



**Staunton Augusta
Waynesboro**
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
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Policy Board Meeting Agenda November 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA 24401

OR

Zoom Video Conference

Dial In (Audio Only): 1-301-715-8592 • Meeting ID: 853 8765 1524 • Passcode: 424129

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes of the September 6, 2023, Policy Board Meeting*
4. Presentation: I-81 Project Improvements Update - Dave Covington, I-81 Program Delivery Director, VDOT
5. SMART SCALE Policy Changes Update (Board Memo #23-06)
6. SAWMPO Walk-Bike Summit Update and Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Study Briefing (Board Memo #23-07)
7. Agency Updates
 - VDOT
 - DRPT
 - BRITE & Afton Express
 - Localities
8. Other Business
9. Upcoming Meetings
 - November 15, 2023 – Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, CSPDC Office, 2:00 p.m.
 - December 6, 2023 – Policy Board Meeting, CSPDC Office, 10:00 a.m.
10. Adjournment

*Action Required

Policy Board Regular Meeting Minutes September 6, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission*
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia

Voting Members		Non-Voting Members		Others	
	City of Staunton		Shane McCabe (Alt)		Staff (CSPDC)
✓	Brad Arrowood, Vice Chair	✓	Cody Huffman (Alt)	✓	Bonnie Riedesel
✓	Amanda Kaufman		VA DRPT	✓	Ann Cundy
	Augusta County		Grace Stankus		Zach Beard
✓	Tim Fitzgerald		VRT	✓	Devon Thompson
✓	Carolyn Bragg (Chair)	✓*	Steve Wilson	✓	Paula Melester
	Jennifer Whetzel (Alt)		Phil Thompson (Alt)	✓	Ansley Heller
	Pam Carter (Alt)		Kevin Jones	✓	Allyson Finchum
	City of Waynesboro		FTA		
✓	Jim Wood		Chelsea Beytas		
✓	Todd Wood		VA DOA		
	Michael Hamp (Alt)		Rusty Harrington		
	VDOT		CTB		
✓	Todd Stevens		Mark Merrill		
✓	Adam Campbell (Alt)		Others		
✓	Don Komara (Alt)		Brad Reed, VDOT		
	Matt Dana (Alt)				
	✓* Indicates Zoom Participants				

Call to Order

Before the September 6, 2023, meeting of the Policy Board of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was called to order, Ms. Bonnie Riedesel took a moment to introduce Ms. Carolyn Bragg. Ms. Bragg is taking over Chair responsibilities from Dr. Scott Seaton for Augusta County and will serve as SAWMPO Policy Board Chair until the end of the current term. Ms. Riedesel then introduced Allyson Finchum, a new Program Support Specialist. With Chair Bragg and Ms. Finchum introduced, Ms. Riedesel turned the meeting to the Chair and the SAWMPO Policy Board meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Carolyn Bragg, Chair. Pursuant to §2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, SAWMPO Policy Board members may participate in meetings of the SAWMPO or its committees through electronic

communication means. Those who attended virtually are indicated by an asterisk; all others attended in-person.

Public Comment

Chair Bragg opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Bragg presented the minutes from the August 2, 2023, Policy Board meeting. Mr. Todd Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Jim Wood, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Approval of the FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment (Board Action Form #23-10)

Chair Bragg reminded the members of the Policy Board that they were given copies of the FY 24 UPWP Amendment and that no comments were received on the document during its 21 days of public review. Chair Bragg asked for a motion to approve the FY 24 UPWP Amendment. Approval was offered by Mr. Todd Wood and seconded by Mr. Jim Wood. Chair Bragg asked if there was any discussion, being none, the motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously.

Approval of the FY 21-24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment (Board Action Form #23-11)

Chair Bragg reminded the members of the Policy Board that they discussed the FY 21-24 TIP Amendment at their last meeting and that it was released for 21 days of public comment. Chair Bragg reported that no comments had been received on the FY 21-24 TIP Amendment and asked for a motion to approve the Amendment. The motion was approved by Vice-Chair, Brad Arrowood and seconded by Mr. Todd Wood. Chair Bragg asked for any discussion, being none, the motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously.

Update: Afton Mountain Transportation Site Assessment (Board Memo #23-04)

Mr. Tim Fitzgerald gave the Policy Board an update on talks with the owner of the Afton Mountain Site. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the project was a priority for the County.

Ms. Ann Cundy then gave an update on the MPO-funded transportation study taking place on Afton Mountain. She explained that the original scope of work for the site assessment included two transportation tasks. One task was to look at the site and nearby intersections from a vehicular circular standpoint and the second task was to look at the site from a bike and pedestrian access to the site. Ms. Cundy explained that the two tasks were taken from Augusta County's scope of work that was developed in 2020. A working group meeting to review the two tasks was held with staff from Augusta County, SAWMPO, City of Waynesboro, and Timmons Group. The next steps will be for SAWMPO to send out a notice to proceed for the scope of work to Timmons Group.

They will then go and do an onsite assessment, develop an inventory of existing conditions, and gather current traffic count data. Counts will take place during the week and weekend to capture recreational trips to the area. There will be an operational analysis for the current year and a future year, and if deficiencies are found improvements will be suggested. Timmons will also look at crash data from the last several years to see if any of their geometric improvements being made for operations could also improve safety issues at the



intersections. Timmons will also look at the planned improvements that the City of Waynesboro has in the vicinity of the site, particularly a western trail head for the Crozet Tunnel, and other connection points to nearby bicycle and pedestrian attractions. The task will ultimately provide up to three schematic drawings of proposed improvements with the hope being to use them for grant applications for funding. The work should only take about six months and then SAWMPO staff will pivot to updating the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan in early 2024.

Mr. Fitzgerald suggested doing traffic counts before October to not have numbers inflated by tourists seeing the leaves change. Ms. Cundy noted that Timmons would be made aware of the concern.

Agency Updates

Staunton Augusta Waynesboro MPO (SAWMPO)

Ms. Riedesel reminded members of the Policy Board that on September 27th there will be a joint Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO and Staunton Augusta Waynesboro MPO meeting. The meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. at Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro. This joint meeting will reestablish the annual Joint MPO Policy Board meetings that were disrupted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Mr. Don Komara began the VDOT updates and provided the following:

- The groundbreaking of the southern corridor project began on Sept. 6th
- Staunton Crossing is moving along with most of the dirt needed to be moved.
- I-81 from milepost 221 to 225 should be started in the fall beginning with widening on the inside and an addition of barriers.
- The Barter Rd project will be opened for bids on September 22. There are several contractors bidding for it with the road closure likely to come in December 2023.
- Exit 235 at Weyers Cave, the South and North bound off ramps are moving along.
- VDOT is beginning to prepare for the snow removal season.

Mr. Campbell had no new updates but provided the following reminders:

- The Revenue Sharing and TA application window closes October 2nd.
- For Staunton and Waynesboro, the locality maintained HSIP application window closes on October 31st.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)

The Department of Rail and Public Transportation was not present at the September 6th Policy Board meeting and no DRPT updates were communicated to staff.

BRITE Transit

Ms. Devon Thompson gave the following BRITE Transit updates:

- CSPDC recently underwent a Federal Transit Administration Triennial Review. Triennial Reviews are conducted every three years and examine how recipients of Urbanized Area Formula Program funds meet statutory and administrative requirements, through 23 areas of compliance. In addition to evaluation, the review gives FTA an opportunity to provide technical assistance on requirements. The draft report has been completed by the reviewer and reviewed by PDC staff, and there were three findings (corrective action plans are being drafted as well). The final report will be complete towards the end of the year.
- The design and engineering phase of the Lewis Street Hub rehabilitation project continues to move forward. A certificate of appropriateness from the Staunton Historic Review Commission was issued. Currently, work is progressing on 90% design plans and preparing for the City plan approval process.
- To celebrate DRPT's Discover Transit Campaign in September, BRITE and AX are offering fare-free rides on Wednesday, September 20. We have also scheduled a pop-up event at the Lewis St Hub at the end of the month to hand out swag to passengers.
- Mrs. Thompson announced that she was pleased to have been selected as one of the 16 statewide fellows to participate in the Virginia Transit Association's inaugural year for the Virginia Transit Leadership Institute. VTLI is a groundbreaking program aimed at fostering the next generation of public transportation leaders in Virginia. The comprehensive nine-month program is designed to engage, elevate, and cultivate emerging leaders and provide a platform for them to collaborate with industry experts and drive innovation.
- BRITE and Afton Express attended Waynesboro's Back to School Bash at Kate Collins Middle School

Afton Express

Ms. Paula Melester gave the following Afton Express updates:

- Friday September 1st was Afton Express' 2nd birthday. As of August, there has been an average of 77 passenger trips per day with a few incidents of 96 passenger per day.
- There are a few consistent riders who are riding the recently added 5th run implemented earlier in the year. The PDC will be speaking with UVA to see if that additional run has been useful for their employees.
- Afton Express will continue having pop up events for Afton Express to celebrate Discover Transit month.
 - Sept. 14th at the UVA hospital stop.
 - Sept. 28th at the Staunton Mall stops.
 - Sept. 20th the Afton Express will be fare free.



Locality Updates

City of Waynesboro

Mr. Jim Wood gave the following update:

- Mr. Wood expressed his gratitude for everyone having joined the groundbreaking ceremony earlier in the morning.

Augusta County

Mr. Tim Fitzgerald gave the following update:

- The contract for the Verona Bike Pedestrian project was awarded and activity should begin shortly.

There were no updates from the City of Staunton and Chair Bragg opened the meeting for Other Business.

Other Business

Ms. Cundy reminded the Board that she sent them a copy of the drafted letter regarding the proposed changes to SMART SCALE and received no comments. Ms. Cundy confirmed that the lack of response is being taken as approval to continue and that the letter would be sent to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Secretary Miller shortly.

Upcoming Meetings

Ms. Bragg announced that the next scheduled TAC meeting will be held on September 20th, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., and the next Policy Board meeting is scheduled for October 4th, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Policy Board, Chair Bragg asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Jim Wood and seconded by Mr. Todd Wood. The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann W. Cundy", written in a cursive style.

Ann W. Cundy
Director of Transportation



112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
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TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO TAC

FROM: Ann Cundy, Director of Transportation

MEETING DATE: November 1, 2023

RE: **Board Memo #23-06: Proposed SMART SCALE Policy Changes Update**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is considering changes to the SMART SCALE project scoring process that will affect project eligibility in the SAWMPO region. VDOT Staunton District and MPO staff summarized the proposed SMART SCALE policy changes to the Policy Board at the August 2, 2023 meeting. The Board expressed concerns regarding several of the changes and directed staff to draft a letter to the CTB outlining the MPO's concerns. SAWMPO Board Chair Carolyn Bragg signed the letter on September 6, 2023.

During the October 20, 2023 CTB meeting, staff from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) presented updates on the policy changes, including proposed revisions to the Economic Development performance measure.

PROPOSED SMART SCALE CHANGES AS OF OCTOBER CTB MEETING (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)

Reducing the application cap

OIPI staff presented a modified recommendation to include three Tiers instead of two, and increase the new application cap from two to three applications for Tier 1 applicants like SAWMPO and its member jurisdictions.

	Tier	Localities	MPO, PDC, or Transit Agency	Max Pre-Applications	Max Full Applications
Existing	1	< 200,000	< 500,000	5	4
	2	>= 200,000	>= 500,000	12	10
	Option 1			4	3
				7	6
Option 2 (Staff Recommendation)	Option 2			3	2
				6	5
	Option 3 (Revised Staff Recommendation)			1	3
				2	4
Option 3 (Revised Staff Recommendation)	3	>= 200,000	>= 500,000	7	6

[10.20.23 CTB WORKSHOP PACKET](#)

Defining eligible project types for High Priority Program (HPP)

OIPI and VDOT Central Office staff have presented concerns to the CTB that the HPP is funding smaller projects (less than \$10 million) that are not statewide or regionally significant. The Code of Virginia §33.2-370 defines the roadway types eligible for the program — Corridors of Statewide Significance and Regional Networks — not project types. The proposed change would limit the HPP Program to the following project types on Corridors of Statewide Significance and Regional Network roadways:

- New Capacity Highway
- Managed Lanes
- New or Improved Interchanges
- New or Improved Passenger Rail Stations or Service
- Freight Rail Improvements
- High-Capacity / Fixed Guideway Transit
- Transit Transfer Stations
- New Bridge

Land Use scoring factor changed to a multiplier

The land use factor would be eliminated as a stand-alone metric and become to a multiplier for other project benefits. OIPI Staff is concerned that the land use score is disproportionately impacting overall project scoring and selection. The other SMART SCALE scoring factor weights would be adjusted to account for the elimination of land use as a stand-alone factor. The OIPI recommendation is to split the 10% Land Use factor weight between Congestion Mitigation (5%) and Safety (5%) for Typology Area C (the SAWMPO, Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County within the MPO).

Economic Development Measure ED.1 Changes

OIPI and VEDP staff presented a revised methodology for scoring projects based on their economic development benefit. For each SMART SCALE application, applicants currently enter parcels or sites that are zoned commercial or industrial, or are in the site development and review process. Transportation projects receive points depending on the size of the parcel, its phase of site development, and how directly the transportation improvement serves the parcel. VEDP presented a revised methodology for scoring projects under the ED.1 Measure:

Summary of ED.1 Recommendations

Score Calculation Step (Weight)	Process
1. Determine which sites are eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Commonwealth determines buffer based on Transportation Project Tier (Table 10.2 Site Eligibility by Transportation Project Tier in SMART SCALE Technical Guide)▪ Pull in VirginiaScan sites based on coordinates and buffer
2. Calculate estimated jobs and capital investment factors (Jobs: 40%, Capital Investment: 25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Input site characteristics (coordinates, acreage) into historical projects model▪ Determine estimated job creation and capital investment relative to all projects in the funding round
3. Calculate site funding factor (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sites that have received funding from GO Virginia, Tobacco Commission, or Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) receive the full weight of the funding factor
4. Calculate site visit factor (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Determine the number of company and/or site selector visits that occurred on eligible sites for each project in the last three years
5. Calculate site readiness factor (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Determine the eligible site with the highest VBRSP Tier<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sites that are VBRSP Tier 4 or 5 receive 5 pts, Tier 3 receive 3 pts, Tier 2 receive 2 pts, Tier 1 receive 1 pt
6. Sum for ED.1 Measure (100%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Add the scores from preceding steps

When OIPI staff evaluated the Round 5 projects using this proposed methodology, there were no change in outcomes for projects in the SAWMPO region, although the broader CSPDC region saw one project dropped. This is not necessarily indicative of how projects would score in Round 6, but does represent a shift in how applicants will manage their input of sites and tracking of site visits.

OIPI staff clarified that Step 3 in the table above can also include private, local and federal funding sources via manual entry in the application, in addition to the statewide programs listed. MPO staff have requested additional information on VEDP VBRSP sites in our region.

NEXT STEPS

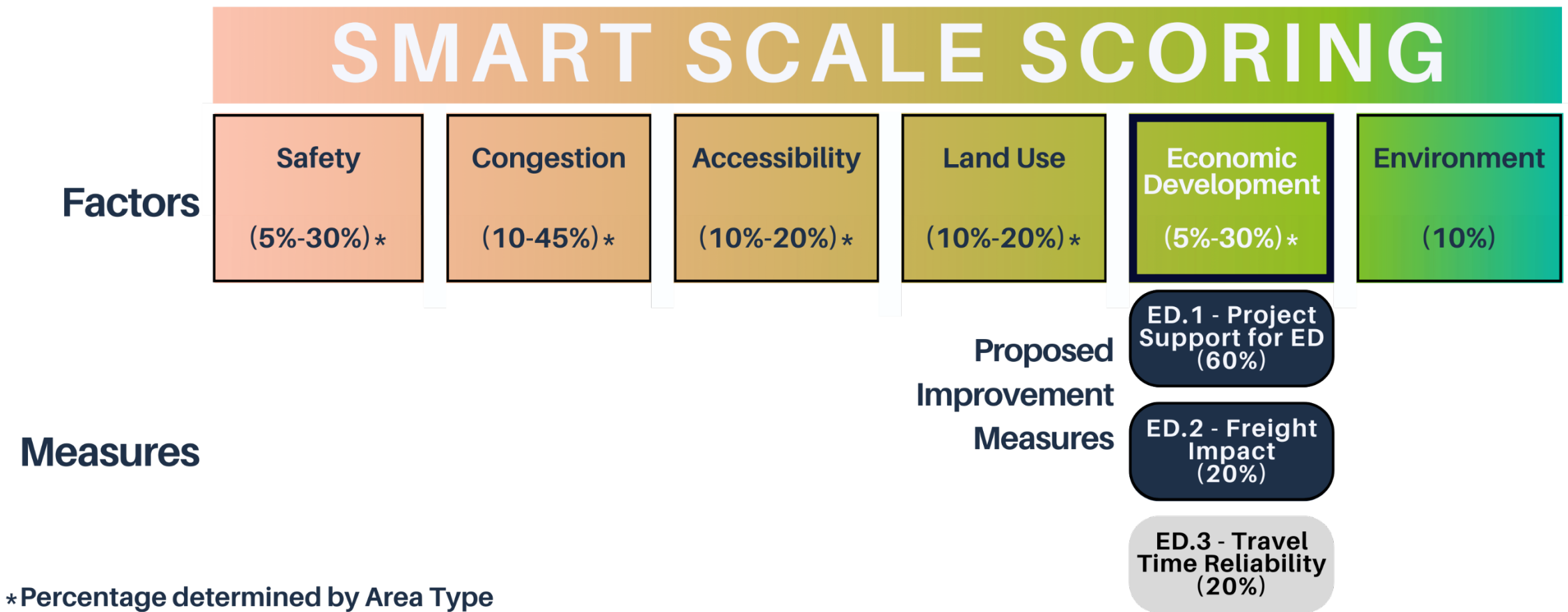
The CTB's next scheduled meeting is December 4, 2023; however, there is a possibility that they will also meet in November to continue discussing the SMART SCALE program. These meetings represent opportunities to provide comments directly to the CTB and Secretary of Transportation.

It is anticipated that the CTB will vote on the policy changes in the coming months prior to Round 6 opening for pre-applications in early 2024.

ATTACHMENT

SMART SCALE Process Review Round 5 Staunton Scenario Analysis

Economic Development Factor Background



Economic Development Factor Methodology Changes

- **Current ED.1 (Project Support for ED) scoring methodology does not incorporate key economic priorities**
 - Needs to better reflect best-in-class economic impact assessments currently used by VEDP
 - Process uses manual process of data entry by applicants and validation by Commonwealth
- **Proposed ED.1 scoring methodology will incorporate key economic priorities, including:**
 - Focus on sites that will attract growth industries, with the inventory captured in a statewide real estate database
 - Job creation and capital investments in sites
 - Estimates potential market demand of sites by including site visits
- **Proposed ED.2 (Freight Impact) scoring methodology focus proposed to shift from freight tonnage moved to freight volume moved**

Summary of ED.1 Recommendations

Score Calculation Step (Weight)	Process
1. Determine which sites are eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commonwealth determines buffer based on Transportation Project Tier (Table 10.2 Site Eligibility by Transportation Project Tier in SMART SCALE Technical Guide)Pull in VirginiaScan sites based on coordinates and buffer
2. Calculate estimated jobs and capital investment factors (Jobs: 40%, Capital Investment: 25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Input site characteristics (coordinates, acreage) into historical projects modelDetermine estimated job creation and capital investment relative to all projects in the funding round
3. Calculate site funding factor (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sites that have received funding from GO Virginia, Tobacco Commission, or Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) receive the full weight of the funding factor
4. Calculate site visit factor (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine the number of company and/or site selector visits that occurred on eligible sites for each project in the last three years
5. Calculate site readiness factor (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine the eligible site with the highest VBRSP Tier<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sites that are VBRSP Tier 4 or 5 receive 5 pts, Tier 3 receive 3 pts, Tier 2 receive 2 pts, Tier 1 receive 1 pt
6. Sum for ED.1 Measure (100%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Add the scores from preceding steps

ED.1 Questions from the September CTB Meeting

What are the available tiered properties in Virginia Scan?

Tiering System

1

- Raw land with interested seller
- Not zoned for economic development use

2

- Site marketed for development
- Comp Plan is industrial or commercial land use

3

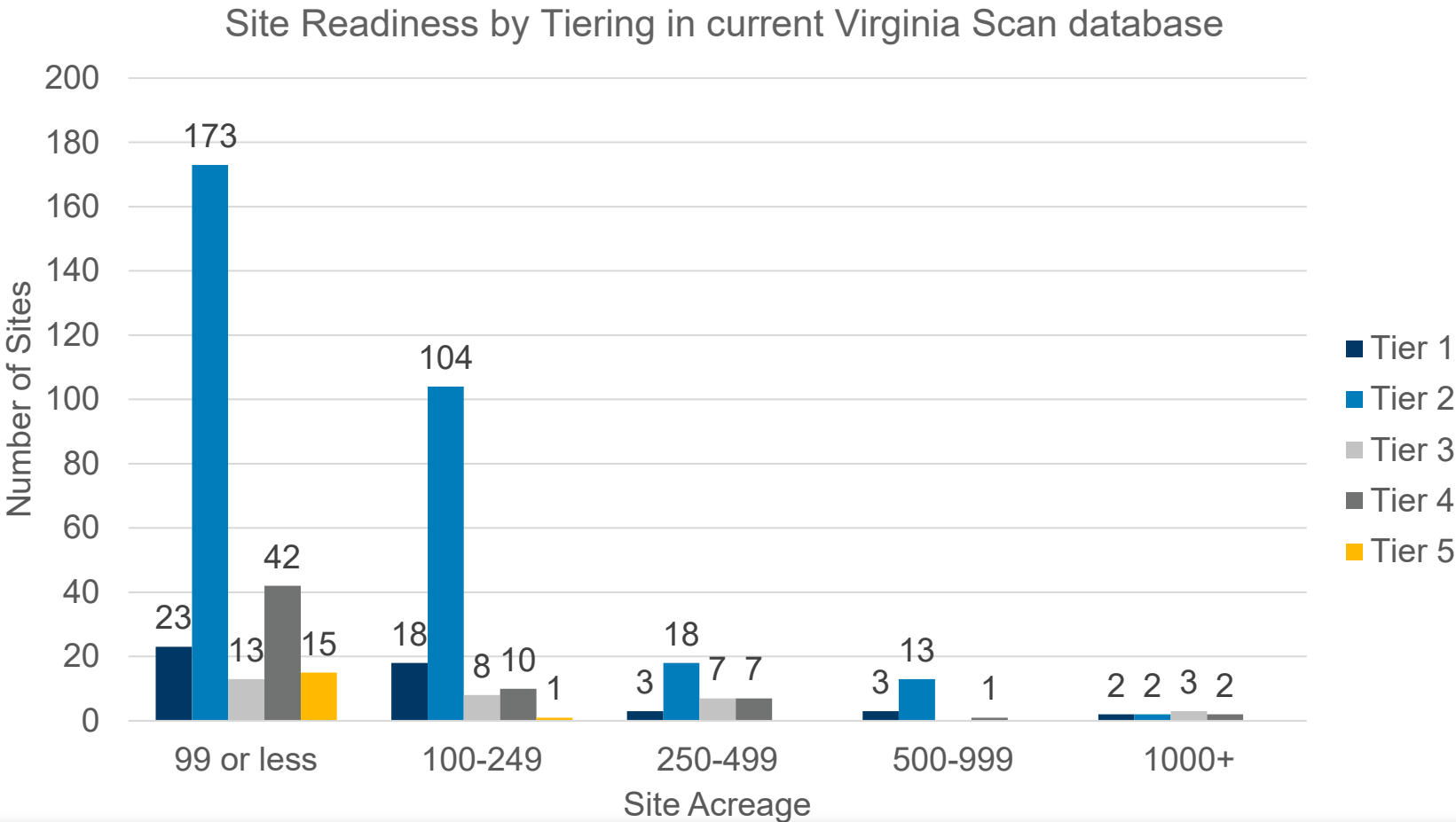
- Zoned for industrial or commercial land use
- Preliminary engineering work completed

4

- Infrastructure permit issues identified
- Plans for necessary infrastructure approved

5

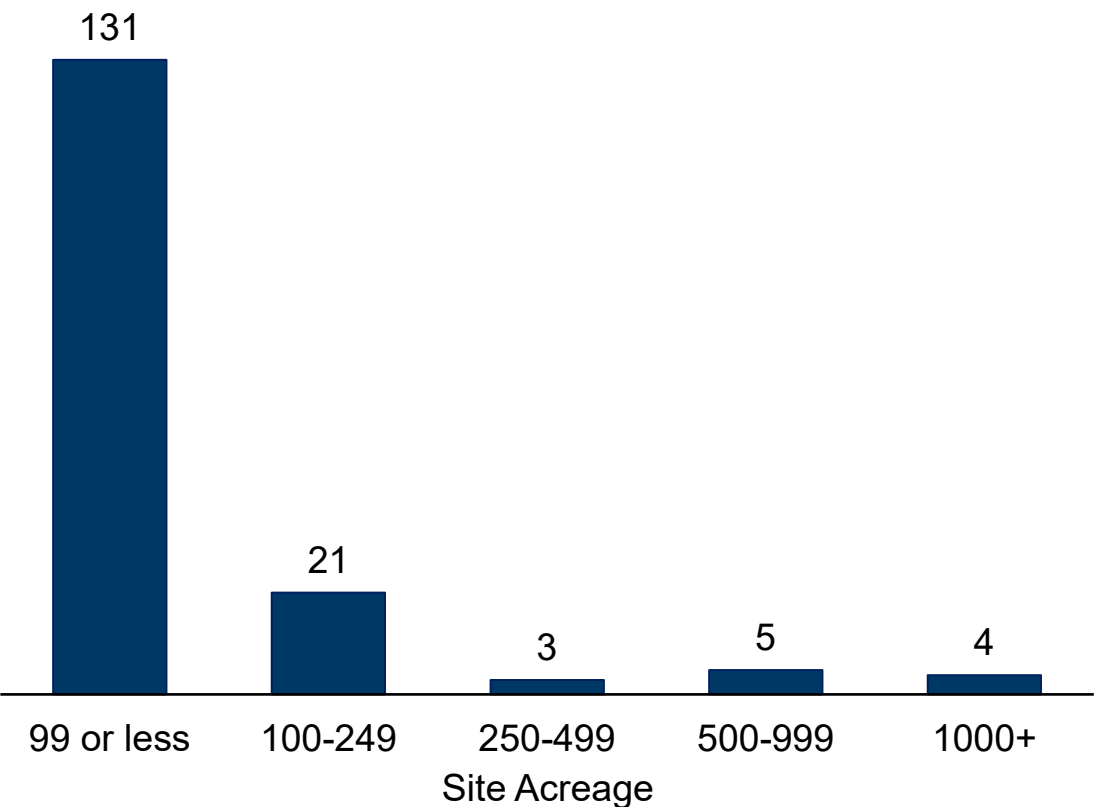
- "Shovel Ready" site cleared & rough graded
- All site permits in place or identified



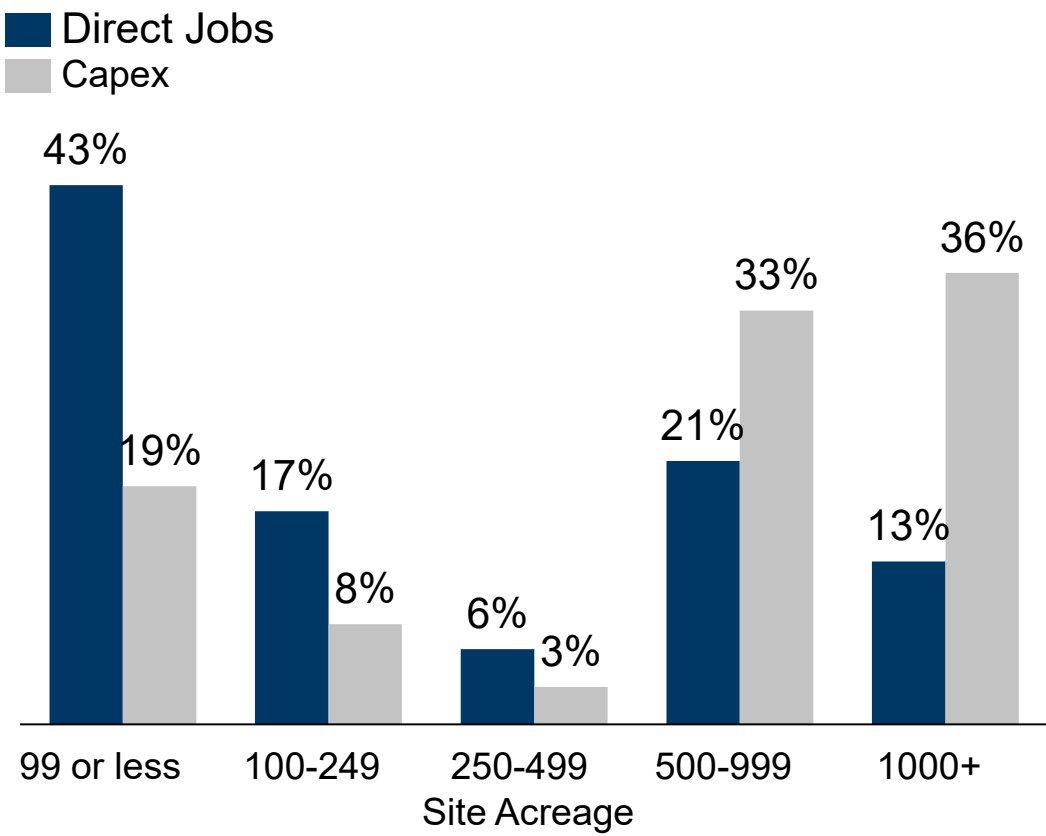
ED.1 Questions from the September CTB Meeting

What is the site demand for properties in Virginia?

Real Estate Demand – FY 2023



Potential Jobs and Capital Investment



ED.1 Questions from the September CTB Meeting

Could private, local, and federal funding be added to the scoring criteria?

- Initially, funding from GO Virginia, Tobacco Commission, or Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) was proposed to demonstrate a state priority.
- Quantifying private, local, and federal funding sources can be included as a manual entry in the application or as a field in the statewide property database for applicant entry.

Impact of Economic Development Changes

- **Top reasons for an increased ED.1 score:**
 - Additional sites were identified using VirginiaScan that the applicant did not include
 - Given land availability, rural areas often have stronger site opportunities
 - VirginiaScan better reflects the value of the site, aligning with the Commonwealth's development priorities
 - Est. jobs, capital investment, meeting market demand, etc.
- **Top reasons for a decreased ED.1 score:**
 - Validation of data using VirginiaScan resulted in sites showing fewer developable square feet than applicants claimed
 - If the property was not listed in VirginiaScan, likely did not have the potential to accommodate high-impact industries
- **ED.2 shift from tonnage to volume did not impact individual project scores but remains the recommended methodology**
- **Economic Development methodology was tested on all 394 applications and the scenario impact was 12 projects added and 9 projects removed**

Review Illustrative Impacts of Economic Development Scenarios Based on Round 5 Applications – Statewide Summary

	Individual Impacts						Cumulative Impacts	
	Official Round 5 Scenario*	Scenario A: Refine HPP Definition	Scenario B: Eliminate Step 2	Scenario C: Future Congestion	Scenario D: Land Use as a Multiplier	Scenario F: ED.1 and ED.2	Scenario E (A+B+C+D): September Staff Recommended Changes	Scenario G (A+B+C+D+F): Final Staff Recommended Changes
Projects Added	-	1	20	5	27	12	28	30
Projects Dropped	-	25	6	5	48	9	67	69
Net SS Award (millions)	\$1,532.1	-\$9.7	\$78.2	\$28.0	\$25.1	\$58.3	\$35.2	\$41.3
Unallocated HPP (millions)	\$90.1	\$99.8	\$11.9	\$74.1	\$23.0	\$34.1	\$13.5	\$3.7

*Official Round 5 Staff Scenario funded 152 projects



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TO: Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO Policy Board

FROM: Zach Beard, Senior Planner

MEETING DATE: November 1, 2023

RE: **Board Memo #23-07: Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Study Overview**

BACKGROUND

The Staunton, Augusta County, and Waynesboro Walk-Bike Summit was held on October 20, 2023 in Waynesboro, and was sponsored by the SAWMPO, Augusta Health, the Shenandoah Alliance, the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition, and other regional organizations. The event highlighted the positive economic and health benefits of regional multi-modal projects, including Waynesboro's South River greenway. Participants indicated an interest in evaluating the feasibility of a continuous east-west bicycle and pedestrian connection between each MPO locality.

The MPO conducted a regional bicycle and pedestrian connectivity study in 2022. Given participant interest at the Summit, and the addition of new SAWMPO Policy Board members since the study was completed in 2022, MPO staff is providing a study overview.

BIKE-PED CONNECTIVITY STUDY

The SAWMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Regional Connectivity Study evaluates the bicycle and pedestrian connectivity gaps between Staunton, Augusta County, and Waynesboro, and identifies preferred routes and potential facility types for the routes.

The Study Team evaluated the preferred routes based existing, funded, and proposed projects, and also on roadway and site characteristics such as traffic volume and population density. The [final report](#) describes the preferred routes, and a [companion online mapping tool](#) provides an interactive overview of each route below:

- **North Route:** New Hope – Saint James (New Hope-Saint James-Entry School)
- **Central Route:** U.S. 250 (U.S. 250 between the Staunton and Waynesboro City Limits)
- **South Route:** Barterbrook – Lyndhurst (Barterbrook-Ramsey-Tinkling Springs-Ladd-Lyndhurst)

The [MPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian website page](#) also provides links to the study, and other regional bicycle and pedestrian resources.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Bicycle and Pedestrian Study Final Report](#)
- [Bike & Ped Map Viewer Overview](#)
- [Bike & Ped Map Viewer 1.0](#)