

ITEM #13: TRANSPORTATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: SMART SCALE, INFRA, AND BUILD

Robert Crum and Michael Kimbrel, HRTPO

After the Hampton Roads Transportation Fund, managed by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission, the primary source of potential funding for regional priority projects is Virginia's SMART SCALE program. However, there are two federal discretionary programs that have provided funding opportunities over the past several years – the Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) grants program and the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants program.

SMART SCALE is about investing limited tax dollars in the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. On October 16, 2019 the SMART SCALE team presented proposed changes and modifications to the process to consider for SMART SCALE Round 4. The proposed changes cover schedule/timeline, pre-application process, project eligibility, project readiness, scoring methods and factor area weights. To view the presentation to the CTB, please use the direct link below:

http://vasmartscale.org/documents/october2019_smartscale_ctb_presentation.pdf

INFRA grants are awarded on a competitive basis and provide federal financial assistance to highway and freight projects of national or regional significance.

BUILD grants are awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact.

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, and Mr. Michael Kimbrel, HRTPO Deputy Executive Director, will brief the Board on this item and solicit input on potential candidate projects for these funding programs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.