

SMART SCALE Projects

Transportation needs will almost always be greater than the funds available to address them, especially in rural areas. In 2013, the signing of House Bill 2313 (HB 2313) created a more sustainable revenue source supporting transportation funding. While passage of this bill enabled the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to add significant revenues to Virginia's transportation program, there are still many transportation needs that cannot be addressed with available revenues. To find a way to better balance transportation needs and prioritize investments for both urban and rural communities throughout the Commonwealth, new legislation – House Bill 2 – was signed into law in 2014. In 2016, the process was renamed “SMART SCALE, Funding the Right Transportation Projects in Virginia.” SMART SCALE stands for System Management and Allocation of Resources for Transportation: Safety, Congestion, Accessibility, Land Use, Economic Development and Environment.

The purpose of SMART SCALE is to fund the right transportation projects through a prioritization process that evaluates each project's merits using key factors, including: improvements to safety, congestion reduction, accessibility, land use, economic development and the environment. The evaluation focuses on the degree to which a project addresses a problem or need relative to the requested funding for the project. With the latest updates to the program's design and project scoring and evaluation, SMART SCALE is moving to a biennial application process, with applications being due in August of years ending in even numbers.

Round Three SMART SCALE Projects

In Round Three of the SMART SCALE process, due in 2018, the following projects were funded in the Mount Rogers Region:

Town of Abingdon

Hillman Highway & Old Eleven Drive Intersection Improvements - \$668,000

The project includes removing a skewed intersection and installing an ninety degree intersection at Hillman Highway and Old Eleven Drive. The project would construct a right and left turn lane on Old Eleven Drive on to Hillman Highway. It would also remove the multiple stop points in the existing skewed intersection. It will create a better sight distance.

Russell Road & Poplar Street Intersection Improvements - \$765,000

This project removes two skewed intersections and install a new ninety degree intersection, improving the safety along Russell Road, Alt 58, with better sight distances and easier traffic patterns. This project removes portions of Old Russell Road, where on the southern end there would be a hammerhead turn around installed. It will extend Poplar Street to intersect with Russell Road with ninety degree turns.

Bland County

US Route 52 Intersection Safety Enhancements - \$4,491,045

This project will address safety issues along US 52, in the vicinity of Route 666 and Grapefield Rd. At the intersection of US 52 and Route 666, the existing southbound left-turn lane will be lengthened to provide 200' of storage necessary to better accommodate an increase in truck traffic resulting from approved future economic developments in the area. US 52 will be widened along this section to accommodate a two-way left turn lane (TWLTL). The TWLTL will provide the area needed to delineate the storage

length necessary for left-turning vehicles without impacting the through traffic lane. For the northern most access driveway serving the site, a new southbound left-turn lane will add 150' of storage and a 100' taper. The widening will also revise the vertical geometry at this location to enhance sight distance. At the intersection of US 52 at Grapefield Rd, a southbound right-turn lane will be added that provides 200' of storage and a 200' taper. The addition of the right-turn lane will mitigate horizontal and vertical sight-distance issues that are present for the eastbound approach to the intersection, due to the steep cut slope along the western side of US 52. As part of the improvements, this slope will be reduced and vegetation cleared. A northbound left-turn lane with 200' of storage and a 200' taper will also be constructed into the existing US 52 median. Since US 52 will be widened and the median modified, the existing stormwater collection system located in the median will be replaced with an underground closed drainage network and new driveway culverts along the corridor. To the south of Grapefield Rd, US 52 has a small horizontal curve with steep side-slopes. Therefore, horizontal alignment warning signs with advisory speeds and chevron alignment signs will be added. Finally, a pedestrian crosswalk and advance warning signs will be added across US 52 near the Wolf Creek Indian Village Museum that ties into existing trails located near Commerce Drive.

City of Bristol

Lee Highway and Euclid Avenue Roundabout - \$2,825,000

Provide for design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and construction of a 150-foot diameter, single lane roundabout at the intersection of Euclid Ave., Lee Highway and Moore St. A retaining wall will be required along the north side of the roundabout. This area is located along a city gateway route that connects the city's downtown and a large commercial center on I-81 as described in the city's comprehensive plan. The intersection is currently un-signalized with a difficult left turn onto Lee Highway due to sharp angles and site distance issues. The intersection is close to public housing and a senior center and is not pedestrian friendly. The conversion to a roundabout will increase intersection vehicle capacity and reduce wait times while providing shorter and safer pedestrian crosswalks.

City of Galax

E. Stuart Drive Sidewalk Project - Phase II - \$2,013,000

This project will construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of new sidewalk with crosswalks and associated pedestrian traffic controls along East Stuart Drive (Route 58) in the City of Galax from Larkspur Lane to Taylorwood Road. E. Stuart Drive is a corridor of statewide significance and the location serves as the primary retail, grocery, clothing, furniture, restaurant, businesses and department store area for the region with adjoining residential neighborhoods. Although the present route has no pedestrian accommodations, walking paths are evident along the corridor. New sidewalk, crosswalks and pedestrian traffic controls will afford safe access for workers, post-secondary and technical trade students, shoppers and visitors by moving them from the curb area and walking paths to a defined sidewalk. Access and pedestrian improvements will aid bus transit lines and provide safer highway crossings for bus riders. Most importantly, the project creates safe passage for underserved low-income minority neighborhoods to jobs, groceries and shopping. The project CoSS location is the economic growth corridor for the region, with recent new businesses on the route bringing \$5 million in commercial investments and producing 100 new jobs. A huge parcel on the route, donated a month ago to the City, has astronomical economic development potential. Based on the track record of the past two years, projected growth of the parcel in this phase should create hundreds of new jobs and leverage tens of millions in private investments. This

Phase II builds upon the first phase to construct new sidewalk from Larkspur Lane to the eastern City limits, providing safe access for non-motorized transit on the busiest connecting highway in the region. The project is vital to economic growth, improving safety and providing accessibility while reducing vehicular congestion and aiding the environment.

Grayson County

SR 89 AT SR 613 Realignment - \$4,068,990

The proposed project will realign the westbound approach of State Route 613 (Snow Hill Rd) at State Route 89 approximately 60 feet to the south of its current location so it aligns with the eastbound approach (Edmonds Rd). Approximately 140 feet of existing Snow Hill Rd will be removed as part of the realignment. Additionally, State Route 89 will be widened over a distance of approximately 1,725 feet (to accommodate turn-lanes, taper, and associated transition) along the east side of the existing roadway to accommodate left-turn lanes on State Route 89 at the intersection with State Route 613 for both the northbound and southbound approaches. These turn lanes will provide 200 feet of storage with 200-foot tapers for turning vehicles on State Route 89.

Smyth County

US Route 11 / SR 660 Roundabout North - \$3,572,022

The proposed project involves constructing a single lane roundabout at the intersection of U.S. Route 11 and State Route 660 (north side). The proposed roundabout has an inscribed diameter of 100 feet and one circulating lane. The existing eastbound right-turn lane will be removed from the intersection. No sidewalk or curb and gutter is included as part of this project. The bridge located to the north has been decommissioned and the pavement will be removed so that the previous north leg will no longer be included with the new roundabout intersection. This project will address the Crescent Corridor (CoSS) Segment B1, Needs B and M as identified in the VTrans 2040 document. The proposed project directly addresses reliability and congestion issues along U.S. Route 11. Highway 11 being the primary roadway should have priority in traffic flow and movements. At the current intersection, highway 11 has stop signs in the left turn direction, thus impeding the traffic flow, especially during congested times or when large vehicles are present. The improvements associated with this project will eliminate the stop signs and allow for continuous flow of traffic in all directions. By modifying this intersection, the existing congestion and safety issues will be improved, which will allow U.S. Route 11 to serve as a better parallel facility to I-81. The Interstate 81 Incident Detour Plan routes both Northbound and Southbound Interstate traffic directly through this intersection for incidents occurring between Exits 39 and 44. The current configuration of the intersection does not allow for Tractor Trailer maneuvers without impacting oncoming traffic lanes. A roundabout in this area will allow for larger turning movements as well as separated traffic lanes to allow those movements. Several Commercially Zoned parcels are adjacent to the project, this project will allow for improved access and traffic flows to these highly important development parcels.

Wythe County

Progress Park Connector -\$12,857,000

The proposed Progress Park Extension project includes the construction of an approximately 2.3 mile, 2-lane roadway with travel lanes that are 12-feet wide and include 4-foot wide paved shoulders and 4-foot wide graded shoulders from E Lee Tinkle Drive to Nye Road in Wythe County. The new road will

provide a connection to/from the Progress Park Industrial development to/from Nye Road. A new southbound exclusive left-turn lane (250 feet of storage/200-foot taper) will be constructed on Nye Road at the Progress Park Extension intersection. As part of this proposed project, the roadway construction will include a new unsignalized intersection at Lover's Lane.

Round Four SMART SCALE Projects

During Round Four of the SMART SCALE process, the continued close working relationship between the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, its localities, the Bristol Tennessee/Virginia Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (Bristol MPO), and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has ensured a group of strong projects for the region. The attentive staff at VDOT, both in the Bristol District Office and the Salem District Office (covering the localities of Carroll County and the City of Galax) has worked one-on-one with localities to create the most necessary, yet fundable, projects Mount Rogers Region. The following projects for Round Four will be submitted in 2020:

Town of Abingdon

Cook Street Extension

The proposed project involves extending Cook St to Stone Mill Rd to the west. The proposed Cook St extension is an approximately 3,000-foot-long, two-lane, undivided roadway that will serve as a connecting road to Cummings Street. The proposed cross section of the roadway includes 12' wide travel lanes with curb and gutter. Right-of-way acquisition will be required throughout the length of the project.

Roundabout at Thompson Drive and Stanley Street

This project removes driveway access from the intersection of Thompson Dr at Stanley St and converts it to a single-lane roundabout. A sidewalk will also be constructed along the southeast quadrant of the roundabout extending back to Radio Drive. The remaining access driveway on the east side of Thomson Drive will be moved to the north to align with the shopping center driveway. Project includes acquisition of ROW and the relocation of overhead utilities and guardrail along Thompson Drive.

City of Bristol

Widen U.S. 11 (Eastern Section)

The proposed project involves widening U.S. Route 11 to a four-lane, divided roadway from the church entrance to the west to approximately 400 feet to the west of Old Airport Road. The new typical section of the road will include 11' wide travel lanes, curb and gutter, pedestrian crosswalks and a 6' wide sidewalk located on the north. Project includes some ROW acquisitions, the relocation of overhead utilities poles, and the installation of a retaining wall on the north side.

Widen U.S. 11 (Western Section)

The proposed project continues the widening of US11 to a four-lane, divided road from Alexis Dr to west of Dominion Pl. The south side of US11 will be kept constant and all widening occurring to the north. The new typical section of the road will include 11' wide travel lanes, curb and gutter, pedestrian crosswalks and a 6' wide sidewalk located on the north. Project includes some ROW acquisitions, the relocation of overhead utilities poles, and the extension of a culvert east of Alexis Dr.

Five Points Intersection (MLK Jr. Boulevard at Moore Street Roundabout)

The proposed project involves constructing the signalized intersection of MLK Jr Blvd at Moore St into a single-lane roundabout with a 150' wide inscribed diameter. As part of this construction, the westbound left of Oakview Avenue will be closed and dead-end into the adjacent parking area. The other 4 legs of the intersection will tie into their respective existing/proposed cross-sections. Pedestrian accommodations will be provided at all legs of the roundabout with 5' wide sidewalks.

I-81 Frontage Road - Stage Coach Rd to Flame Leaf Dr. Connection¹

The proposed project involves the construction of a 2-lane frontage road to the south of I-81. The frontage road will extend from Stage Coach Road to Old Dominion Road for approximately 1.5 miles. The proposed road will consist of a 2-lane typical section with curb and gutter. ROW acquisitions will be required for the length of the project.

Carroll County

Carroll County High School Sidewalk Project

This project involves continuing the pedestrian corridor from the high school to Town of Hillsville by providing a raised pedestrian island for the crossing on Rt 58 from high school to athletic training field and a hard-surfaced pedestrian accommodation along Rt. 58.

City of Galax

E. Stuart Drive Sidewalk Project - Phase I

The E. Stuart Drive Sidewalk Project Phase I is approximately 5,000 feet of new sidewalks along US 58 improving major intersections with signalized legs for pedestrian controls. The project begins at the Hanes/Taylorwood Road intersection and extends to the Cherry Hill Shopping Center with Walmart. The sidewalk crosses sides of E. Stuart Drive and serves The Crossroads Institute.

Signal Modification Route 58 Food City Intersection

The proposed project will modify the signal at the intersection of East Stuart Drive and the Food City Shopping Center to signalize turn movement at the north side of the intersection.

Grayson County

US 58 at Delhart Rd Turn Lane Improvements

Description: The proposed project involves extending the turn lanes at the US Route 58 at Delhart Road intersection to meet minimum VDOT standards. The proposed eastbound left-, existing eastbound right-, and existing westbound left-turn lanes will be installed/extended to provide storage and taper lengths of 200 feet each. The eastbound and westbound left-turn lane will have an inside paved shoulder of 4ft. The eastbound right-turn lane will have an 8' paved outside shoulder and a new guard rail will be installed along its length.

US 58 at SR 94 Turn Lane Improvements

The proposed project extends the turn lanes at US58 at SR94 intersection to meet minimum VDOT standards. The eastbound left-, westbound left-, and westbound right-turn lanes will be extended to

¹ I-81 Frontage Road - Stage Coach Rd to Flame Leaf Dr. Connection is located in both Washington County and the City of Bristol and is a priority of both localities, as such it is listed under both.

provide storage and taper lengths of 200' each. The eastbound and westbound left-turn lane will have an inside paved shoulder of 4'. The westbound right-turn lane will have an 8' paved shoulder and chevrons to delineate the area between the channelized right-turn lane and the adjacent through lane.

Smyth County

US Route 11 / SR 660 Roundabout (South)

The proposed project involves constructing a single lane roundabout at the intersection of U.S. Route 11 and State Route 660 (south side). The proposed roundabout has an inscribed diameter of 100 feet and one circulating lane. Some ROW acquisitions are anticipated for this project. No sidewalk or curb and gutter is included as part of this project. New guardrail will be installed on the northeast and southeast quadrants of the proposed roundabout.

US 11 at Rifton Dr (Exit 47) Intersection Safety Improvements

The proposed project involves converting the intersection of Rifton Dr and US11 to an unsignalized Green-T. A raised channelized median will be constructed in the intersection and raised flex-post delineators will be added along US 11 to accommodate the Green-T concept. New signs and pavement markings will be installed to delineate movements at this intersection. This project will mill and overlay the intersection.

Washington County

US 19 Access Management

This project consists of implementing access management and intersection improvements along a 1.2-mile portion of US19 in Washington Co., VA. Elements of the project include: converting the signalized Chantilly Way intersection to an unsignalized right-in/left-in/right-out. A new road from Rustic Lane to US19 will be constructed at the existing traffic signal. The intersection of Public Safety Ln will be closed with Steinman Rd realigned and extended to a new signalized intersection on US19.

US 11 at US 58 Roundabout

The proposed project converts the existing signalized intersection of U.S. Route 11 and U.S. Route 58 in Washington County to a roundabout. The proposed roundabout has an inscribed diameter of approximately 180 feet and includes 2 circulating lanes for 3 of approaches. The westbound right-turn lane will be constructed as a slip lane. Access to an existing business located to the west will be maintained and brought into the roundabout's operation as a fourth leg.

I-81 Frontage Road - Stage Coach Rd to Flame Leaf Dr. Connection¹

The proposed project involves the construction of a 2-lane frontage road to the south of I-81. The frontage road will extend from Stage Coach Road to Old Dominion Road for approximately 1.5 miles. The proposed road will consist of a 2-lane typical section with curb and gutter. ROW acquisitions will be required for the length of the project.

Wythe County

US 52 at Apache Run Realignment

The proposed project involves modifying the Apache Run Rd and US 52 intersection to remove its skew. A new connection will be constructed north of the existing intersection that provides access from Apache

Run Rd to US 52. The remaining section of Apache Run Rd will terminate into a cul-de-sac (without access to US 52) and access to the adjacent properties will be maintained. As part of this project, the right-turn lane for the shopping center to the south of Apache Run Rd will be extended.

I-77 Truck Climbing Lane (North Segment)

The proposed project consists of installing an additional 12ft wide truck climbing lane to allow vehicles an opportunity to pass slow-moving trucks traveling northbound on I-77. The northbound direction of I-77 will be widened north of State Route 629 bridge to the northbound I-81 off-ramp for an approximate distance of 1 mile. Widening will occur into the existing median and the inner most lane will be constructed with an 8ft shoulder.

Town of Wytheville

W Monroe St at US 11 Realignment

The proposed project involves realigning the north leg of the Monroe St approach at its intersection with US 11. ROW acquisitions will be required as part of this project and includes relocating existing utilities. Driveway stubs will be provided at adjacent properties to maintain their access. Left-turn lanes will also be delineated on US 11. The eastbound left-turn lane will have a 200' of storage and 150' of taper. The westbound left-turn lane is a drop lane that extends 300' to Lee Hwy.

4th Street at Holston Road Turn Lane Improvements

The proposed project involves constructing a new eastbound left-turn lane at the 4th St and Holston Rd intersection. This turn lane will have storage and taper lengths of 200 ft. The proposed turn lane will be constructed into the existing median and offset from the westbound left-turn lane to increase sight-distance. The existing westbound left-turn lane will also be shifted and offset into the median. Existing Pavement markings in the median opening will be removed.

