

## Round 6 Full Application Applicant Training Q&A

Who prepares independent estimates? (Central Office only or Central Office and District?)

Independent estimate review and validation refers to an independent set of eyes doing a review and validation of the estimate based on the three tiers. Anything over \$15M will have the review of CO and District, while anything under \$15M will have District review only.

My previous attempt to upload the CEWB to the portal was not successful. I assumed it was because of the macros in the spreadsheet, and I uploaded a pdf of the CEWB instead. Is this correct?

Macro-enabled files are not able to be uploaded to the Portal, but either saving the results as a flat .xlsx file or putting it in a .zip file is acceptable. A PDF of the CEWB would also be acceptable, as long as it shows all of the information.

If no detailed estimate is submitted with the CEWB, how can the estimate be validated without preparing an independent estimate?

A detailed estimate is required to be submitted to support the CEWB no matter what, but it is not required as an upload in the Portal. Whether it is uploaded in the Portal or provided to VDOT separately, it is still required either way.

For the requirement that the proposed project has no overlap with a previously funded SMART SCALE project, is that for previous funding from SMART SCALE, or would this apply to previous/ongoing improvements funded through other programs such as RSTP/CMAQ.

If a SMART SCALE application overlaps with another previously funded SMART SCALE project that is underway or about to start, it doesn't matter what funding is on the project, that is an eligibility issue. If it is a non-SMART SCALE project funded by another program, there are no issues there. If it is a SMART SCALE project that has other funding, would still be considered an overlap regardless of where funds are from. Project also cannot be fully funded with other funds if you are requesting SMART SCALE funds.

When will the updated CEWB with new inflation factors be available?

This information will be updated the week of June 3 or the week of June 10.

Is there a deadline for the cost estimates from the State Pipeline and STARS studies for SMART SCALE applications to be ready. In some cases, waiting for some of the State cost estimates for some local and regional applications.

Deadline is August 1.

When is the deadline for leveraged funding commitments for SMART SCALE projects? In the past, applicants were allowed to submit leveraged funding commitments after the State cost estimates became available. It makes it difficult for applicants to make an informed decision on leveraged funding with the date for both being August 1st.

Deadline is August 1. All leveraged funding commitments are validated with what is provided August 1st. If there are large fluctuations from the as submitted to validated cost estimate, we may reach out to revise documentation as appropriate but initial commitments should be provided by the application deadline.

Given the policy of leverage funds are spend first shouldn't we plan for them in year 5?

Funding available is amount equivalent of DGP/HPP funds in Year 5 and 6 of SYIP. There is flexibility in providing funding for projects to start sooner than Year 5 or 6 to match project schedules. General rule of thumb, SMART SCALE funds are deallocated first – leveraged funding may be the surplus on a project.

Is there a definition and/or criteria for what it means for a design to be "resilient"?

The overarching goal is for VDOT Design Standards to capture this, so the answer should be yes. But for more information the Technical Guide covers the referenced law requiring us to ask this question:

*In 2021, H.B. 2071 was passed to amend and reenact § 33.2-214.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to whether a project has been designed to be resilient when evaluating projects for the Six-Year Improvement Program and consider resiliency when establishing the Statewide Transportation Plan. As a result, the scorecards will indicate whether a project is addressing a VTrans Mid-Term need associated*

*with three hazards: (1) sea-level rise, (2) storm surge, and (3) inland/riverine flooding. Additionally, it will be reported on the scorecard if a project has been designed to be or the project sponsor has committed that the design will be resilient. The notation does not have an impact on the SMART SCALE score.*

If apps are scored according to the SMART SCALE scoring criteria and awarded based on that, why does entering a priority matter?

SMART SCALE is a tool; scores and the Staff Recommended Funding Scenario based on those scores are presented to the CTB. The CTB will review, and what ultimately gets adopted is referred to as the Consensus Scenario, where the CTB can add/drop projects from the Staff Scenario. In some cases, localities can relay to the CTB which projects they prefer over the other, which the CTB members will consider during the Consensus Scenario.

Many attachments need to be updated and cannot be reused for a cloned project resubmittal, and resolutions of support were specifically mentioned. Old governing body resolutions of support cannot be used and a new resolution must be adopted?

That is correct, every application must have a current to this round resolution of support from its governing body.

Can you upload resolution of support, CEP etc. on August 1st after gate 3 concurrence completed?

Yes