



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND

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THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
EDUCATION  
TRANSPORTATION  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

January 18, 2019

The Honorable Shannon Valentine  
Secretary of Transportation  
Patrick Henry Building  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Secretary Valentine:

Earlier this week, the Commonwealth Transportation Board released the draft project allocations scenarios for SMART SCALE round three.

We have always supported the SMART SCALE system to use objective, quantifiable data to make sure we get the "best bang for the buck" out of our limited transportation funds. The legislation establishing the program requires that congestion relief be the #1 factor in ranking Northern Virginia projects.

Unfortunately, the staff-recommended draft project list would seem to indicate that the rating system is seriously broken. In Northern Virginia, the fastest-growing and most-congested area of our Commonwealth, the draft project list includes less than \$16 million in highway funding, with \$184 million going to transit, bike, and pedestrian projects. Another striking recommendation is that no funding is directed to Prince William County, and only \$1.3 million to Loudoun, the two fastest-growing localities in the region. It is obvious that this is not the best way to reduce road congestion in Northern Virginia.

Maintaining confidence in the SMART SCALE rating system is essential as we seek to convince the citizens of Northern Virginia that elected and appointed officials are doing the most we can to improve transportation in our region. We respectfully request that a thorough review of the rating process be initiated at the earliest possible opportunity, to identify and correct whatever factors caused this extremely disproportionate list of project recommendations. It is reasonable to expect that this review should be completed in time for the CTB to make appropriate revisions to the recommended funding scenario prior to the public hearings in April.

Sincerely,

Delegate, Virginia's Thirty-third District

Majority Caucus Chairman  
Delegate, Virginia's Fortieth District