

**FY 2021-2022 Virginia Beach Budget  
Response to Council Questions**

**Question Number:** 101

**Question:** Are we focusing on which projects make us the most competitive and encourage high paying jobs? Are we maximizing our CIP revenue?

**Date Requested:** 4/27/21

**Requested By:** Councilmember Moss

**Department:** Public Works, Roadways CIP

**Response:** Although there are components of economic development in many Roadways projects, projects are not ranked exclusively based on economic benefits. Most Roadways priority lists in the City are established based on reduction of congestion or improvement of road capacity. Within either of those two priorities, there are inherent economic benefits that come from being able to move traffic efficiently and improving infrastructure. This close connection is reflected in Virginia's SMART SCALE process, wherein measures such as travel time reliability and intermodal access and efficiency are included in the measures associated with Economic Development. For most Roadway CIP projects, there are multiple-outcome opportunities that are considered in any project. Economic development is one component of that assessment, but to estimate projects based upon purely economic development would require numerous assumptions and speculation about private business decisions. For more information on the City's Roadways ranking process, please see page 402 of the CIP document.

Economic Development is also a component or a preferred benefit, and is therefore considered by the City in building applications, for several Roadways grant programs. These include both Commonwealth and federal programs, with examples including SMART SCALE, RAISE (previously BUILD, TIGER), INFRA, TAP, and RSTP.