

AGENDA ITEM #8: 2020 CMAQ/RSTP PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS: UPDATE
John Mihaly, HRTPO

The HRTPO selection process for projects proposed to be funded under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) is conducted annually. HRTPO staff has completed the scoring of CMAQ candidate projects and is scheduled to complete the scoring of RSTP projects by December 31, 2020. The updated Project Selection Process schedule is attached (Attachment 8-B).

The 2020 CMAQ/RSTP Project Selection Process is for the allocation of FY 2027 CMAQ and RSTP funding.

Mr. John Mihaly, HRTPO Principal Transportation Planner, will brief the TTAC on this item.

Attachment 8-A: VDOT SYIP Letter

Attachment 8-B: 2020 CMAQ/RSTP Project Selection Process Update Schedule

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
Commissioner

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November 16, 2020

As we have concluded the first quarter of fiscal year 2021, I want to provide an update to you concerning the Virginia Department of Transportation's upcoming actions relative to the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (SYIP). Chapter 1289 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly directs that the FY2020-2025 SYIP adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in June 2019, as amended, will remain in effect through June 30, 2021 or until such time as a new SYIP is adopted that is based on the official Commonwealth Transportation Fund revenue forecast reflecting the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the CTB did not adopt a revised SYIP by July 1, 2020 as is normally required by the Code of Virginia (33.2-214(B)). Projects previously approved in the amended FY2020-2025 SYIP have continued to be developed and delivered according to their schedules.

To support the transportation agencies and to ensure VDOT is able to meet its current obligations and continue to develop and deliver projects in the FY2020-2025 SYIP on their original schedules, an amendment to Item 430 of the Budget Bill was submitted by the Governor in the Special Session of the General Assembly. The amendment provides that the CTB may use previously allocated Revenue Sharing funds not **currently** needed to support project delivery to mitigate impacts from the revenue reductions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and replace those allocations **in the year needed** to support current project schedules. Further, the Secretary must report funding actions planned to be taken, including a listing of programs and projects impacts as well as any deviation from the proposed plan. This plan was presented to the CTB on October 20, 2020 and may be accessed at the following link: [Presentation](#). In addition, proposed individual project allocation adjustments may be viewed at the following link: http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/resources/2020/october/pres/rs_handout3.pdf.

Following the October CTB meeting, VDOT is taking steps to recommend to the CTB a SYIP that builds on the previously approved SYIP with a targeted approach that does not allocate new program funding. This ensures we can manage current financial impacts and adjust in the subsequent SYIP when revenue forecast updates are available. The FY2021-2026 SYIP COVID-19 Update will be presented to the CTB for action in December. In addition, any deviation from the proposed plan presented to the CTB in October will be provided. As outlined in the presentation to the CTB, the FY2021-2026 SYIP COVID-19 Update Plan is comprised of three components:

- 1. Build upon actions approved to date to amend and modify the FY2020-2025 SYIP**
These actions include incorporation of new projects and funding adjustments for several funding programs, including Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant, Congestion

Mitigation and Air Quality, Innovation and Technology Transportation Fund, Safety, Transportation Alternatives Program, and State of Good Repair Local and VDOT Paving.

2. Execute a targeted approach focused on updating specific funding programs

These actions include proposed inclusion of new FY2021 selections for State of Good Repair Local and VDOT Bridge and Revenue Sharing. Using the flexibility provided by the amendment to Item 430, an allocation restructuring strategy will be implemented for the Revenue Sharing Program in order to utilize previously allocated funds not currently needed to support project delivery to mitigate impacts from the revenue reductions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and replace those allocations in FY2021-2024 as necessary to support current project schedules. **No funding commitments will be reduced and no projects will be delayed due to the proposed restructuring strategy.** New FY2021 Revenue Sharing project selections will receive FY2025 and FY2026 allocations. The biennial solicitation cycle for Revenue Sharing will continue with future awards in the last two fiscal years of the SYIP.

3. Do NOT engage all processes and procedures of a typical SYIP update

Certain activities normally associated with the annual SYIP update will be deferred until development of the FY2022-2027 SYIP update, including updates to certain factors applied to funding formulas and full incorporation of legislative changes approved in the 2020 General Assembly Session. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will hold a virtual public hearing on November 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to solicit feedback on the FY2021-2026 SYIP COVID-19 Update.

Link: <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/default.asp>

Localities and regional planning bodies are a vital partner in delivering and maintaining the Commonwealth's transportation system. We recognize that many localities are evaluating the impacts of revised revenue forecasts as well. The funding strategy and the SYIP approach that was presented to the CTB in October mitigates the impacts to the transportation agencies from the revenue reductions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining existing funding commitments on approved projects and supporting existing projects schedules.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our transportation system and the development of the FY2021-2026 SYIP. I encourage you to contact your VDOT District Engineer if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Brich, P.E.

Commissioner of Highways

C: Ms. Laura Farmer, Chief Financial Office
Infrastructure Investment Division
VDOT District Engineers