



Funding the Right
Transportation Projects

The Facts

April 2015

About HB2

House Bill Two (HB2) is about investing limited tax dollars in the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. At the heart of the new law is scoring projects based on an objective process that involves public engagement and input. Once projects are scored, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will have the best information possible to select the right projects for funding.

It's the law

Governor Terry McAuliffe signed HB2 into law in 2014, which directs the CTB to develop and use a scoring process for project selection by July 2016. Candidate projects will be screened to determine if they qualify to be scored. Projects will be scored based on an objective and fair analysis applied statewide. The law will improve transparency and accountability. The public will know how projects scored and the decisions behind the CTB's project selections.

Projects will be scored according to key factors

The factors are congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, environmental quality and land use and transportation coordination (in areas over 200,000 in population). Projects that reduce congestion would rise to the top in traffic-clogged regions like Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. Projects that stimulate economic growth may be more important for rural and other regions in the state.

Localities are involved in creating the scoring process

The commonwealth is engaging localities, regional planning organizations, transit authorities and other stakeholders in the development of the scoring process. For each of the key factors, multiple measures will be applied. Stakeholders will provide input on weighing the factors and selecting the measures within each highway construction district. By law, congestion mitigation will be the highest weighted factor in the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads districts. This information will be provided to the CTB who will make the final decision on the scoring process.

Certain projects are required to be scored

This includes projects that will address needs as identified in the commonwealth's long-range transportation strategic plan called VTrans 2040. These projects will improve transportation on Corridors of Statewide Significance, regional multi-modal networks and urban development areas. The CTB must consider highway, transit, rail, road operational improvements and transportation demand projects, such as vanpooling and ridesharing.

Allocation of certain funding is subject to scoring under HB2

This applies to discretionary state and federal funds, and to funding allocations under the optional CTB formula for high priority projects, public-private partnerships, and smart roadway projects.

Some projects are exempted from scoring

The law excludes safety projects and asset management projects such as rehabilitating aging pavements and bridges. Certain funding sources are exempted, including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, Highway Safety Improvement, Transportation Alternatives, Regional Surface Transportation and Revenue Sharing programs, and secondary/urban formula funds. Scoring will not apply to projects solely funded through the Northern Virginia or Hampton Roads regional revenues. At the discretion of the CTB, projects that are fully funded and have completed environmental review in the Six-Year Improvement Program may be exempt.

Some projects have been flagged for scoring

In preparation to implement the scoring process, funding has been removed from a group of projects in the FY 2015 -2019 Six-Year Improvement Program. These projects will be scored because they meet the criteria as described by law under HB2. They are not fully funded and have not completed environmental work. Enough funding remains on these projects to take them to the next milestone. The rest of the funding has been removed from these projects and set aside for the HB2 process.

The scoring process will be developed in 2015 and implemented in 2016

Following public engagement, the CTB will release the draft scoring process in March 2015 and adopt the final scoring process in June 2015. There will be a call for candidate projects in the summer of 2015. Projects will be screened and scored through early 2016. Once the projects are scored and public input received, the CTB will select projects for funding to be included in the draft Six-Year Improvement Program, with the final program adopted in June 2016.

Getting involved

Public engagement is critical to the process. The commonwealth is reaching out to localities and regional governments through surveys, meetings and workshops to get their input on the draft scoring process from January to March 2015. Public meetings will be held on the draft scoring process in the spring before the final scoring process is adopted in June 2015. The CTB will consider stakeholder and public input prior to approving and implementing the scoring process to select projects.

Go to VirginiaHB2.org to learn more and tell us what you think

