CA-MPO Technical Committee:**

Following discussion at their December 2, 2025, meeting, the CA-MPO Technical Committee recommended that the Policy Board approve continuing application development for the five project locations, with the understanding that staff will continue working with VDOT to answer questions on concept changes before project submission.

**CA-MPO Policy Board:**

Staff recommend that the CA-MPO Policy Board make a motion to approve the provided list of SMART SCALE Round 7 project locations as presented in the staff memo.

If there are any questions, please contact Taylor Jenkins at [tjenkins@tjpd.org](mailto:tjenkins@tjpd.org) and Sarah Simba at [ssimba@tjpd.org](mailto:ssimba@tjpd.org).