

MEMORANDUM

To: Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CA-MPO) Committees
From: Taylor Lowery, Director of Transportation
Date: October 6, 2026
Subject: FY26 BUILD Application Debrief Meeting

Purpose:

CA-MPO staff participated in a debrief meeting on September 24, 2026, for the FY26 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application that was not selected for funding. The application requested \$3,555,600 to complete preliminary engineering for the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing. This memo summarizes information from the debrief meeting and feedback from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT).

FY26 BUILD Summary:

This round of BUILD, USDOT received almost 1,200 eligible applications totaling \$14.5 billion in requested funding. Of the \$1.7 billion available to award, 127 projects were selected across 29 states, DC, and US territories. This round, 62% of applications were in rural areas, 37% were in urban areas, and 1% were undetermined. Of the 127 projects selected:

- 59 were in rural areas (46.46%) and 68 were in urban areas (53.54%)
- 80 were capital projects (62.99%) and 47 were planning projects (37.01%)

In accordance with the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the CA-MPO region is considered rural. Urban was defined as areas with populations greater than 200,000. Preliminary engineering is considered a planning grant application. **Table 1** provides a breakdown of funded projects by project type, and **Table 2** identifies funded projects in Virginia. The full list of project selections is available for download on the [BUILD webpage](#).

Table 1. Primary Project Type of FY26 BUILD Selections

Primary Project Type	Count	Percent
Aviation	2	1.57%
Maritime	12	9.45%
Rail	5	3.94%
Road	96	75.59%
Transit	12	9.45%
Grand Total	127	100.00%

Table 2. FY26 BUILD Selections in Virginia

Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Award Amount	Primary Project Type	Capital/Planning
VA Passenger Rail Authority	Richmond Layover Facility	\$71,998,000	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	Rail	Capital
City of Lynchburg	US 501/US 221 Intersection Improvements	\$76,507,664	\$25,000,000	\$24,500,000	Road	Capital
Middlesex County	Broad Creek-Chesapeake Bay Access Project	\$1,635,720	\$1,595,720	\$1,595,720	Maritime	Planning

- **Richmond Layover Facility:** Complete final design and construction of an overnight storage and servicing yard to support existing and future passenger rail service.
- **US 501/US 221 Intersection Improvements:** Design and construct a split one-way pair intersection that would divide existing two-way traffic on US 501 on two separate roadways at the intersection with US 221.
- **Broad Creek-Chesapeake Bay Access Project:** Develop 100% construction-ready designs for redevelopment of the 21-acre project site, a working waterfront on Broad Creek. This site provides critical connections between the Chesapeake Bay and overland shipping.

Feedback Received on the FY26 CA-MPO Application:

This is the fourth consecutive year that the CA-MPO has applied for this project. In prior cycles, the application received a rating of “Project of Merit” in 2023, “Recommended” in 2024, and “Highly Recommended” in 2025. This year, the application received an overall rating of “Not Recommended”, reflecting a departure from the trend of favorable ratings received in prior years.

BUILD applications are evaluated against eight merit criteria. This year, they included: **Safety, Economic Competitiveness and Opportunity, Quality of Life, Mobility and Community Connectivity, Environmental Sustainability, State of Good Repair, Partnership and Collaboration**, and **Innovation**. Safety, Quality of Life, Mobility and Community Connectivity, and Environmental Sustainability were rated low. Economic Competitiveness and Opportunity and State of Good Repair were rated medium. Partnership and Collaboration and Innovation were rated high. Only “Highly Recommended” applications advanced to a second tier of review before a Senior Review Team forwarded top-rated projects to the Secretary of Transportation for final award decisions.

Next Steps:

USDOT indicated that they anticipate releasing the FY27 BUILD NOFO this fall, which is earlier than previous years, but identified no specific release date that could be shared. Available funding is expected to remain similar to the FY26 level (~\$1.7B), subject to final appropriations. In the interim, CA-MPO staff have begun discussions with local staff to plan for the next BUILD NOFO. We anticipate a fuller discussion with CA-MPO Committees in December in consideration of projects to submit for funding.