

STAFF REPORT

TTC Meeting January 13, 2022

SUBJ: Update on FY24 SMART SCALE RVTPO Candidate Project Requests

At the December 9, 2021 TTC meeting, staff shared 10 candidate project request forms submitted from RVTPO localities for the FY24 round of SMART SCALE. These requests are primarily seeking an application from the RVTPO, in some cases the RVARC, but all ultimately are comfortable with staff determining the appropriate applicant. Upon discussion prior to this meeting with Botetourt County, Roanoke City, and Roanoke County staff, who submitted the 10 requests, there are no current changes to the requests. As was discussed last month, some projects may be funded through other sources such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP); however, no new information is available.

As a reminder, the following table lists the 10 requests in the order that they were received.

No.	Agency	Project Name
1	City of Roanoke	I-581/Orange Ave Interchange Improvements
2	City of Roanoke	Orange Ave and Williamson Rd. Intersection Improvements
3	City of Roanoke	Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute Interchange Project
4	Botetourt Co.	Rte. 220 Superstreet Improvement (UPC T24740)
5	Botetourt Co.	Exit 150 Improvement Project
6	Roanoke Co.	West Main Street Phase 3 Sidewalk <i>(If unsuccessful in STBG)</i>
7	Roanoke Co.	UPC 113947 Pedestrian Improvements on Williamson Road (UPC 113947)
8	Roanoke Co.	U.S. Route 11/460 at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Improvements
9	Roanoke Co.	Route 419 Intersections/Projects (one or more) between Bower Road and Apperson Drive
10	Roanoke Co.	Pedestrian Crossing Improvements on Route 419 and at Plantation/Hershberger Intersections (UPC 117212)

Since the last TTC meeting, staff has updated information from Botetourt County on Request #5: the Route 220 Superstreet Improvement. The revised project description is: "Improvements to the Exit 150 I-81/220 interchange to address safety, traffic flow, and access concerns largely associated with weaving from tractor-trailers and other vehicles exiting the interstate." This project concept is currently being studied by OIPI and as such, does not have a cost estimate. The project is not currently in the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan or the RVARC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, although it is anticipated that it will be considered for inclusion in both documents prior to the August 2022 application deadline.

The RVTPO has a maximum of four applications it can submit in August 2022 but may initiate five pre-preapplications in March. Staff mentioned employing a simple and straightforward prioritization and scoring process for the requests, in order to recommend to the RVTPO Policy Board up to five project applications to initiate in March with four ultimately being submitted in August 2022.

Primarily utilizing questions from the request form, staff developed a series of quantitative criteria to score and rank the requests.

Criteria	Points
Is this project already underway (existing UPC #, PE, RW initiated)?	10 – yes; 5 - no
Is the project in the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan?	10 – constrained; 5 – vision; 0 – no
Is the project in the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?	5 – yes; 0 – no
Does the requesting agency plan to use its complement of four SMART SCALE applications?	5 – yes; 0 – no
Does the project have a cost estimate?	10 – yes; 5 – under development; 0 – no
Is there planned leverage on the project?	10 – yes; 5 – no
Does the project cost estimate exceed \$15 million?	10 – yes; 5 – no; 0= N/A

In the table below, the answers to the above questions are provided. Highlighted in **green** are key responses.

Summary of Answers to Criteria Questions for SMART SCALE Project Requests

Criteria	City of Roanoke			Botetourt County		Roanoke County				
	581/Orange Ave. Interchange	Orange Ave./Williamson Rd. Intersection	VTCRI Interchange	220 Superstreet (UPC T24740)	Exit 150 Improvements	W. Main St. Sidewalk Ph. 3	Ped. Impr. Williamson Rd. (UPC 113947)	11/460 @ Dow Hollow Rd.	Rte. 419 Intersections from Bower Rd. - Apperson Dr.	Ped. Crossing Improvements on 419 and Plantation/ Hershberger Rd. (UPC 117212)
Is this project already underway (existing UPC #, PE, RW initiated)?	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Is the project in the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan?	Vision	Vision	Vision	Constrained	No	Vision	Constrained	Vision	Vision	Constrained
Is the project in the CEDS?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Does the requesting agency plan to use its complement of four SMART SCALE applications?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Does the project have a cost estimate?	Under development	Under development	Under development	Under development	Under development	Yes	Under development	Under development	Under development	Under development
Is there planned leverage on the project?	Yes, \$2M from STBG	Yes, \$5M from STBG	Yes, \$80k from City	Yes, \$924k from STBG	No	No	Yes, \$1.5M HSIP & other Federal	No	No	Yes, \$450k, HSIP & other Federal
Does the project cost estimate exceed \$15 million?	N/A, no estimate	N/A, no estimate	N/A, no estimate	N/A, no estimate	N/A, no estimate	No, \$3,016,962 per STBG application (\$2,700,000 included in Vision List)	No, \$2,725,000 in SYIP	No, \$2M in RVTP	N/A, no estimate	No, \$450,000 in SYIP (additional needed unknown)

The raw scores and rankings have been determined based upon the information received to date as shown on the following tables.

Resulting Scores based on Criteria

Criteria	City of Roanoke						Botetourt County				Roanoke County									
	581/Orange Ave.		Orange Ave./ Williamson Rd.		VTCRI		220 Superstreet (UPC T24740)		Exit 150 Improvements		W. Main St. Sidewalk		Ped. Impr. Williamson Rd. (UPC 113947)		11/460 @ Dow Hollow Rd.		Rte. 419 Intersections		Ped. Crossing Improvements (UPC 117212)	
	Answer	Pts.	Answer	Pts.	Answer	Pts.	Answer	Pts.	Answer	Pts.	Answer	Pts.	Answer	Pts.	Answer	Pts.	Answer	Pts.	Answer	Pts.
Is this project already underway (existing UPC #, PE, RW initiated)?	No	5	No	5	No	5	Yes	10	No	5	No	5	Yes	10	No	5	No	5	Yes	10
Is the project in the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan?	Vision	5	Vision	5	Vision	5	Constrained	10	No	0	Vision	5	Constrained	10	Vision	5	Vision	5	Constrained	10
Is the project in the CEDS?	Yes	5	Yes	5	Yes	5	Yes	5	No	0	Yes	5	Yes	5	Yes	5	Yes	5	Yes	5
Does the requesting agency plan to use its complement of four SMART SCALE applications?	Yes	5	Yes	5	Yes	5	No	0	No	0	Yes	5	Yes	5	Yes	5	Yes	5	Yes	5
Does the project have a cost estimate?	Under development	5	Under development	5	Under development	5	Under development	5	Under development	5	Yes	10	Yes	5	Under development	5	Under development	5	Under development	5
Is there planned leverage on the project?	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes	10	Yes	10	No	5	No	5	Yes	10	No	5	No	5	Yes	10
Does the project cost estimate exceed \$15 million?	N/A, no estimate	0	N/A, no estimate	0	N/A, no estimate	0	N/A, no estimate	0	N/A, no estimate	0	No	5	No	5	No	5	N/A, no estimate	0	No	5
TOTAL POINTS	35		35		35		40		15		40		50		35		30		50	

Based upon the scores, out of a possible 60 points, the projects requests are ranked accordingly in this table:

Rank	Score	Agency	Project Name
1	50	Roanoke Co.	Pedestrian Improvements on Williamson Road (UPC 113947)
1	50	Roanoke Co.	Pedestrian Crossing Improvements on Route 419 and at Plantation/ Hershberger Intersections (UPC 117212)
3	40	Botetourt Co.	Rte. 220 Superstreet Improvement (UPC T24740)
3	40	Roanoke Co.	West Main Street Phase 3 Sidewalk
5	35	City of Roanoke	I-581/Orange Ave Interchange Improvements
5	35	City of Roanoke	Orange Ave and Williamson Rd. Intersection Improvements
5	35	City of Roanoke	Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute Interchange Project
5	35	Roanoke Co.	U.S. Route 11/460 at Dow Hollow Road Intersection Improvements
9	30	Roanoke Co.	Route 419 Intersections/Projects (one or more) between Bower Road and Apperson Drive
10	15	Botetourt Co.	Exit 150 Improvement Project

As there are ties, projects are arranged in the order in which they were received by staff.

Based on this information, staff recommends the TTC consider recommending the Policy Board pursue the first four ranked projects. Additional information on regional priorities are needed to determine if the RVTPO should initiate a 5th tentative application.

In February it is anticipated that more information will be known about existing project requests with HSIP funding deficits (Pedestrian Improvements on Williamson Road (UPC 113947) and Pedestrian Crossing Improvements on Route 419 and Plantation/Hershberger Intersections (UPC 117212)).

The RVTPO Policy Board will be presented with these preliminary rankings at their January 27 meeting. A final recommendation will be presented to the TTC and RVTPO at their respective February meetings so project pre-applications may be submitted in March.

TTC Action:

Provide feedback on the criteria used to rank the applications and the resulting priorities.