

Memorandum

To: MPO Committees
From: Sandy Shackelford, Director of Planning & Transportation
Date: July 10, 2023
Reference: Commonwealth Transportation Board – SMART SCALE Program Review

Purpose:

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is undertaking a comprehensive review of the SMART SCALE program, including reviewing the application development process and analyzing the outcomes. While this evaluation process occurs after every round of SMART SCALE, substantive adjustments are being considered as part of the current review. These discussions began at the May 2023 CTB meeting, and are scheduled to continue through the fall.

CA-MPO staff is following the discussions and will provide a summary of key discussion items that have been covered in the CTB meetings to-date. However, the information shared at the CTB meetings goes into much more detail. No decisions regarding changes to the SMART SCALE application process have been made at this time.

Discussion:

At the May meeting, the CTB reviewed the history of SMART SCALE, feedback they received about the process after Round 5, and a high-level analysis of application performance. Office of Intermodal Planning & Investment (OIPI) staff reviewed the items that were codified into State Code that cannot be adjusted, as well as the portions that the CTB has the authority to adjust and revise. OIPI staff reviewed the main issues that were identified through their analysis of the program.

During the May meeting, the main topic that was discussed was identified issues related to the application process, and a review of potential program adjustments being considered to address those challenges.

- [Recording of the Presentation](#) (1:58:45)
- [Meeting Slides](#)

During the June meeting, the CTB discussed process biases, funding steps, and began the discussion on what is referred to in the CTB meeting as “One Factor Majority” issues, which is in reference to the influence the land use scoring factor has had on project funding recommendations.

- [Recording of the Presentation](#) (0:00:00)
- [Meeting Slides](#)

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The CTB held a SMART SCALE retreat on July 19th where they covered additional areas of concern including low-scoring projects and factor weighting, and staff recommended adjustments to the SMART SCALE program and high level impacts in project funding outcomes.

- Recording of the retreat not yet posted – [CTB YouTube Channel](#)
- [Meeting Slides](#)

Actions: This information is being shared for discussion purposes. No action is requested at this time.