

Virginia Department of Transportation
Update to the Commonwealth's
Public Private Transportation Act's Implementation Manual and Guidelines
Webinar with Transportation Stakeholders
October 15, 2010 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm Eastern

Responses to Questions Received at the PPTA Webinar

Question # 1: Will the presentation be available on the Department's website?

Response: Yes. A copy of the PPTA Webinar presentation has been posted on the Department's website and a web-link is provided below for your reference.
<http://www.virginiadot.org/business/ppta-default.asp>

Question # 2: What distinguishes projects that will be handled by the PPTA Office from those otherwise handled elsewhere in VDOT?

Response: The PPTA Office will be responsible for overseeing projects procured under the PPTA across all transportation modes. All other transportation projects, procured through traditional procurement method, will be managed by the agency with oversight over the particular project.

Question # 3: What phase will the projects being screened be identified to prospective developers/engineers?

Response: All candidate PPTA projects (both solicited and unsolicited projects) will be screened as part of the "Project Screening and Prioritization" phase of the PPTA Project Delivery Framework. The candidate PPTA projects that pass the detail-level screening will be prioritized by the PPTA Office and identified on a list of candidate PPTA projects.

Question # 4: Does the PPTA Project Delivery Framework require the unsolicited proposal to be put out for competition?

Response: One primary objective of the PPTA Project Delivery Framework is to generate competition for the development of PPTA projects. If an unsolicited proposal passes the detailed level screening review and is accepted by the Secretary, the PPTA Office will issue a solicitation under a competitive procurement process.

Question # 5: Does the criteria for selecting a PPTA project include long-term "operations and maintenance" considerations?

Response: Yes. The screening and selection process of candidate PPTA projects will include an evaluation of the operations, maintenance, renewal and replacement costs over the life of the project to determine whether the PPTA procurement method offers additional benefits to the Commonwealth.

Question # 6: Is the new process going to include all federal regulations on transportation planning and programming?

Response: Yes. For projects that require federal oversight, financial participation, or other approvals, the PPTA Project Delivery Framework will comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

Question # 7: Prior to the formal submittal and fee associated with an unsolicited proposal, is there a route for informal discussion relating to potential viability?

Response: Private entities that are interested in submitting unsolicited proposals may request a meeting with the PPTA Program Director and the appropriate Department Administrator(s) to discuss aspects of the proposed project and its potential viability.

Question # 8: What is the schedule to fill position of PPTA Director?

Response: The Office of the Secretary of Transportation is expected to make an announcement in the next several days.

Question # 9: Was the PPTA Program Office modeled after another PPP office nationally/internationally?

Response: Yes. An analysis of national and international Public-Private Partnership (PPP or P3) programs was conducted with the most successful aspects being incorporated into the Commonwealth's PPTA program. Examples of programs reviewed included: National Road Authority (NRA) of Ireland; Infrastructure Ontario (IO), Canada; Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA) Program; and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), P3 Division.

Question # 10: Who will the PPTA Program Steering Committee be comprised of?

Response: The PPTA Program Steering Committee is comprised of the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner, the Chief Deputy Transportation Commissioner, the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, the Chief Engineer of VDOT, the Chief Financial Officer of VDOT, the Chief of Planning and Programming of VDOT, and one representative each from the VPA, DRPT, VDOA, and DMV. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner.

Question # 11: Is there a standardized process for public outreach in the PPTA for candidate projects or will such outreach be performed by VDOT and other agencies under the Secretary's directorate?

Response: The PPTA Office is committed to have robust public outreach throughout the project development and procurement phases. At various stages of the project development lifecycle, the PPTA Office will seek participation from local, regional, state and federal stakeholders to ensure the greatest degree of stakeholder input from those most directly impacted by the development and implementation of a PPTA project.

Question # 12: Do you envisage VDOT or the Commonwealth of Virginia financing a portion of the PPTA projects through construction milestone payments or will that decision be depend on the outcome of the value-for-money analysis?

Response: Such decisions are dependent upon many factors, including but not limited to the financial viability, policy objectives and public need for the project.

Question # 13: Who is a key contact at PPTA Program Office that will be able to answer questions related to project coming to market and stage of pre-development?

Response: The PPTA Program Director is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the PPTA Program.

Question # 14: With the significant investment from the private sector and the emphasis on generating competition what is the likelihood that there will be stipends offered for the various project development opportunities?

Response: The Commonwealth of Virginia traditionally has not offered stipends to private entities for PPTA projects in the past. It is unlikely that the current policy of offering no stipends for PPTA projects will be changed for future projects.

Question # 15: When will the new guidelines become effective?

Response: The final release of the PPTA Implementation Manual and Guidelines is anticipated in late November or early December of 2010.

Question # 16: How do the new guidelines impact current PPTA projects and proposed projects?

Response: Once adopted, the new PPTA Implementation Manual and Guidelines will only be applicable for PPTA procurements initiated after the date the PPTA Implementation Manual and Guidelines becomes effective. All current PPTA procurements will continue to be governed by the existing guidelines.

Question # 17: What projects are anticipated to be on the candidate list? What projects are currently under study or under consideration?

Response: The process of identifying candidate projects will commence once the PPTA Implementation Manual and Guidelines are officially adopted later this year.