

# UPDATE ON SMART PORTAL & SMART SCALE

UCI Workshop - 2019

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# Overview

- **SMART PORTAL**
  - Background
  - Recent and Current Efforts
  - Planned Efforts
- **SMART SCALE**
  - Round 3 Outcomes
  - Historical Review
  - Project Changes
  - Round 4 Preparation

# SMART PORTAL



# SMART PORTAL

- **Background**

- **Developed in 2014-2015 timeframe to assist with intake of then HB2 and now SMART SCALE applications**
- **Allowed for mapping improvements as part of application**
  - Hugely beneficial for data collection purposes
- **Allowed for collaboration and feedback loop between the State and applicants as part of application submission process**

# SMART PORTAL

← → ↻ https://smartportal.virginiahb2.org/#/ 🔍 ⭐ ⌵

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**SMART PORTAL** Office of INTERMODAL Planning and Investment DRPT VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Home Applications About Applicant Sign-In

## Welcome to SMART Portal

The Smart Portal Application Tool provides public access to applications that have been submitted for various funding programs available through the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation. These programs include SMART SCALE, Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA), Revenue Sharing (RS), Highway Safety (HSIP), Bike/Ped Safety (BSPS), Systemic Safety Improvements (SSI), Rail Safety Improvements, and State of Good Repair (SGR) Bridges and Paving. To find out more information about each application program click on the About tab.

After each round of application submission and scoring, the tool provides public view of the individual project applications and the resulting score for each project and program. Each application program includes a drill down into the cohort list of applications with multiple filter options, including identification of projects selected for funding in the Six-Year Improvement Program.

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT SMART PORTAL PUBLIC](#)

All submitted project applications will be subject to requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

If you need assistance with this site, send your requests to [SmartPortal@CTB.Virginia.gov](mailto:SmartPortal@CTB.Virginia.gov).

# SMART PORTAL

- **One stop shop**
  - **Based on the success from using SMART Portal as part of the first round of SMART SCALE – use of the portal was expanded**
    - Revenue Sharing
    - Transportation Alternatives
    - Safety programs (HSIP, HSIP-SSI, HSIP Bike/Ped, Rail Safety)
    - State of Good Repair (local bridges and pavements)
    - Non VDOT Advertised Projects (NVAP)
  - **Similar benefits as before**
    - Allows us to collect myriad of data from multiple programs for use in process improvements and policy updates
    - Documentation storage has been extremely beneficial plus of the portal

# SMART PORTAL

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://smartportal.virginiahb2.org/#/>. The navigation bar includes links for Home, Dashboard, Project Updates, and About. The user is logged in as Jason Robinson. The main content area features a 'Welcome to SMART Portal' message and a grid of application categories, each with 'Applications' and 'About' buttons. The categories are: SMART SCALE (Funding the Right Transportation Projects in Virginia), Transportation Alternatives, Revenue Sharing, Highway Safety Programs, Bike Pedestrian Safety, Rail Safety Improvements, Systemic Safety Improvements, State of Good Repair Locally Owned Bridges, State of Good Repair Primary Extensions, and Non-VDOT Administered Project Updates. A footer note states: 'All submitted project applications will be subject to requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). If you need assistance with this site, send your requests to [SmartPortal@CTB.Virginia.gov](mailto:SmartPortal@CTB.Virginia.gov).'

# SMART PORTAL

- **Recent and Current Efforts**

- **Data Collection**

- All funding programs have had their application data exported from the portal into VDOT's central data warehouse which is useful for analyses and reporting

- **Pre-Application expansion**

- Currently, 3 of 5 funding programs have a version of a pre-application to assist with workload analysis and early collaboration on project submissions

- **Cloning**

- Ability to duplicate applications in multiple funding cycles in certain programs

- **Mapping improvements**

- Additional layers, better project tracing, and pinning locations for distance evaluations for scoring

- **NVAP**

- Ability for Localities to report on Construction phase milestones



# SMART PORTAL

- **Planned Efforts**
  - **Dashboard and navigation improvements**
    - Improved filtering on program specific dashboard (SMART SCALE first)
  - **Application validation tool**
    - Based on internal and external feedback
    - Expand to additional fields in Portal for data quality purposes
  - **Pre-screening feedback**
    - Increase ability for reviewers to flag high risk elements of projects
  - **Portal Performance**
    - Flexible cloud bandwidth will improve performance of the Portal during busier intake periods

# SMART PORTAL

- **Planned Efforts**
  - **Review workflows**
    - Improve validation and scoring processes by including required review workflows in portal (ex. Congestion analysis, etc.)
  - **Congestion analysis**
    - Build the actual congestion analysis into the portal
  - **Comments / Alerts**
    - Based on internal and external feedback
    - Improve response and issue resolution functionality

# SMART PORTAL

- **Questions?**
  - **SMART Portal email**
    - [smartportal@ctb.virginia.gov](mailto:smartportal@ctb.virginia.gov)
  - **SMART Portal Contacts**
    - **Jill Kocolis – VDOT Infrastructure Investment**
      - [Jill.kocolis@vdot.Virginia.gov](mailto:Jill.kocolis@vdot.Virginia.gov) (804) 786-4165
    - **Jason Robinson – VDOT Infrastructure Investment**
      - [Jason.robinson@vdot.Virginia.gov](mailto:Jason.robinson@vdot.Virginia.gov) (804) 786-9161
    - **Aziz Stewart – VDOT Infrastructure Investment**
      - [Aziz.stewart@vdot.Virginia.gov](mailto:Aziz.stewart@vdot.Virginia.gov) (804) 786-2827
  - **<https://smartportal.virginiahb2.org/#/about>**
    - List of portal contacts for each VDOT District

# SMART SCALE UPDATE



# SMART SCALE

- **Round 3 Outcomes**
  - **The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved the Consensus Funding Scenario in May 2019**
  - **468 applications submitted**
    - \$7 billion requested
    - \$12.4 billion in total project costs
  - **133 projects approved for funding**
    - \$856 million allocated\*

# SMART SCALE

- Round 3 Outcomes

District	# of Apps	SMART SCALE Request	Total Project Costs
Bristol	50	\$656M	\$656M
Culpeper	43	\$696M	\$746M
Fredericksburg	35	\$439M	\$493M
Hampton Roads	58	\$822M	\$4,500M
Lynchburg	30	\$244M	\$270M
Northern Virginia	47	\$1,700M	\$3,100M
Richmond	85	\$1,200M	\$1,200M
Salem	49	\$731M	\$804M
Staunton	71	\$477M	\$553M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>\$6,900M</b>	<b>\$12,400M</b>

# SMART SCALE

- **Round 3 Outcomes**
  - **External Survey Summary**
    - Net positive feedback on Round 3 compared to past rounds
    - Desire to have more resources to gauge potential project success (more detailed technical guide, what if tools, etc.)
    - Preference for interactive learning tools vs passive instruction such as webex or in person training
    - Application limits did not have a negative effect on submission
    - Availability of staff resources for local governments is still a challenge

# SMART SCALE

- **Round 3 Outcomes**

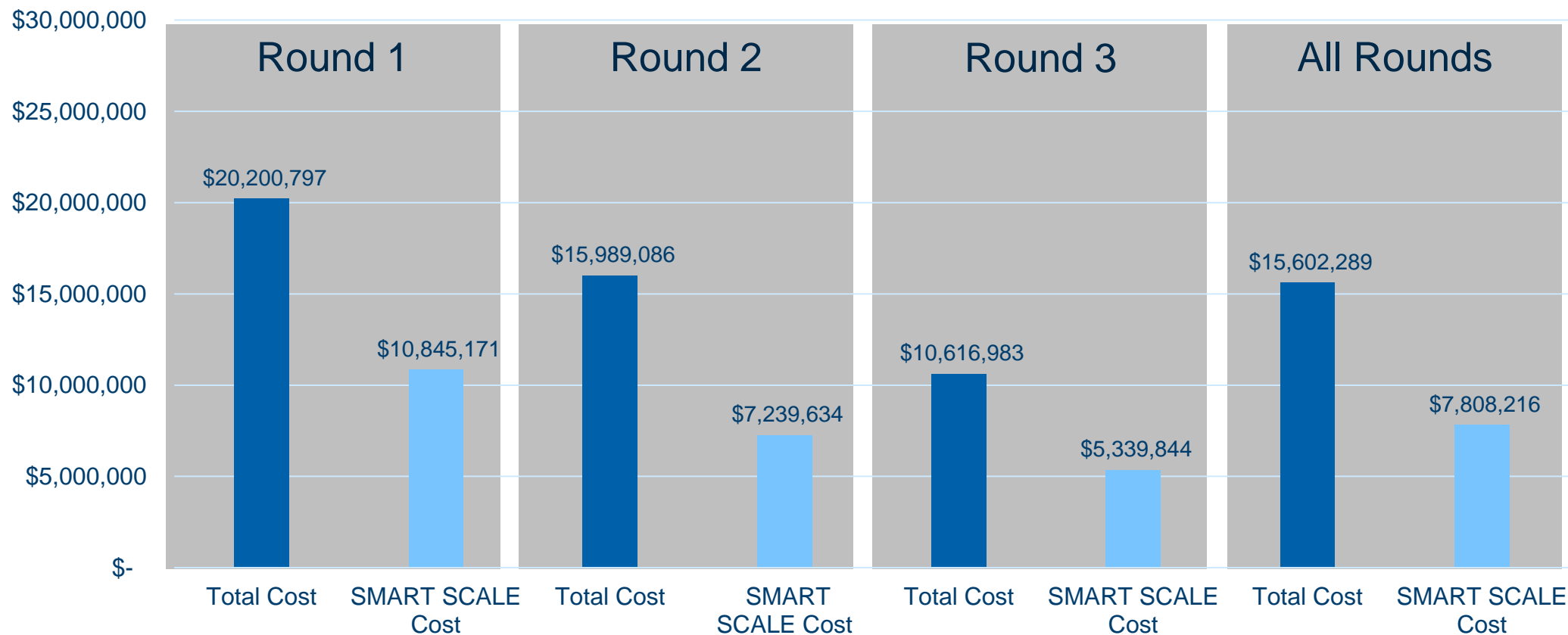
- **VDOT observations**

- Project readiness is still a concern although screening results were favorable compared to past rounds
- Well defined scope/schedule/estimate will result in better scoring projects
- Leveraged fund totals, percentage wise, decreased on highway projects and increased on public transit projects
- Average Cost and Average SMART SCALE request continue downward trend which is a positive → Applicants are considering more targeted solutions to address needs
- Additional training and outreach is required, especially for new locality staff and elected officials to help understand the requirements of SMART SCALE



# SMART SCALE:

## Average Total Cost vs. Average SMART SCALE Cost of Funded Projects Historical Review



# SMART SCALE

- **Historical Review – Performance to date**

- **SMART SCALE DASHBOARD**

- SMART SCALE funded projects are performing better for on-budget / on-time development and delivery than our statewide targets
- Full funding has positive influence
- Code of Virginia updated previously to require full funding within 6 year horizon of Six Year Improvement Program
- SMART SCALE forcing us to think differently about how we can keep projects on scope, on budget, and on time.

- **Program Performance**

- Cost savings on SMART SCALE projects match cost increases on SMART SCALE projects
- Overall – programmatic performance has been very positive

# SMART SCALE

- **Project changes**

- **Policy**

- CTB Policy requires us to re-evaluate projects as scopes or budgets change
- Certain project changes can be reviewed / approved qualitatively
- Certain project changes require more formal re-evaluation

- **Updated guidance**

- [SMART SCALE Project Change Guide](#) has been updated to help applicants and VDOT/DRPT staff better manage potential scope and/or budget changes

- **Roles / Responsibilities**

- Local Project Manager
- VDOT Points of Contact
- SMART SCALE Working Group

# SMART SCALE

- **Project changes**

- **Hot Topics**

- Adding scope due to cost savings → cannot be covered by SMART SCALE funding
- Bid options → not a good idea for SMART SCALE projects
- Scope change vs. Design refinement

- **Best practices**

- Early coordination with VDOT points of contact prevents project delays
- Involve VDOT staff in any value engineering exercises to get feedback on scope change vs. design refinement issues
- Project change should not be a four letter word – we can collaborate to develop innovative methods to stay within budget and achieve original project benefits

# SMART SCALE

- **Project changes - Examples**

- **Scope change**

- Intersection Improvements – Safety need
  - Issue: Access to business in proximity to operational influence of intersection → adverse impact to safety benefits
  - SMART SCALE project proposes closing access to reduce conflict points; based on property owner input, proposal was to re-open one access point
  - SSWG recommended not approving scope change

- **Design refinement**

- Trail project
  - Issue: Shifting trail crossing at busy intersection to mid block crossing 250 LF south of the intersection
  - SSWG concurred with District recommendation that this change was a design refinement and did not adversely impact benefits on the project

# SMART SCALE

- **Round 4 preparation**
  - **Pre-application intake beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**
  - **Developing quality projects**
    - Previously submitted applications not selected for funding with high benefits where cost is a factor → we can help!
    - Projects that address VTrans Tier 1 Recommendations
    - Targeted solutions at locations with high congestion and/or safety needs
  - **Resources VDOT can offer**
    - Congestion and Safety data
    - Project study and pre-scoping resources
    - Training and outreach for elected officials and other Locality staff

# SMART SCALE

- **Round 4 preparation**
  - **Project Readiness**
    - Well defined scope, schedule, and estimates are paramount for a successful SMART SCALE application
    - Bigger doesn't equal better
    - Engage public involvement now
    - Work with VDOT to have a backup plan
  - **Training and Outreach**
    - OIPI and VDOT staff will be conducting training this fall for both internal and external partners
    - Based on statewide feedback, need to address training needs for decision makers involved in the process to help localities put the best foot forward

# QUESTIONS?

- **Contacts**

- **Your VDOT District SMART SCALE Point of Contact**
- **Chad Tucker, SMART SCALE Manager – Office of Intermodal Planning & Investment**
  - [Chad.tucker@oipi.Virginia.gov](mailto:Chad.tucker@oipi.Virginia.gov) (804) 786-2974
- **Kimberly Pryor, Director – VDOT Infrastructure Investment**
  - [Kimberly.pryor@vdot.Virginia.gov](mailto:Kimberly.pryor@vdot.Virginia.gov) (804) 786-2543
- **Jason Robinson, Assistant Director – VDOT Infrastructure Investment**
  - [Jason.robinson@vdot.Virginia.gov](mailto:Jason.robinson@vdot.Virginia.gov) (804) 786-9161

- **Resources**

- <http://vasmartscale.org/default.asp>