

AGENDA

RICHMOND REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL FUNDING GUIDELINES SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, March 8, 2021

3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Members of the public may observe the meeting via YouTube Live Streaming on the [PlanRVA YouTube Channel](#). Opportunities for sharing comments are described in the [Public Participation](#) guide.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(Busching)

STATEMENT REGARDING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

(Busching) page 1

ATTENDANCE BY ROLL CALL

(Busching)

1. Consideration of Amendments to the Agenda

(Coleman/Vidunas)

2. Approval of February 8, 2021 Meeting Summary

(Coleman/Vidunas) page 2

Action Requested

3. Task 3: Allocations and Funding - Feedback Summary

(Busching)

4. Draft Guidelines Discussion & Recommendation to TAC

(Busching) page 4

Action Requested

5. Adjournment

(Coleman/Vidunas)

MAB/nm
Attachments

Opening Statement for Electronic Meetings

Due to the 2020 COVID-19 virus and current guidance regarding physical distancing to reduce the potential for spread, meetings of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commissions have transitioned to a virtual format in accordance with provisions of Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2 and related legislation approved by the General Assembly of Virginia during the period of the Governor's State of Emergency Declaration for COVID-19.

While we meet in a remote/virtual format, we remain committed to public accessibility and opportunity to participate. Staff provided notice of this meeting to members and the public on March 1, 2021 through electronic posting on the PlanRVA website and email distribution of notice to members, alternates, and known interested parties, including the media.

This meeting will be recorded. Audio and visual recordings of the meeting and materials will be posted on the PlanRVA website within 48 hours of this meeting.

Any member of the public participating as an observer during the meeting today may submit comments or questions at any time prior to or during the meeting via email at rrtpoinput@PlanRVA.org. All comments and questions submitted at this time will be reviewed following the meeting and to the extent practical, responses will be provided or posted on the PlanRVA website.

We ask that members identify themselves first when speaking so we can more accurately record the activities of the meeting. All lines should be muted to minimize additional noise and feedback. You may unmute your line at any time to request acknowledgement from the Chair.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the process for assuring effective facilitation of this meeting or for how members of the public may participate.

By providing this statement, staff certifies that we have followed the approved procedures for appropriate notice of this meeting and the means by which we are convening.

Please indicate your presence by saying "HERE" when your name is called during a roll call. Anyone who wishes to identify themselves following the roll call of members will be invited to do so.

**RICHMOND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL FUNDING GUIDELINES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**MEETING SUMMARY
Zoom Virtual Meeting
February 8, 2021
3:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Goochland County		Hanover County		Henrico County	
Tom Coleman	x	Joe Vidunas	x	Sharon Smidler	x
City of Richmond		GRTC		DRPT (non-voting)	
Dironna Moore Clarke	x	Adrienne Torres	x	Tiffany Dubinsky	x
VDOT (non-voting)					
Jacob Herrman (A)	x				

The RRTPO RSTP/CMAQ Subcommittee meeting was held by electronic communication means as set forth by the April 22, 2020 actions of the General Assembly in response to the continued spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The technology used for this meeting was a web-hosted service created by Zoom and YouTube Live Streaming and was open and accessible for participation by members of the public. A recording of this meeting is available on the [Plan RVA YouTube Channel](#).

CALL TO ORDER

Tom Coleman, Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) RSTP/CMAQ Subcommittee Chair, presided and called the February 8, 2021 Regional Funding Guidelines Subcommittee meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

1. Considerations of Amendments to the Agenda

There were no requested changes to the meeting agenda. Seeing and hearing no objections, the agenda was approved by acclamation as presented.

2. Approval of January 11, 2021 Meeting Summary

On motion of Dironna Moore Clarke, seconded by Sharon Smidler, the RRTPO Regional Funding Guidelines Subcommittee unanimously approved the meeting summary of the January 11, 2021 meeting by acclamation as presented (voice vote).

3. Task 2: Feedback Summary and Revisions

Myles Busching, RRTPO planner, presented the comments received from Henrico regarding the proposed scoring and project evaluation presented in Task 2. The subcommittee raised no additional comments regarding Task 2.

4. Task 3: Project Allocations and Funding

Myles Busching, RRTPO planner, presented the draft proposal for project allocations and project tracking. The discussion around each topic is summarized below.

Allocations Framework: Staff presented a proposal to allocate 90% of funding to projects in each fiscal year of the six-year allocations plan with 10% held in reserve in the balance entry for project cost increases or reductions in RSTBG or CMAQ funding.

The subcommittee expressed several concerns with this proposal. A concern was raised that locking in the existing funding will perpetuate inequitable distributions of funds between jurisdictions. Additional concerns were raised about the ability to continue to fund studies with the new approach and the inability to respond quickly to changing priorities. Overall, the subcommittee expressed concern that the new approach would push back project delivery to 8 to 10 years from selection.

Leveraging Funds: Staff presented a proposal to define how leveraging of RSTBG and CMAQ funds would work moving forward. The RRTPO would fund the first phase of a project (generally PE) and would allocate the funding in an outyear. If the project sponsor is unable to obtain funding, the sponsor can request a single swap to delay the project or can compete for full funding. The subcommittee had no additional comments on this proposal.

Surplus Funds: Staff presented a proposal to return all surplus funding to the TPO's balance entry, eliminating the distinction between pre-2008 and later funds. The staff proposal further defines how surplus funding will be handled in cases where a project is cancelled, completed or overfunded. The subcommittee had no additional comments on this proposal.

Funding Swaps: Staff presented a proposal to require projects to obligate on schedule, consistent with state law, with a goal of reducing project delays and rescission risks. If a project falls behind the initial schedule and will not obligate a funded phase on time, the sponsor would be required to request a swap. VDOT and RRTPO staff would identify potential funding swaps and the funds would be transferred or reallocated with sponsor agreement. The subcommittee had no additional comments on this proposal.

Project Tracking: Staff presented a proposal to improve project tracking and delivery by introducing a quarterly reporting requirement. The proposed report would be high-level and focus on changes to cost or schedule, currently authorized phase, next major milestone, and any challenges or obstacles to delivery. This tracking is designed to improve delivery, reduce missed swap or overrun requests, and eliminate the fall sponsor meetings to review projects in favor of new candidate project presentations. A few questions were raised about the forms for reporting and whether this would be burdensome on project sponsors. The subcommittee did not have a clear position on the proposal at this time.

Given the breadth of the material covered, the subcommittee requested additional time for review and comment. The subcommittee agreed to submit comments via email to Myles Busching by February 19, 2021.

5. Next Subcommittee Meeting: March 8, 2021

Chair Coleman noted the next meeting will be held on March 8, 2021, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Richmond, Virginia.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m. on February 8, 2021.

MAB/nm

Regional Project Selection and Allocation Framework

DRAFT



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Overview

The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) administers three regional transportation funding programs:

- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program
- Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (RSTBG) program
- Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside program

These federally funded transportation programs are designed to empower communities to cooperatively determine the future of transportation in a region. Although the federal funds are provided to and administered by the State, the project selection and allocation decisions of how to expend the funds are performed by locally elected officials coming together as a regional council known as a metropolitan planning organization or transportation planning organization.

Each year, the member localities and regional transportation partners engage in a competitive process where projects are submitted for funds from these programs. Together, the RRTPO members assess the merit and regional value of each before determining final allocations.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program provides federal funding for transportation projects and programs that help improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. The program was established by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and continues to fund projects located in areas that don't currently – or previously didn't – meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter.

Portions of the Richmond region were previously nonattainment areas, but now the region's air quality complies with the NAAQS. Through the RRTPO's Ozone Advance agreement with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) the RRTPO continues to qualify for CMAQ funds. The federal government provides CMAQ funds to the Commonwealth of Virginia, which voluntarily sub-allocates a portion for projects and programs selected by regional metropolitan planning organizations. Find out more information about the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program from [the FHWA fact sheet here](#).

Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (RSTBG)

The Surface Transportation Block Grant program provides states and regions with flexible federal funding that may be used for a wide variety of roadway and transit projects. Regional RSTBG funds are automatically sub-allocated to regional planning organizations within the State. The wide variety of RSTGB investments in the Richmond Region support passenger and freight movement along the region's surface transportation systems. The funds can be used to preserve and improve the

conditions and performance on highways, bridges, tunnels, pedestrian facilities, bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects. Find out more information about the Surface Transportation Block Grant program from [the FHWA fact sheet here](#).

Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside

The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside provides funding for non-motorized transportation, including pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school, and infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation.

TA Set-Aside is an allocation set-aside within the Surface Transportation Block Grant funding allocation. This is no longer an independent program as it has been in the past. Starting Fiscal Year 2018, Virginia's TA Set-Aside application cycle has moved to a biannual cycle. Find out more information about the Transportation Alternatives program from [the FHWA fact sheet here](#)

Project Selection Process

The process for obtaining regional funding for transportation projects is competitive as regional needs surpass the available funding. To ensure a fair and transparent process, the RRTPO has adopted a four-step project selection process. A general description of each step is included below. A calendar of the project selection process will be published each cycle with the call for projects.

Project Submissions

CMAQ/RSTBG

In the month before the application window, staff will present the project selection schedule to the RRTPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as well as any changes to the application process from the previous year. Applicants are expected to prioritize the applications they submit. Beginning in 2021, there will be a limit on the number of applications allowed per sponsor, as shown in the table below:

Table 1: Application Limit by Sponsor Type

Sponsor	Total Applications
Large Locality (population >= 100,000)	10
Small Locality (population < 100,000)	3
Non-locality Member Agency	3

A call for projects, including a calendar for the selection process and a guide to required supplemental data for applications, will be posted to the RRTPO website. The RRTPO will provide an electronic application on the RRTPO website and all applications must be submitted using this application. All applications and supplemental materials are due by the application deadline.

TA Set-Aside

The TA Set-Aside application process is administered by VDOT via the Smart Portal. The RRTPO still has a role in the application process as all projects within the TPO planning area are required to have a resolution of endorsement from the TPO. Toward this end, all project sponsors must submit a project description (including termini), total cost estimate, and request amount to the TPO at least 2.5 months ahead of the submission deadline.

TPO staff will provide a reminder to TAC before the deadline and indicate the preferred method of submission. All requests are provided to TAC for recommendation and the policy board for approval prior to the submission deadline.

Project Screening

CMAQ/RSTBG

Preliminary Screening

All projects requesting CMAQ or RSTBG funding will be screened to ensure that the project is eligible for funding and ready to proceed. Project screening will include:

- Eligibility under federal regulations
- Consistency with the Long-Range Transportation Plan (see Appendix I for more details)
 - If the project is regional, the project must be included in the constrained long-range plan
 - If the project is local, the project must be consistent with LRTP goals
- Project scope is well-defined
- Project schedule is defined and has been reviewed by VDOT Richmond District if leading to construction (**NOTE:** VDOT *concurrency* with the proposed schedule is required if VDOT will administer the project)
- Project cost is reasonable and has been reviewed by VDOT Richmond District if leading to construction (**NOTE:** VDOT *concurrency* with the proposed estimate is required if VDOT will administer the project)
- Submission includes all required supplemental data

Project Presentations

In addition to the project screening, project sponsors will have the opportunity to present their new project applications to the scoring team consisting of RRTPO staff as designated by the Director of Transportation. The project sponsor will have 10 minutes to present the project followed by questions from the scoring team. This presentation is the opportunity to explain the project in more detail and clarify any questions from the scoring team which may impact the scoring. Presentations are scheduled during the application period.

TA Set-Aside

Screening for TA Set-Aside projects is completed by VDOT's Local Assistance Division consistent with their adopted guidelines.

Project Scoring and Prioritization

CMAQ/RSTBG

All projects are scored using a data-driven process first adopted as part of the ConnectRVA 2045 plan. This regional scoring methodology is described in more detail in the follow sections. Both CMAQ and RSTBG applications are scored using the same methodology; CMAQ applications must additionally demonstrate a reduction in emissions of ozone precursors (VOC and NOx).

TA Set-Aside

All TA Set-Aside projects undergo two rounds of scoring. First, VDOT evaluates the projects using a statewide scoring process. The TPO then evaluate the projects for

equity impacts and consistency with the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan. The scoring process is described in more detail in following sections.

Project Selection

Projects are prioritized and programmed based on the project scores. For CMAQ/RSTBG funds, a draft program is produced to show years of allocations prior to adoption.

CMAQ/RSTBG

Staff will provide the scored CMAQ/RSTBG projects to TAC along with a draft allocations table. The draft program will follow the allocation process described later in these guidelines with projects generally prioritized based on their score. TAC will review the recommended new selections and provide a recommendation to the policy board.

After TAC has made a recommendation, a public comment page with a story map showing all projects and the recommended selections will be provided on the RRTPO website. This comment page will remain open for a period consistent with the Public Engagement Plan. All comments will be provided to the policy board before they take a final vote on the project selections and allocations.

TA Set-Aside

Staff will provide the scored TA Set-Aside projects to TAC ranked in order of score. Considering the CTB member selections (if available), staff will recommend projects for funding in rank order until there is insufficient funding available to fully fund the next project. TAC will review the recommended selections and make a recommendation to the policy board.

After TAC has made a recommendation, a public comment page with a story map showing all projects and the recommended selections will be provided on the RRTPO website. This comment page will remain open for period consistent with the Public Engagement Plan. All comments will be provided to the policy board before they take a final vote on the project selection.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program

What projects are eligible for CMAQ funding?

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program is dedicated to improving air quality in areas which do not, or previously did not meet national air quality standards. Projects or programs submitted for CMAQ funding must be located or provide service within the [previous 8-Hour Ozone nonattainment area](#) in addition to [the TPO planning area](#). This area includes all the Town of Ashland, Chesterfield County, Hanover County, Henrico County, and the City of Richmond as well as the western half of Charles City County.

To be eligible for CMAQ funding, the primary criteria is that a project must reduce emissions of ozone precursors, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x). General purpose capacity projects are not eligible for CMAQ funding. New projects are only eligible to receive funding for future project phases which have not started. For more information about project eligibility, [see 23 USC 149\(b\)](#) for the full list of eligible project types and restrictions.

What jurisdictions or agencies are eligible for CMAQ funding?

All RRTPO member governments, as defined in [the RRTPO bylaws](#), within the former 1997 8-Hour Ozone nonattainment area are eligible to submit requests for CMAQ funding. Any member agency, including non-voting members, within the former nonattainment area, or providing service within the area, is also eligible for CMAQ funding.

How are CMAQ projects scored and prioritized?

Scoring follows the regional prioritization methodology first developed for the ConnectRVA 2045 long-range transportation plan. This methodology is described in more detail in the Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant Program section below. In addition to the general scoring methodology, all CMAQ projects must demonstrate positive reduction in VOC and NO_x emissions. Projects are prioritized based on the overall project score and the cost-effectiveness of emissions reductions.

Projects that do not demonstrate a reduction in emissions will be eliminated from consideration for CMAQ funding, regardless of the overall score. Projects submitted for CMAQ funding will also be considered for RSTBG funding if eligible.

Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant Program

What projects are eligible for RSTBG funding?

The Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant program is designed to offer a flexible source of funding for transportation improvements. All projects must be located within [the TPO planning area](#). In general, projects must be located on federal aid highway system. This excludes local roads and rural minor collectors. There are several exceptions to this requirement including safety projects, park and ride projects, recreational trails, bike and pedestrian projects, and port projects. New projects are only eligible for future project phases which have not started. For more information about project eligibility, [see 23 USC 133\(b\)](#) for the full list of eligible project types.

What jurisdictions or agencies are eligible for RSTBG funding?

All RRTPO member jurisdictions and agencies, as defined in [the RRTPO bylaws](#), are eligible to apply for RSTBG funding. This includes non-voting members. As noted above, the projects must be located within the TPO planning area. In addition to RRTPO members, the RRTPO itself is also eligible to receive funds for regional studies and planning activities.

How are RSTBG projects scored and prioritized?

Applications submitted for RSTBG funding are classified into Planning Studies and Projects & Programs. Each category is evaluated differently. A summary of the scoring measures for each category is included below.

Planning Studies

This category covers all planning activities such as safety studies, interchange justification reports (IJR), interchange modification reports (IMR), or operational analyses. These studies are generally the first step in planning for a project before any engineering or design work is undertaken. Weighting for study goals is based on the adopted weighting in the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Table 2: RSTP Study Scoring

Criteria	LRTP Goal	Points
Is the study necessary to advance a project, recommendation, or policy in the Long-Range Transportation Plan?	---	40
Do the study goals address the following?	---	---
Safety and Crash Reduction	Safety	15
Multimodal Transportation and Mode Choice	Accessibility/Equity	7.5
Equity and Access for Disadvantaged Populations	Accessibility/Equity	7.5
Connections to and within Regional Activity Centers	Environment /Land Use	6

Resiliency and Protection of the Natural Environment	Environment /Land Use	6
Regional Economic Growth and Development	Economic Development	9
Congestion Management and Mobility	Mobility	9

Projects & Programs

All other projects or programs fall under this second category. All projects and programs are evaluated using the performance measures and goals developed for ConnectRVA 2045. Scoring is normalized for each performance measure and project benefits are measured against project costs. For more details on the methodology, please see [the LRTP technical documentation here](#). A summary table of the scoring is included below.

Table 3: RSTBG Project & Program Scoring

LRTP Goal	Goal Weight	Performance Measure	Measure Weight
Safety	25	Crash Frequency	17.5
Safety		Crash Rate	7.5
Mobility	15	Person Throughput	7.5
Mobility		Person Hours of Delay	7.5
Accessibility/Equity	25	Access to Jobs	7.5
Accessibility/Equity		Access to Destinations	7.5
Accessibility/Equity		Access to Jobs for Communities of Concern	5
Accessibility/Equity		Access to Destination for Communities of Concern	5
Economic Development	15	Job Growth	7.5
Economic Development		Connection to Truck Intensive Areas	3.75
Economic Development		Truck Throughput	3.75
Environment/Land Use	20	Impact to Sensitive Environmental and Cultural Features	5
Environment/Land Use		Reduction in Air Pollution	5
Environment/Land Use		Reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita	5
Environment/Land Use		Connection to Activity Centers	5

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

What projects are eligible for TA funding?

All projects must be located within the TPO Planning area (see map above). Regional TA funding is dedicated to the following types of projects:

- Construction of on-road and off-road facilities for nonmotorized transportation users
- Projects and systems that provide safe routes for non-drivers to access daily needs
- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for non-motorized transportation users
- Safe Routes to Schools projects

For more information about other eligible project types, see VDOT's [Transportation Alternatives Program Guide](#) and [23 USC 133\(h\)\(3\)](#).

What jurisdictions or agencies are eligible for TA funding?

Projects may be submitted by local governments and transit agencies that are RRTPO members as defined in [the RRTPO bylaws](#). All projects must be endorsed by the RRTPO prior to submission, as required by Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) policy.

How are TA projects scored and prioritized?

Transportation Alternatives projects are first scored by the Local Assistance Division of VDOT. Each project receives a score which covers the project funding, the overall scope and concept, the improvement made to the transportation network, the sponsor's ability to administer federal projects, and project readiness.

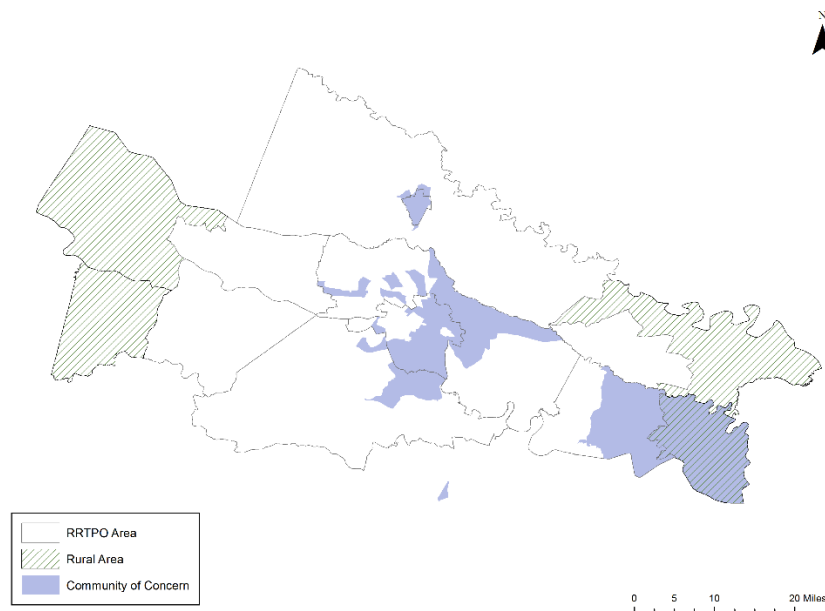


Figure 1: Communities of Concern

In addition to the statewide criteria, the RRTPO also weighs other factors in assessing a project. The equity analysis is based on the approach to equity and environmental justice first developed for ConnectRVA 2045. Each project is evaluated based on the communities of concern within a half mile of the project. A map showing the identified communities of concern is included above.

A regional value score is used to give points to projects which are identified in the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan. Regional projects identified in the plan will receive full points. Local projects identified in the plan will receive partial points.

Finally, the cost-effectiveness of the project is measured by dividing the benefit score by the cost (in hundreds of thousands). This cost-effectiveness score is the overall score for prioritization. A summary of the scoring components is included in the table below.

Table 4: Transportation Alternatives Project Scoring

Criteria	Points
Statewide Merit Score	80
Regional Value of Project (Inclusion in RRTPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan)	10
Equity and Access for Communities of Concern	10

Project Allocations

Projects selected by the TPO are programmed for funding according to the project schedule and needs. The allocation of funds by the RRTPO is the final step in the project selection process. The following section outlines the TPO’s approach to allocating available funds, funding shortfalls on existing project, surplus funding, and changing project schedules.

Allocation Process

CMAQ/RSTBG

Order of Allocations

The RRTPO has adopted the following order of allocations to ensure existing, active projects are funded and prioritized over new projects while maintaining a reserve fund to account for cost overruns and changes in available funding.

1. Forty percent (40%) from Year 6 to balance entry (UPC 101492) to cover future reductions in funding and selected project cost increases
2. Increases for programmed phases of active projects in Years 1-5, starting with Year 1
3. Next phase of active projects already approved by the TPO for Year 6
4. New projects in order of priority and based on available funding

General Programming Guidance

Funds are allocated to projects based on the project schedule and the availability of funds. In general, the allocated funds should cover the entire amount requested for a phase (PE, RW, CN). In the case of more expensive projects where a phase costs more than 25% of the average annual program funding, funds for the phase allocations may be split over two (2) or more years to ensure adequate funding for other projects.

Allocations cover a six-year period consistent with CTB policy. The goal of the allocation process is to fully allocate all six years of funding. A balance of 40% of the total available funding should be allocated to Regionwide Traffic Operations (UPC 101492) for Year 6 to cover any cost overruns or changes to the expected amount of funding. The balance is decreased as shown in the table below for earlier years with the funds used on existing or new projects. The balance in a specific year may be less than the target if cost overruns reduce the balance below the target level.

Table 5: Balance Entry & Project Allocation Percentages

	Previous	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Projects	100%	90%	90%	90%	80%	70%	60%
Balance	0%	10%	10%	10%	20%	30%	40%

No balance should remain for previous years. If the cost overruns on existing projects do not result in zero balance for previous years, RRTPO staff will work with VDOT to identify transfers to free up Year 1 funding for new planning studies for RSTBG funds and TDM programs for CMAQ funds.

Beyond the sixth year of allocations, the TPO also maintains a table of future commitments. These commitments are future phases of selected projects which will be allocated in future years based on the project schedule and the reasonably expected availability of funding. If the TPO decides not to fund to all phases of a project, this decision is noted in the allocations and future commitments tables.

Consistent with Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) policy, allocated funds are expected to be obligated within one (1) year of allocation and fully expended within three (3) years of obligating. For example, FY22 funds for a project phase must be obligated by July 1, 2022 and fully spent no later than July 1, 2025. If a project is behind schedule and unable to obligate on time, the project sponsor must request a funding swap (see Funding Swaps section for details). Projects that fail to obligate on time are ineligible for additional TPO funding to cover cost overruns and, if not yet started, may be subject to deselection and deallocation.

Special Programming Guidance – Travel Demand Management (TDM) Programs

The RRTPO recognizes the value of the demand management programs in reducing congestion and improving regional air quality. The outcomes of TDM programs are consistent with the goals of the long-range transportation plan around improving mobility and accessibility and reducing environmental impacts of the regional transportation system. The RRTPO further understands the limited funding opportunities available to finance these programs.

To advance these regional transportation planning goals, the existing regionwide air pollution reduction program operated by RideFinders (UPC T203) will continue to receive an annual allocation of \$500,000 in CMAQ funding off-the-top. Funds will be tentatively programmed for Years 2 and 3. Allocation of funding is subject to an annual application and submission of a report summarizing the program outcomes, focusing specifically on the pollution and congestion reduction achieved by the program.

Future Commitments

If a project cannot be fully funded within the six-year period covered by the SYIP, the necessary funding for future phases should be documented by year as “future commitments.” If the TPO decides not to commit to funding subsequent phases (as in the case of leveraging funds), this decision should be noted in the allocations and future commitments tables. Documenting future phases and commitments allows for better estimation of available funding prior to the application period. If the available funding for a year is insufficient to cover new projects, the TPO may elect to only accept applications for cost overruns on existing active projects for the year or to limit new applications by project type or total cost.

TA Set Aside

Consistent with the statewide TA program, allocations for a TA Set-Aside funded project cover a two-year period. Funds are allocated to projects in order of priority. No balance should remain for Year 1 or previous years. Funds may be held in Year 2 as a balance.

Leveraging Funds

Applicants for CMAQ and RSTBG funds are encouraged to leverage TPO funds for outside funding such as Smart Scale and Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) regional funds wherever possible. When a selected project request is intended to support leveraging, the TPO only allocates funds for the first phase of the project (generally PE). The use of the funds for leveraging is documented in the allocations table. Projects with leveraging funds are not considered active projects until fully funded.

If the project sponsor is unsuccessful in obtaining additional funds to complete the project, the sponsor may request a single funding swap to allow for more time to obtain the needed funding. If the sponsor does not request a swap, or if the project has already been postponed once, the project funds will be deallocated and used on other projects. The project sponsor may submit a new application for the entire project cost to be scored with other new projects; a partial funding request will only be accepted if the sponsor can show other committed and reasonably expected funding is available to cover the difference (See Appendix II for a definition of “committed and reasonably expected funds”).

Cost Overruns

All active projects are initially eligible to request additional funding to cover cost overruns. Eligibility may be lost as described in the “Funding Swaps” and “Quarterly Reporting” sections. Additional funding requests must be submitted during the annual application window; requests outside the normal application window are only accepted for the construction phase where bids are over budget. Changes to the project scope will not be accepted as a justification for additional funding.

In general, cost overruns should be addressed through other funding sources available to the locality. Where outside funding is unavailable, the sponsor can submit a request for additional funding to the TPO during the normal applications window. Any request for additional funding must include documentation of the reason for the cost increase and an explanation of why local or other transportation funds cannot be used to cover the increase.

If the request results in a cumulative allocation increase of up to 10% relative to the initial TPO approved allocation for the phase, TAC may approve additional allocations. TAC may only approve use of balance entry funds from the allocated fiscal year.

If the request results in a cumulative allocation increase of more than 10% relative to the initial TPO approved allocation for the phase, or if sufficient funding is not available in the balance entry fund for the allocated fiscal year or previous years, TAC will review the request and recommend to the policy board any combination of the following options for their approval:

- Scale back the project
- Use local or other non-TPO funds
- Use balance entry from the allocated fiscal year or previous years

- Use balance entry from future fiscal years
- Deselect and deallocate the project

Surplus Funds

All surplus funds are returned to TPO balance entry (UPC 101492) to be reallocated through the TPO selection and allocation process. Funds are deemed surplus upon project completion or cancellation. Projects that are completed or cancelled are no longer considered active projects and cannot request additional funding in the future.

Any CMAQ/RSTBG funding on a project that receives additional committed funding from another source is also deemed surplus if the total allocation exceeds the estimated project cost. VDOT will work with the TPO to identify overfunded projects and reallocate surplus funding. Unlike completed or cancelled projects, projects which are overfunded are still considered active projects, even if all regional funding is removed from the project. As active projects, these projects are eligible for additional funding in accordance with the cost overrun guidelines in the previous section.

Funding Swaps

To minimize the risk of rescission and in conformity with CTB policy and state law, project phases are expected to be obligated within a year of allocation. Sponsors of projects that are unable to obligate on schedule (based on the year of planned allocations) must submit a swap request no later than the year before the planned allocation to allow for adjustments to the program. Project sponsors may, but are not required to, inform the TPO of projects that can advance ahead of schedule. Swap requests should be submitted with new applications during the annual application window.

VDOT and TPO staff will identify potential swaps based on project schedule and funding. With concurrence of both project sponsors, the swap will be programmed in a new allocation plan. Alternatively, two project sponsors may agree to a swap and bring the proposed swap to the TPO. With VDOT and TPO staff concurrence, the swap will be programmed in the new allocation table.

If a project fails to obligate on time for any phase and the project sponsor fails to inform the TPO of the need for a funding swap in advance, the project will no longer be eligible for regional funding to cover any cost overruns. If the project fails to obligate on time for the first phase of the project (generally PE) and the sponsor fails to request a funding swap, the project may be deselected and any funding reallocated.

Project Development and Reporting

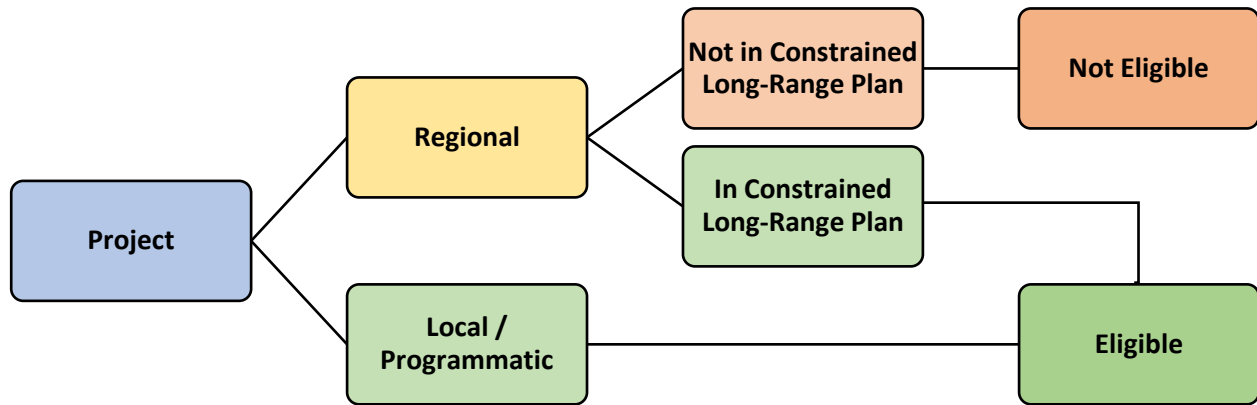
To provide oversight in the use of regional funds, the RRTPO has implemented a quarterly reporting requirement for CMAQ and RSTBG funded projects. VDOT's Local Assistance Division (LAD) has similar requirements for TA Set-Aside funded projects. Project sponsors are expected to complete the quarterly report for each active project every January, April, July, and October until the project is closed out, beginning in October of the first year in which funds are allocated. The report can be filed at any time during the required month. A reporting form will be made available on the RRTPO website. The report should, at minimum, include the following items:

- Current cost estimate and schedule
- Current phase(s) authorized
- Next major milestone (task 10, 12, 22, 70, 52, 69, 80, 84)
- Any delays or challenges in implementation

Projects that miss the quarterly reporting deadline will not be eligible for additional funding for cost overruns.

The RRTPO will maintain a CMAQ/RSTBG program database on the RRTPO website. This page will include a summary of all active projects and their progress toward implementation as well as selected but not yet active projects. This page will be updated with the quarterly reports and after new project selection each year.

Appendix I: Regional Significance



Regional Projects

1. Roadway Projects

For projects located on roads in the Richmond/Tri-Cities travel demand model network

- A. Capacity Change (add/remove lane; change use of lane e.g. HOV or HOT lanes, bus lanes)
- B. Realignment, extension, or relocation
- C. New interchange or interchange modification
- D. Grade separation (overpass or underpass)
- E. Intersection improvements on arterials
- F. New road or alignment that will be added to the Richmond/Tri-Cities travel demand model network

2. Bridge Projects

- A. Replacement of National Bridge Inventory (NBI) structure in the National Highway System (NHS)
- B. Major Rehabilitation of National Bridge Inventory (NBI) structure in the National Highway System (NHS)

3. Transit Projects

- A. New dedicated transit right-of-way
- B. New transit routes with limited stations and high operating speed (BRT/Express Routes)
- C. New fixed route or on-demand service that crosses jurisdictional boundaries
- D. New or relocated transit stations or centers
- E. New park and ride lots with 100 or more spaces

F. Park and ride lot expansion of 100 or more spaces

4. Active Transportation Projects

- A. Projects on separated facilities with dedicated right-of-way
- B. Projects that are part of a multi-jurisdictional network
- C. Projects that fill gaps identified in the [Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan](#)
- D. Projects that directly connect to existing transit service

5. Intermodal Projects

- A. Capacity change in intermodal corridors including highways, navigable waterways, and rail
- B. New or relocated rail stations
- C. Major rail improvements

Local/Programmatic Projects

1. Roadway Projects

- A. Any project on roads not included in the Richmond/Tri-Cities travel demand model network
- B. Intersection improvements on collectors and below
- C. The following work on any road (drawn from 40 CFR 93.126 exempt projects):
 - i. Rehabilitation and Maintenance
 - ii. Safety Projects
 - iii. Operations

2. Bridge Projects

- A. Replacement of National Bridge Inventory (NBI) Structure on the roads not in the National Highway System (NHS)
- B. Major rehabilitation of National Bridge Inventory (NBI) Structure on the roads not in the National Highway System (NHS)

3. Transit Projects

- A. New bus purchase
- B. Bus stop and shelter improvements
- C. Transit facility operations and maintenance
- D. New park and ride lots with less than 100 spaces
- E. Expansion of less than 100 spaces to existing park and ride lots
- F. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs

4. Active Transportation Projects

- A. Projects within or adjacent to the existing right-of-way

5. Intermodal Projects

- A. All intermodal projects not classified as regional, including maintenance or vehicle purchase

6. ITS Projects
7. Planning Studies
8. All other projects not included in the regional projects list

Appendix II: Outside Funding

The RRTPO calculates the cost-benefit of a project based on the total cost of the project less any outside funding contributions. Funds that are already committed to a project and funds that are reasonably expected are counted as outside funding contributions when determining the project cost. Examples of committed and expected funds are listed in the table below.

Table 6: Committed and Expected Funds

Example of Committed Funds	Example of Reasonably Expected Funds
Funds included in the adopted budget of a local, state, or federal agency	Funds included in the adopted budget but not yet allocated to a project
Funds awarded by agencies or organizations with project selection authority	Funds in a draft budget or appropriation
Funds included in a constrained Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or a transit agency Development Plan	Funds from future budgets, but consistent with historic levels of the funding source(s)

Supporting documentation must be provided for all outside funding as part of the project application. Examples of documentation include Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) project pages, locality or agency budgets or capital improvement programs, or award letters from selecting agencies. Any undocumented outside funds will not be counted in calculating the overall cost-benefit score for a project.