

## Memorandum

**To:** MPO Committee Members  
**From:** Sandy Shackelford, Director of Planning & Transportation  
**Date:** May 7, 2021  
**Reference:** Smart Scale Round 5 Public Engagement Process Update

### Purpose:

The MPO has been working to develop a new process to improve public engagement opportunities in its development of Smart Scale project applications. The framework that the MPO has established is to select up to two projects of regional interest that would benefit from additional public engagement and facilitate a process to refine the projects and prepare applications for Round 5 Smart Scale submissions.

### Background:

CA-MPO has reviewed its process of identifying and selecting SMART SCALE projects to move forward in Round 5 with the MPO Committees in previous meeting. An overall schedule of project identification and preparation is included for your reference as we move through the selection process.

As previously discussed, MPO staff has worked with Albemarle County, Charlottesville City, and VDOT staff to develop an initial list of suggested projects for consideration based on previous studies and plans that have been completed that they consider to be beneficial to both localities. Staff believes that working towards implementing projects that have already been identified in previous planning efforts is the most effective use of resources. It also helps to build on existing technical work that has already been completed, providing better assurance that successful applications will be generated from this process.

This is the list of potential projects that has been identified by staff for consideration by the MPO Policy Board:

- District Avenue Roundabout
- Hillsdale Avenue Extension
- Rivanna River Bike & Pedestrian Crossing
- Avon Street
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Project slides are attached to this memo for reference and review.

Project suggestions developed by staff have already been reviewed to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria for SMART SCALE applications, as well as ensuring the preparation of the applications themselves can be supported by VDOT staff or consultants. Any additions to this list will also need to be reviewed prior to consideration by the MPO Policy Board.

To increase public awareness and engagement in the SMART SCALE project development process, CA-MPO staff held a webinar on May 10 to provide background information on the SMART SCALE process and to explain how potential projects are identified. CA-MPO staff will provide a summary of public feedback from this webinar at the MPO committee meetings in May, as well as discussing any feedback from local government discussions. Additional feedback from MPO Tech and CTAC discussions in May will also be brought to the MPO Policy Board for their consideration.

At their meetings in July, CTAC and MPO Tech will be asked to make recommendations on up to four projects they would like to see move forward as Smart Scale submissions. They will also be asked to identify which two of those projects they anticipate would require additional engagement to develop into applications. The MPO Policy Board will make a final decision on the project selections at their meeting in July.

**Recommendation:**

Staff is requesting that MPO committee and Policy Board members review the prepared list of potential projects. No formal action is requested at this time.

If there are any questions or comments, please contact Sandy Shackelford at [sshackelford@tjpd.org](mailto:sshackelford@tjpd.org).

*Table 1. Smart Scale Project Selection Schedule*

<b>March 2021</b>	Initial discussions about potential projects with MPO Committees.
<b>April 2021 – May 2021</b>	Receive requests for projects to be considered as Smart Scale applications from localities, CTAC, MPO Tech, and Regional Transit Partnership.
<b>May 2021</b>	Finalized list of projects requested for consideration from MPO committees and local governments will be presented to the MPO committees for initial review.
<b>July 2021</b>	CTAC and MPO Tech will make recommendations for up to two projects that should be selected for additional public engagement; the MPO Policy Board will select up to two projects that will move forward with additional public engagement.
<b>September 2021</b>	The Policy Board will appoint an advisory committee for each project that is selected as needing additional public engagement.
<b>October 2021 – April 2022</b>	MPO staff will facilitate public engagement process for selected projects.
<b>February/March 2022</b>	MPO staff will facilitate public workshops for all potential Smart Scale projects within the MPO region, coordinating with Charlottesville and Albemarle County.
<b>April 2022</b>	MPO staff will finalize project details with advisory committees based on additional public feedback received through the public workshops.
<b>May 2022</b>	Pre-application deadline.
<b>June – July 2022</b>	MPO staff will work with Charlottesville and Albemarle staff to coordinate requests for resolutions of support, economic development data, and any other supporting documentation needed for application submittals. MPO staff will coordinate with VDOT for any technical documentation that is needed for application submissions.
<b>August 2022</b>	Full application deadline.