

ITEM #12: SMART SCALE UPDATE: *Mike Kimbrel, HRTPO*

SUMMARY:

The presentation will include a brief overview of the SMART SCALE prioritization process, as well as a discussion regarding the project(s) to be submitted by the HRTPO.

Mr. Mike Kimbrel, HRTPO Deputy Executive Director, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item.

BACKGROUND:

Virginia's SMART SCALE is about investing limited tax dollars in the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. In the SMART SCALE prioritization process, transportation projects are scored based on an objective, outcome-based process that is transparent to the public and allows decision-makers to be held accountable to taxpayers. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) uses the project score information resulting from SMART SCALE to help select the right projects for funding.

SMART SCALE is divided into two programs – the High Priority Projects Program (HPPP), under which projects compete against one another statewide; and the District Grants Program (DGP), under which projects compete against other projects within the same VDOT Construction District. The HRTPO is an eligible applicant for the HPPP.

HRTPO staff has reviewed a number of regionally-significant projects as potential candidates for submission under SMART SCALE. It is important to note that funding secured under SMART SCALE for any of the Hampton Roads Regional Priority Projects frees up regional Hampton Roads Transportation Fund dollars that can be used to advance other mega-projects in the Region.

Taking into account the SMART SCALE evaluation criteria and policies, as well as the current timeline for the Regional Priority Projects, HRTPO staff recommends submitting a pre-application and full application for the following project:

- **I-64/Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Widening**
 - Current cost estimate: \$3.8 billion
 - Proposed SMART SCALE request: \$200 million to \$300 million
 - Should compete well for all six evaluation criteria and cost/benefit

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Provide direction to HRTPO staff regarding the project(s) to submit for Round 3 of the SMART SCALE Prioritization Process.