

INTRODUCED: February 9, 2026

A RESOLUTION No. 2026-R010

To express the City Council’s support for and request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to provide funding for the City’s SMART SCALE Round 7 candidate projects for 2026.

Patron – Mayor Avula

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: FEB 23 2026 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, the policies of the Commonwealth Transportation Board require that a locality applying for funding for a transportation project under the prioritization process set forth in section 33.2-214.1 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, submit a resolution of support for the application for such project duly adopted by its governing body;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

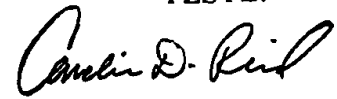
That the Council hereby expresses its support for and requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board to provide funding for the SMART SCALE candidate projects to be

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: FEB 23 2026 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

submitted in 2026 that are set forth on the document entitled “City of Richmond, VA, Smart Scale Program Candidate Projects for Round 7,” a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

**A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia D. Reil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

City Clerk

CITY OF RICHMOND

O&R REQUEST

DATE: December 9, 2025

EDITION: 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: The Honorable Dr. Danny Avula, Mayor

THROUGH: Odie Donald II, Chief Administrative Officer

THROUGH: Bobby Vincent Jr.; Director of Public Works

FROM: M.S. Khara, P.E.; City Engineer

RE: TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SMART SCALE – ROUND 7 PROGRAM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY CITY AND/OR STATE AGREEMENTS RELATING TO VDOT SMART SCALE – ROUND 7 PROGRAM PROJECTS.

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: To request the City Council’s approval for the City of Richmond participating and supporting the proposed projects related to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Smart Scale – Round 7 Program, and to authorize Chief Administrative Officer or his designee, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute all necessary City/State agreements relating to such. An approved Council Resolution indicating the Council’s request for participation and support of the identified potential projects is required in order to participate in the VDOT Smart Scale – Round 7 Program.

BACKGROUND: The General Assembly directed VDOT to establish several initiatives aimed at accelerating road construction and providing funding assistance for the improvements to their transportation system. One such initiative is the Smart Scale Program; under which the City of Richmond is eligible. The City has successfully applied for these funds every year since the program’s inception.

A City Council resolution in support of the proposed projects is required to participate in the program. The program will provide funding for construction of certain eligible transportation projects within the City. If project gets funded, a formal City/State agreement will be required by VDOT before the City can begin design and construction of the approved projects. The intent of this resolution is to provide City Council authorization to participate in the program and authorize the CAO to execute all necessary City/State agreements required if the projects are funded.

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Virginia's SMART SCALE (§33.2-21.4) is about picking the right transportation projects for funding and ensuring the best use of limited tax dollars. It is the method of scoring planned projects included in VTrans that are funded by HB 1887. Transportation projects are scored based on an objective, outcome-based process that is transparent to the public and allows decision-makers to be held accountable to taxpayers. Once projects are scored and prioritized, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has the best information possible to select the right projects for funding. More information about the SMART SCALE project prioritization process, including a technical guide for applicants, is available at www.vasmartscale.org.

VDOT's Smart Scale program has provided approximately \$350M in the first six rounds of the program to the City of Richmond projects. No city match is required; however, leveraged funds boost the ranking as the City projects compete with other jurisdictions in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Smart Scale program allows maximum of 10 projects to be submitted by the locality. The list of potential projects (attached) is estimated at \$475million. Estimated cost may change after VDOT review and with the use of VDOT Project Estimating software.

The deadline to submit the City's pre-applications to participate in the Smart Scale Round 7 Program is April 1, 2026, with final VDOT approved applications to be submitted on August 1, 2026. Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will adopt and fund the selected projects in June 2027. Approved funding will be available in FY32/FY33.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: A formal public hearing of this paper will be conducted through City Council's Land Use and Transportation Committee. Previous public hearings on several project applications that are being resubmitted were held during Smart Scale Round 6 process. The Department of Public Works recommends approval of this resolution.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL: Richmond 300 Master Plan; Richmond Connects; No other governmental entity needs to review.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. Not participating in this program eliminates the possibility of receiving up to \$475M through FY32/FY33 if City projects are selected for these important Capital Improvement Projects. Approved funds are 100% reimbursable.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Adoption

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: February 9, 2026

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: February 23, 2026

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent Agenda

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RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Land Use, Housing, and Transportation Standing Committee meeting (February 17, 2026).

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Public Works; Law Department; Planning & Development Review; Public Utilities; Assessor; Finance; Budget and Strategic Planning; Economic Development; Fire Department; Police Department; Mayor's Office; CAO's Office; DCAO Operation Office; City Attorney Office.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: None.

ATTACHMENTS: Sample City Resolution for Smart Scale Program Round 7
List of Smart Scale Program Round 7 Candidate Projects

STAFF: Prepared for: Mr. Bobby C. Vincent, Jr., Director, DPW 646-6444
Prepared by: M. S. Khara, P.E., City Engineer, DPW 646-5413
Coordinated by: Michael B. Sawyer, P.E., City Transportation Engineer, DPW 646-3435

City of Richmond, VA
Smart Scale Program Candidate Projects for Round 7
 January 14, 2026

#	Project	From	To	Estimated Cost*	Brief Description
A	Hull Street / Clopton Street / Midlothian Turnpike Roundabout	250' West of Intersection	250' East of Intersection	\$ 26,800,000	Previous submittal: This project will construct a roundabout at the intersection of Hull Street / Clopton Street / Midlothian Turnpike.
B	Cowardin Avenue at Semmes Avenue Protected Intersection	250' West of Intersection	250' East of Intersection	\$ 7,900,000	Previous submittal: This project will construct a protected intersection at the intersection of Cowardin Avenue and Semmes Avenue.
C	US Route 360 Mechanicsville Turpike Roundabouts and Streetscape	Fairfield Avenue	Cool Lane	\$ 47,200,000	Previous submittal: This project will construct a roundabout at Cool Lane and a roundabout at Fairfield Avenue with appropriate multimodal streetscape on Mechanicsville Turnpike.
D	Arthur Ashe Boulevard, Hermitage Road, Westwood Avenue, and Brookland Parkway Roundabout	250' West of Intersection	250' East of Intersection	\$ 30,600,000	Previous submittal: This project will construct a roundabout at the intersection of Arthur Ashe Boulevard, Hermitage Road, Westwood Avenue, and Brookland Parkway Roundabout.
E	Forest Hill Avenue Phase II Improvements	Powhite Parkway	Dorchester Road	\$ 56,900,000	Previous submittal: This project will create a complete street with sidewalk, bike infrastructure, access management (medians), access to transit stops and pedestrian crossings.
F	Commerce Road Phase II Fall Line Trail	Decatur Street	Bellemeade Road	\$ 87,700,000	Previous submittal: This project will create a complete street with sidewalk, construct the Fall Line Trail, improve access management, access to transit stops and pedestrian crossings.
G	N-S BRT Midlothian Turnpike at Belt Boulevard Interchange	250' West of Interchange	250' East of Interchange	\$ 29,500,000	Previous submittal: This project will construct two roundabouts and other multimodal interchange improvements for improved access by people who walk, bike, and ride transit.
H	Southside BRT Phase B	Transfer Center	Southside Plaza	\$ 57,000,000	New submittal: This project will implement BRT service with transit stations, transit signal priority, dedicated transit lanes, and transit vehicles.
I	Arthur Ashe Boulevard	Boulevard West	I-95	\$ 25,000,000	New submittal: This project will connect the Diamond District to I-95 with streetscape, bike infrastructure, access management, and pedestrian crossings.
J	Mayo Bridge Replacement	Manchester Road	Dock Street	\$ 107,000,000	New submittal: This project will replace two Mayo bridges crossing the James River and connecting to Mayo Island Park.
				\$ 475,600,000	

Listed projects are not in order of priority

* Estimated cost needs to be verified with VDOT Estimating System and may change