

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the

SECRETARY of TRANSPORTATION

SMART SCALE Full Application Applicant Training

June 4, 2024













Round 6 (FY 2026) Pre-Application Training Agenda

- Training Expectations
- Resources
- Pre-Application Summary
 - Pre-Screening Decisions
 - Common Pre-Application Issues
 - o FAQs
- Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance
- SMART Portal Demo
- Timeline and Key Dates
 - Clarifying Resolutions of Support
- Final Reminders

Training Expectations

- Pre-Application Training Material will be recorded and posted to the SMART SCALE Website in the "Apply/Resources Section"
 - Video
 - o PDF
 - Questions and Answers
- Please use the chat functionality if you have a question (you will not be able to unmute)
 - Time Permitting we will respond to questions directly related to the topic being presented (i.e., clarifying questions)
 - All other questions will be responded to in the Q&A Document

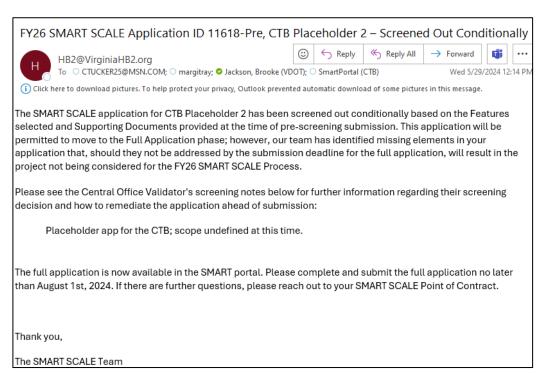
Resources

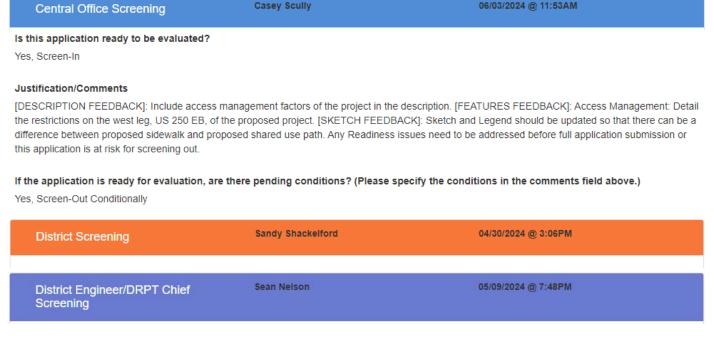
Apply/Resources Page

- Website got an overhaul Web address is now SMARTSCALE.virginia.gov
- Archived previous round of "Apply/Resources" material due to 508 compliance rules
 - Email a SMART SCALE team member if you need a particular document
- "Previous Rounds" Page remains intact
- "Apply/Resources" Page Updates
 - SMART SCALE Feature Descriptions and Example Text
 - Delivery and Funding Guidance
- Pre-Application Training Materials Feb. 28, 2024
- Safety
 - SMART SCALE Planning Level CMFs and Targeted CMFs
 - Round 6 CMF Calculator

Pre-Screening Decisions

- View Pre-Screening Decisions
 - Submitter Roles received an auto-generated email
 - Submitter and Editor Roles can view Pre-Screening Forms in the Portal





Pre-Screening Decisions Continued

Excerpt from Pre-Application Training Final Reminders

Pre-Screening Decisions

- · Pre-Screen in
- · Pre-Screen out
 - If a gating reason the response will be from the appropriate DE or DRPT Chief, otherwise the reported response will come from Central Office
- · Pre-Screen out Conditionally
 - Not enough information to decide, screeners will provide a list of items needed to screen in at Full Application

Pre-Screening Decisions	Percent Apps
Pre-Screen In	10%
Pre-Screen Out	3%
Withdrawn	2%
Pre-Screen Out Conditionally (minor issues <1 day to remediate)	57%
Pre-Screen Out Conditionally (major/critical issues)	28%

Office of the SECRETARY of TRANSPORTATION

Pre-Screening Decisions Continued

Pre-Screening <u>DID NOT</u> include:

- State's Understanding of Project Scope
- Review of Cost Estimate
- Review of Resolution of Support
- Review of Leveraged Funding (and Supporting Documents)

As applications evolve, there could be more requirements that pop up

- o Remember if you make a change, make it to all sketch, features, study, linework, cost estimate, SUPS
- Do not change the location (or add major scope items) of your application because of screening feedback
- Reducing scope is allowed due to the feedback

Common Pre-Application Issues General

Disregard the HPP Eligibility assignment given on the Portal, data has not been OIPI-Verified

Application Program Requested

District Grant

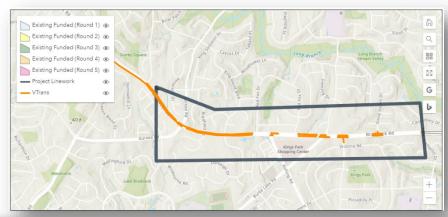
Does the project include major features that are either contiguous, proximate, or of the same improvement type? For the purpose of this question and the CTB policy contiguous means adjacent or together in a sequence. Transit stops or stations along a transit route or intersections or spot improvements along a corridor meet the definition of contiguous for the purposes of the project eligibility policy.

Yes

- Majority of applicants selected "yes" on study to meet HPP
- Applicant eligibility has been verified/identified if non-locality, but if the locality applied the HPP decision

deferred to Full Application to allow finalizing studies

- Incorrectly selecting the Principal Improvement Type
 - Majority of the cost of the project should dictate the type
- Drawing the linework as a polygon Jonathan will cover



Common Pre-Application Issues Features

- Not selecting a feature with a gating requirement
- Feature unchecked, but still has text and vice versa

○ Construct or Improve Bus Stop / Shelter

Comment

Install a bus stop near the US Rte 1/Southpoint Parkway intersection to support planned FRED service down the US Rte 1 Corridor from the VA to Kalahari.

Not utilizing the suggested comment text – issue with cloned applications

through/turn lanes

SMART Portal

Website



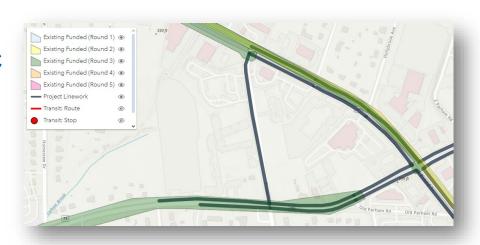
miles from 1st Ave to 10th Ave.")

Common Pre-Application Issues Cloned Applications

- 42% Full or Partial Resubmittals
 - New Pre-Screening Completed
 - Previous round screening decision does not guarantee current round screening decision
- Delete and/or revise previous round documents
 - Cost Estimates
 - Resolutions of Support
 - Studies that are > 10 years old, multiple conflicting studies
 - Multiple Sketches
 - Applicant Concurrence with Change
- Note: Cloned applications were causing a lot of mapping errors that we will continue to check in the coming months
 - Not picking up the APN/CoSS Network, which impacts gates

Common Pre-Application Issues Overlapping Scope Previously Funded Components

- If the previously funded project is scoped, defined at 30% design:
 - 1. Modify the current application to not conflict with the existing project
 - 2. Request cancellation of the existing project through SS POC by July 15th
 - 3. Withdraw the current application
- If the previously funded project is <u>not</u> scoped:
 - 1. Any of the above
 - 2. Request a project change to the existing project through SS POC by June 21st
- Application sketch needs to reflect the existing SS Project and compatibility with the new request



Common Pre-Application Issues Overlapping Components of Two Current Applications

- The SMART SCALE Process is not for testing different alternatives at a VTrans need location to test what will be recommended for funding
- We do allow an entire corridor to be submitted by one entity (for example MPO submits spanning multiple jurisdictions), and the localities to submit smaller phased sections
 HPP Eligibility for MPO
- Logically phased, not reducing components to test a lower-cost option

FAQs Readiness: Feature Gates Pedestrian Crossings

Excerpt from Pre-Application Training
Policy and Administrative Updates
Readiness: Feature Gates Pedestrian Crossings

- When improving an unsignalized uncontrolled pedestrian crossing, provide a completed SS02 Unsignalized Crossing Study Form
- This form satisfies IIM-384.1, including an engineering study if required.
 - NOT required for new or improved crossings at signalized intersections or on stop-controlled approaches
 - Stop-controlled approaches, applicants should evaluate the intersection geometry to ensure that the existing STOP bar can be set back far enough to accommodate the crossing while maintaining the minimum safe sight distance.
- Not required at roundabout crossings
- Not required on the stop-controlled side of TWSC
- Application will only get a safety score if the crossing is high visibility need to specify!

FAQs Intersection Modifications

Excerpt from Pre-Application Training
Policy and Administrative Updates
Readiness: Feature Gates Intersection Modifications FAQs

- Some intersection features now require a completed iCAP assessment (spreadsheet tool) to satisfy IIM-TOD-397.
 - STARS and Pipeline studies are acceptable
 - SJR is acceptable
- Applies ONLY when modifying an intersection configuration on a CoSS or APN
- Includes features "Innovative Intersection," "Intersection Improvement(s)," and "New Intersection"
- Not required for extension of turn lanes, bike & ped accommodations

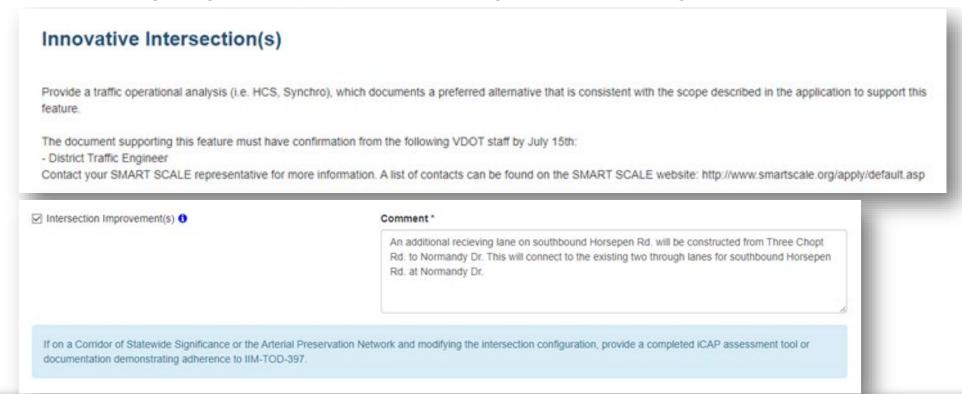
Intersection Improvement(s)

Does this project include modification of an intersection configuration?
No

"Yes" if adding a new through lane or road diet (feature "Road Reconfiguration") extends through the intersection

FAQs Intersection Modifications Continued

- Portal Error (Hotfix Coming)
 - Selecting "Innovative Intersections" was not triggering iCAP in the Gates
 - Was giving the appropriate warning when selecting the feature



Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance SMART SCALE Estimate Success

Key to successful estimates: Make sure you have...

CONSISTENCY!



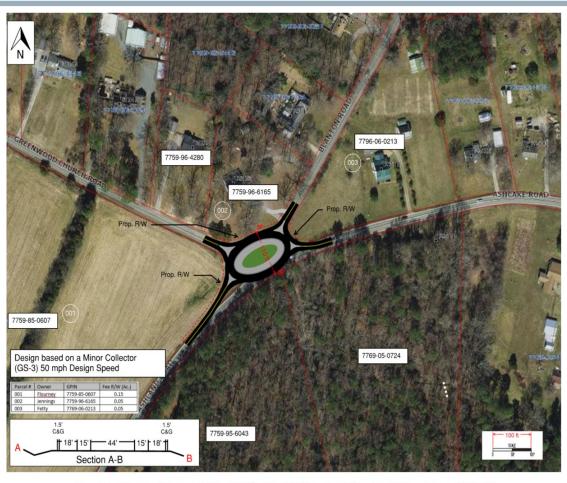
Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Consistency – Scope, Sketches & Estimate

For successful estimates and validation, you will need to ask...

- Are there <u>inconsistencies</u> that prevent independent estimate validation?
- Are there <u>differences</u> in the features shown and described that would substantially affect the estimate?
- Are there features shown and/or described that <u>aren't included</u> in the estimate?
- Does the sketch or description provide <u>adequate information</u> for independent estimate validation?

Help us avoid extensive review comments and multiple iterations of reviews

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Project Sketch Quality – Needs Improvement



Positives:

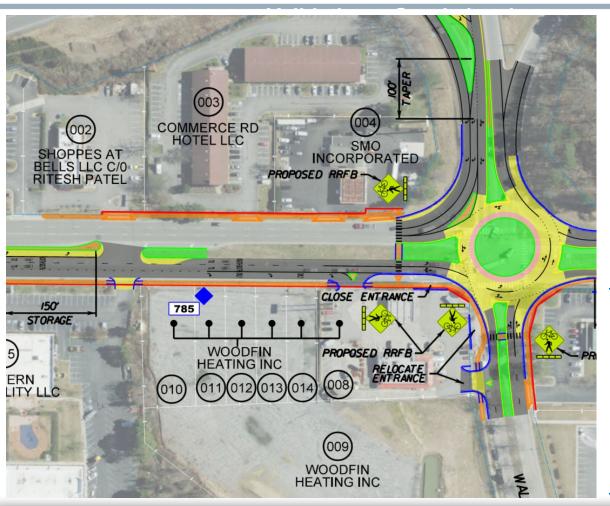
RW area summary, design speed, classification, typical section, some labels

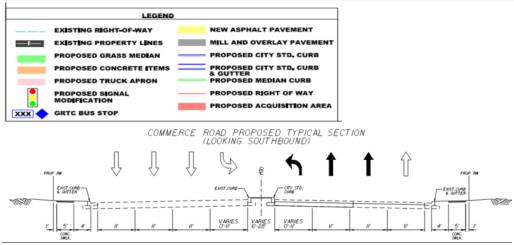
Negatives:

Plot scale, no SWM assumptions, difficult to even tell lane configuration or widths, no approximate construction limits, drainage features, would require a significant contingency with so many unknowns.

Conceptual Sketch - Greenwood Church Rd/Ashland Rd/Ashcake Rd/Blanton Rd Roundabout (7-20-22)

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Project Sketch Quality – Significantly Better





<u>Positives:</u> roundabout lanes clearly depicted, shows full depth and mill/overlay pavement, proposed right of way impacts shown, extensive legend, typical section is clear, modified entrances shown

Negatives: unclear SWM

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Estimate Validation Procedures

Validation Tiers

Over \$50M in CN

- Requires District and Central Office concurrence
- Requires independent estimate review and validation

\$15-50M in CN

- Requires District concurrence
- Requires Central Office independent estimate review and comment response

Less than \$15M in CN

- Requires District concurrence
- District estimate review and validation only

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Estimate Validation Procedures

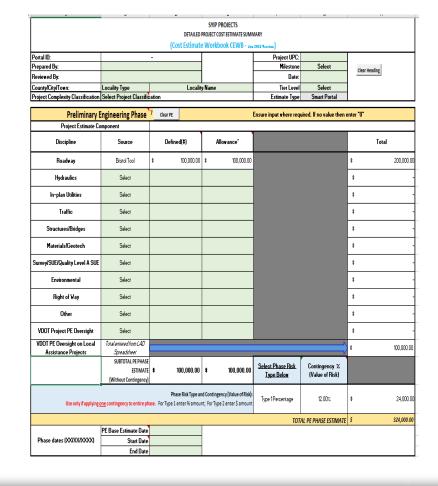
NO REVIEW OF RANDOM 10% SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS!!!

In previous rounds Central Office reviewed the validated the entire application for a random 10% selection of applications in all Districts. This has been eliminated, due to overlapping screening and validation efforts.

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Estimate Validation Procedures

Required Documentation

- Cost Estimate Workbook (CEWB) is a <u>required</u> Smart Portal submission upload for an application to proceed through validation reviews
- Detailed estimate supporting the CEWB is not a required Smart Portal submission upload but it is encouraged because it is needed for validation essentially a Cost Estimation Package



Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance CEWB Supporting Documentation

Detailed Estimate Support = Major Items Estimates

8936 - Norfolk Street Bridge Connection

Opinion of Probable Project Costs - 7/29/2022

Non-inflated Costs are in FY2022 Dollars

Line Item #	Description	Unit	Quantity		Unit Cost	Extension	
	Mobilization Items						
	Mobilization	LS	1	\$	308,000	\$ 30	08,000
	CN Surveying	LS	1	\$	111,000	\$ 11	11,000
	Construction Contingency (10%)	LS	1	\$	41,900	\$	41,900
	MOBILIZATION SUB-TOTAL (DEFINED COSTS)					\$ 41	19,000
	Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Items						
	Maintenance of Traffic	LS	1	\$	404,000	\$ 40	04,000
	Construction Contingency (20%)	LS	1	\$	80,800	\$	80,800
N	MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC (MOT) SUB-TOTAL (DEFINED COSTS)					\$	
Roadway Items							
	Concrete Sidewalk	SY	850	\$	75.00	\$	63,750
	CG-12 Detectable Warning Surface	SY	10	\$	500.00	\$	5,000
	Mill and Overlay	SV	470	\$	35.00	¢	

Major Items Estimates can be easily matched up with the CEWB

Remember the format should be user-friendly for independent review

Construction Contract Total				\$ 5,959,580
Construction Contingency	LS	1	\$ 2,022,334	\$ 2,022,334
Construction Total (Before CEI and Require.)				\$ 7,981,914
Incidental Claims & Work Orders (5%)	LS	1	\$ 297,979	\$ 297,979
Contract Requirements (Incentive/Disinsentive)(5%)	LS	1	\$ 297,979	\$ 297,979
Incid. Claims and Incentive/Disinsentive Contingency	LS	1		\$ -
Construction Total (Before CEI)				\$ 8,577,872
Construction Engineering & Inspection (20%)	LS	1	\$ 1,191,916	\$ 1,191,916
CEI Construction Contingency	LS	1		\$ -
CEI & Work Order Total				\$ 1,191,916
	\$ 9,769,788			

Preliminary Engineering				
Preliminary Engineering				\$ 1,365,000
Preliminary Engineering Contingency				\$ 273,000
Total Preliminary Engineering Phase (in FY2022 Dollars)			\$ 1,638,000	

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Estimate Documentation

Estimate Documentation Storage Checklist

- ☐ Provide a clear project sketch, consistent with the application
- Upload the CEWB into the Smart Portal
- Provide supporting, major item estimate and any estimating tools used
- ☐ Coordinate with District on providing detailed documentation for reviewers
- ☐ Include Utility/RW phase backup documentation
- Ensure that supporting documentation is consistent with the CEWB

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Application Best Practices

Scope and Project Features

- Clearly define major features
 - Lanes, shoulders, pedestrian facilities, traffic signals, PROWAG requirements, storm water management, bridges, retaining walls, etc.
- Clearly define locations of new and mill/overlay pavement
- Establish clear project limits that consider MOT needs and profile changes
- Identify betterments
- Obtain VDOT concurrence on intent to use Design Exceptions or Waivers
- Don't upload more than one version of the project sketch or estimate

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Application Best Practices

Estimates

- Focus on accuracy of major items
 - Pavement, pedestrian facilities, earthwork, bridges, retaining walls, storm water management, large culverts
- Ensure major MOT items are included concrete barrier, temporary pavement, message boards
- Include contingencies that are based on project specific risks and unknowns provide documentation of those assumptions
- Ensure recent bid data is used for unit prices to reflect the current market
- Adjust noise wall and bridge unit prices for site specific constraints

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Application Best Practices

Estimates

- Document what is assumed in lump sum costs no "miscellaneous" line items
- Contingency and inflation should never be built into the base cost
- Ensure the project features, sketch and estimate match supporting readiness gate documentation (IAR, OSAR, SJR, etc.)
- Include Environmental and Railroad costs
- Ensure Storm Water Management cost and assumptions are clear, especially those impacting right of way
- Provide documentation appropriate for an independent validation

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Application Development – Inflation

Inflation

- SMART Portal will apply future year escalation based on the PE, RW and CN phase start dates entered
 - Estimate must be created based on current year (CY 2024)
- Do not submit an old estimate with escalation applied
- First year of available funding, for application purposes, will be FY2028 (Year 3 of FY2026 SYIP)
 - August 2027 start date recommended
- Compounded Factor(s) per Exec Memorandum June 2024
 - o 6% for FY2026
 - 5% per year FY27-30
 - 3% per year FY2031 and beyond



"It's been adjusted for inflation."

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance

Recap

- Earliest funding start year is FY 2028 (August 2027)
- Estimate must be created based on current year (2024)
- Do not submit an old estimate with escalation applied
- SMART Portal will apply additional inflation based on the phase dates entered
- Cost Estimate Work Book is required
- Consistency between application and estimate is critical
- Provide detailed documentation for estimates
- District POCs are here to help you

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Funding Validation

Code of Virginia

E. The Board shall only include a project or program wholly or partially funded with funds from the State of Good Repair Program pursuant to § 33.2-369, the High Priority Projects Program pursuant to § 33.2-370, the Highway Construction District Grant Programs pursuant to § 33.2-371, or the Interstate Operations and Enhancement Program pursuant to § 33.2-372, or capital projects funded through the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program pursuant to § 33.2-373 in the Six-Year Improvement Program if the allocation of funds from those programs and other funding committed to such project or program within the six-year horizon of the Six-Year Improvement Program is sufficient to complete the project or program. The provisions of this

CTB / SMART SCALE Policy

All SMART SCALE projects selected for funding under the HPP and the DGP (enacted as Code of Virginia § 33.2-370 and § 33.2-371,) must be fully funded and demonstrate the Board's commitment to advance the project through construction.

Fully funding a project means all funding for the project must be identified to fully fund the total cost of the project at the time of inclusion in the SYIP and within the six-year window of the SYIP.

Other committed funds must have at least been applied for at the time of the SMART SCALE application submission.

- Future applications for funding provided by the CTB will not be considered leveraged or committed funds. This includes but is not limited to Revenue Sharing, State of Good Repair, Transportation Alternatives, Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program, Interstate Operations and Enhancement, Innovation and Transportation Technology Fund, or other application-based or discretionary funding controlled by the CTB.
- Future applications for funding not provided by the CTB, such as MPO
 controlled, regional funding, or other grant funding sources outside of CTB
 selection purview, must be supported by a local funding commitment at the
 time of application as this forms the basis for programming full funding for a
 project in the SYIP at the time of selection and approval.

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Funding Validation

Schedules

DO's

- Use FY2028 as the first year of available funding (Year 3 of the FY2026-2031 SYIP in which selected applications will be added)
- August 2027 Start Date
- Reference VDOT Administered PWA Templates to set durations

DON'T

 Provide a start date ahead of the recommended start year, if there is no leveraged funding

Funding

DO's

- Provide the funding information from the most recently approved SYIP when leveraging funding on existing projects;
 - January 2024 SYIP (Pre-App)
 - June 2024 (Full-App)
- Ensure the leveraged funding is sufficient to justify any early project start date and/or phase durations
- Provide leveraged funding commitment in writing in event funding falls through

DON'T

- Provide leveraged funding that not yet APPROVED or APPLIED FOR
- Provide leveraged funding for earlier start dates that does not reasonably cover expected cash flow until SMART SCALE funding is available

Funding and Cost Estimate Validation Guidance Funding Validation

- Federal Earmarks already confirmed on existing projects in the SYIP should be included in the SYIP allocations of the application....only if an existing project
 - Federal Earmarks under consideration for inclusion in Federal legislation should be included in Other Funds with a description of the earmark; documentation of coordination for the earmark (ex. Emails between Locality staff and Congressional staff; draft table of legislator recommendations) must be provided
- Applicants for Discretionary Grants are considered direct recipients meaning the funding does not come to VDOT...show amounts as other funds
 - If to be VDOT administered...applicant must provide funding up front to VDOT as local funds via project administration agreement and seek reimbursement from USDOT
 - If to be Locally administered...applicant must ensure reimbursements of SMART SCALE or other allocations do not coincide with grant reimbursement-related expenditures

SMART SCALE POC Contact Information

Reminders

- CTRL+F5 hard refresh
- Application consistency matters if you update one update them all Study, Description,
 Features, Estimate, Sketch, SUPS, Portal Map
- Org Admin please clean out old users
- Hotfixes coming March 6, TBD (Transit)

Review Submission Readiness

- When review submission readiness is on an * means that the item needs to be addressed
- Slider has to be off to be a save the application

General Pearl

- Has Scope been finalized?
 - If "No" was previously selected this needs to be changed with validity to a "Yes."
- Resiliency Commitment
 - While not currently mandated by the Portal, remember to fill this out and it should be "Yes."
 - The box for "The applicant confirms that the scope of this application is final and, pending VDOT screening, does intend to submit this application" has been obviated by the "Mark as Ready for Submission" button and is slated for removal.

Eligibility

If revisions are required based on what we discussed today please do so.

Features

- Unless directed by state staff (Pre-Screening Comments), do not modify the Features beyond pre-application feedback.
 - Any new changes must be coordinated with state staff

Transit

- The following selections will ask for additional information on the Transit Pearl:
 - New or Improved Transit or Rail Service
 - Transit or Rail Technology
 - Stop or Station Amenities
 - Bus-only Lane

Location

- Demo drawing/cutting
- VTrans follow feedback provided by staff

Project Readiness

• Readiness Gates will have to be cleared by and in coordination with state staff by July 15

Factors

 Supporting information for Features that support transit, park and ride, HOV/HOT lanes, or bike/pedestrian facilities will need to be filled out

Delivery & Funding

Nothing new

State's Understanding of Project Scope

Alerts and Communications

- Subscribing
- Comments and Alerts

File Uploads

- All supporting documents must be in final form
- Check before attempting to submit, but a Detailed Cost Estimate will be required
- Demonstrate document removal

Prioritization

Mark as Ready for Submission

• This not dependent on gating approvals and has replaced with Submit button; application will automatically be submitted once the Gates have been confirmed by state staff.

Timeline and Key Dates

Date	Activity
June 3 rd	Full Applications Open
June 21st	Deadline to request a project change to the existing SS project
July 15 th	Finalized Documents with Gate Requirement Due (attached in the SMART Portal) Note: there may be earlier dates required internally by districts to accommodate reviews
July 15 th	Request cancellation of the existing project
August 1 st – 5PM	Full Applications Close – Final Sketches, Estimates, Leveraged Funding Supporting Documentation, Resolutions from its Own Governing Body Due
September 1 st	Resolutions from Other Governing Bodies Due
September 16 th	Applicants approve all State's Understanding of Project Scope

Timeline and Key Dates Clarifying Resolutions of Support

August 1st

o Every application must have a current to this round resolution of support from its governing body

September 1st

- Applications that traverse the submitting entity's boundaries, the submitting entity must provide resolution(s) of support from the affected jurisdiction(s)
- If the project falls within the authority of MPO then a submitting PDC would need a resolution of support if the project were not consistent with CLRP
 - If consistent with CLRP then no resolution is needed

Final Reminders

- Be responsive to requests for information Timeline is <u>not</u> flexible
- Application Readiness Goal
 - Clearly defines scope
 - Matching & cohesive
 - Meets document & data requirements
- ONE sketch, ONE study, ONE estimate
- Having Portal Issues? CTRL + F5

