

AGENDA ITEM #17: TRANSPORTATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: SMART SCALE, INFRA, AND BUILD
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 January 14, 2020 the SMART SCALE team presented proposed changes to SMART SCALE policies and methods - Round 4 to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). The proposed changes cover schedule/timeline, pre-application process, project eligibility, project readiness, etc.. To view the presentation to the CTB, please visit: http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/resources/2020/jan/pres/9_smartscale.pdf

INFRA grants are awarded on a competitive basis and provide federal financial assistance to highway and freight projects of national or regional significance. For more information on the INFRA program, please visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/infragrants>

BUILD grants are awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. For more information on the BUILD program, please visit: <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants/about>

At the HRTPO Board meeting held on January 16, 2020, members requested that the TTAC compile a list of candidate projects that localities and agencies intend to submit for the upcoming 2020 BUILD grants program. HRTPO staff sent an inquiry to TTAC members on January 23, 2020 for information including project name, termini, approximate cost, and a brief summary of the work to be completed.

Mr. Michael Kimbrel, HRTPO Deputy Executive Director, will brief the TTAC on this item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide a list to the HRTPO Board of candidate projects that localities and agencies intend to submit for the upcoming 2020 BUILD grants program.