

Memorandum

To: MPO Committee Members
From: Sandy Shackelford, Director of Planning & Transportation
Date: May 9, 2023
Reference: Smart Scale Round 6 Preparation Update

Purpose:

In 2020, the MPO implemented a new process to develop SMART SCALE project applications which included early identification of up to two MPO projects that may need additional engagement prior to submission. This process was implemented for the first time in preparation for SMART SCALE Round 5 applications. The Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing was identified as needing additional engagement, and MPO staff were able to facilitate an extensive public engagement effort that was used to inform the development of the final project application.

Project Background:

Staff reviewed potential projects that may be of interest for Round 6 SMART SCALE applications at the previous meeting in March. To prepare this list of potential projects, staff reviewed previously submitted SMART SCALE projects that were unfunded and the current VDOT Pipeline Projects that will work to identify solutions for the US 250/Ivy Road and US 250/Barracks Road interchanges.

An additional project that was not previously discussed was identified through the north 29 corridor study completed in 2023. The study evaluated the performance of the section of U.S. 29 from Airport Road in Albemarle County into southern Greene County. The analysis of existing and future intersection operations as well as safety factors have indicated that the Boulders Road/Briarwood Drive intersection, providing access from US 29 to Rivanna Station, indicates a high need for improvements.

Based on the review of the previously submitted projects and other projects identified as being of high priority, MPO staff has developed this list of potential projects for consideration in the development of Round 6 SMART SCALE applications:

- District Avenue/Hydraulic Road Roundabout
- 5th Street Extended Multimodal Improvements – Revise the original scope to reduce project cost
- US 250/Rolkin Road Pedestrian Improvements - At-grade pedestrian crossings and sidewalk on southern side of US 250 to State Farm Boulevard
- US 29/Boulders Road/Briarwood Drive Intersection
- US 250/Ivy Road Interchange – Current VDOT Pipeline Study; Could produce multiple recommendations for improvements

- US 250/Barracks Road Interchange – Current VDOT Pipeline Study

This list assumes the staff-recommended projects from the evaluation of Round 5 SMART SCALE applications will be approved for funding by the CTB in June. This list may be revised based on final project funding decisions.

Each of these identified projects has or will have gone through a public engagement process to develop the project solutions. MPO staff can work with VDOT, localities, and other identified stakeholders to further develop projects that need to be rescoped or support the ongoing public and stakeholder engagement of ongoing projects.

At the previous meeting, staff received general consensus from the MPO committee discussions that their staff utilization would be best directed towards supporting VDOT's US 250 pipeline studies and working to refine previously submitted applications to improve the competitiveness of previously submitted project applications.

Recommendation:

No formal action is requested at this time. Staff would like feedback from the committee on any additional projects that should be considered as candidates for Round 6 project applications at this time.

If there are any questions or comments, please contact Sandy Shackelford at sshackelford@tjpd.org.

Unfunded Projects from SMART SCALE Round 5					
ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST	BENEFIT SCORE	SMART SCALE SCORE	Notes
CA-MPO	District Avenue Roundabout (at Hydraulic Road)	\$20,051,997	9.22	4.6	Scored well; Barely missed being funded; Could be resubmitted
CA-MPO	Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Crossing	\$42,115,788	13.35	3.17	High benefit score, but also high cost; Could be resubmitted if there are no other projects; Will know about RAISE Grant at end of June.
CA-MPO	Fifth Street Extended Multimodal Improvements	\$22,788,588	3.83	1.68	Low benefit score, but high community interest in improving 5th Street; Would need to adjust scope.
TJPDC	US250/Rolkin Road Pedestrian Improvements	\$11,927,213	4.66	3.91	
TJPDC	US250/Milton Road Intersection Improvements	\$9,757,582	1.6	1.64	Low benefit score
TJPDC	US250/Louisa Road (Route 22) Intersection Improvements	\$10,986,125	0.85	0.78	Low benefit score

Unfunded Projects from SMART SCALE Round 4					
ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST	BENEFIT SCORE	SMART SCALE SCORE	Notes
CA-MPO	Hillsdale South Extension	\$34,314,082	12.95	3.78	Part of 29 Solutions recommendations. On the Constrained Roadway List, but high cost. May be desirable to re-evaluate the broader area once other Hydraulic projects are implemented.
TJPDC	US29/ Frays Mill/ Burnley Station Intersection Improvements	\$11,076,070	1.13	1.02	Low benefit score