



CITY MANAGER

# CITY OF SUFFOLK

P.O. BOX 1858, SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA 23439-1858 PHONE: (757) 514-4012

November 14, 2023

The Honorable W. Sheppard Miller III  
Secretary of Transportation  
Patrick Henry Building, Third Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

**RE: City of Suffolk Comments on the Commonwealth Transportation Board's  
Draft SMART SCALE Policy Recommendations**

Dear Secretary Miller:

The City of Suffolk appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on the proposed policy changes to the SMART SCALE Program. In recognition of the goal and purpose to identify projects that provide the greatest benefit for the investment of Virginia tax dollars, the City supports a number of the recommendations to enhance SMART SCALE.

Based on feedback and evaluations from our City staff, the City supports the recommendations on the following topics:

- **Calculating Congestion Benefits in the Future**
- **Forward-looking Economic Development Factors**
- **Tying Consensus to Performance**

The City would also like to take this opportunity to raise concerns about the following recommended changes:

- **Refining High-Priority Projects Program (HPP) Eligibility**  
The City of Suffolk supports maintaining the eligibility for the HPP as it is today.
- **Elimination of Step 2 in the HPP Program**  
The City opposes the elimination of Step 2 in the scoring process.
- **Application Limit**  
The City of Suffolk opposes the reduction of allowed application.

In addition to the comments above, the City also requests that the CTB consider adding a bonus of five (5) points when a project supports regional evacuation routes in recognition of the importance of such routes. This approach would enable the evacuation criteria to be considered in SMART SCALE decision-making without adjusting the specific categories and associated percentages.

The City shares the CTB's goal of maintaining a fair system that properly funds all crucial projects that will benefit the Commonwealth and believes the feedback provided above will help to advance this goal.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed SMART Scale policy changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert S. Moor II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Albert" and the last name "Moor" being the most prominent parts.

Albert S. Moor II, P.E.  
City Manager

pc: Commonwealth Transportation Board members  
Senator-elect Emily Brewer  
Delegate-elect Nadarius Clark  
Delegate-elect Baxter Ennis