
Secondary Six-Year Plan

Although the Department of Transportation has authority for the construction and maintenance of the secondary road system, Virginia laws create a partnership between the Department and the County Board of Supervisors in improving local transportation. The Board of Supervisors has the responsibility for establishing priorities for the Secondary Six-Year Plan. Typically in the Fall of each year, workshops are held with the Board of Supervisors to develop a list of project priorities for the updated Six Year Plan. Once a draft is established, the county and VDOT will schedule the annual Secondary Six-Year Plan public hearing usually in the first quarter of the calendar year. These hearings gather information from the public to consider projects in the county to be added in the Secondary Six-Year Plan.

Highway funding for the Six Year Plan is derived from state and federal gasoline taxes, vehicle title fees, vehicle sales tax and one-half percent of state's sales tax and distributed to the primary, urban and secondary systems after addressing maintenance, administrative costs and other priorities established in the Code of Virginia. Funds are allocated to the interstate system exclusive of federal funds and then distributed to the primary, secondary and urban systems based on a funding formula as codified in Section 33.1-23.1. Forty percent of the amount available for systems construction is allocated to the primary system, and thirty percent each is made available to the secondary and urban systems. Each distribution is exclusive of federal-aid matching funds.

Distribution of the available secondary construction funds is based on Section 33.1-23.4, of the *Code of Virginia* which establishes a 20% area and 80% population factor. The area of each county is derived by Geographic Information Systems Mapping and population figures are obtained from the Weldon Cooper Center. The distribution formula results in less-populated areas receiving less funding than urbanized areas.

Distribution of Unpaved Roads Funds is based on the ratio of unpaved secondary roads in the county serving fifty or more vehicles per day to the total number of such roads in the Commonwealth as indicated in Section 33.1-23.1:1, of the *Code of Virginia*. The Unpaved Roads Fund was created by the General Assembly to address the need for paving secondary unpaved roads.

The predictability of funding amounts is greatly dictated by the financial climate of the times and changes of funding levels by the federal government. Therefore, in dealing with construction funds, especially in the Secondary Six-Year Plan, the Department is dealing with approximations or projections. The Secondary Six-Year Plan is based on estimated funding which is provided by the Financial Planning Division.

Updating the Secondary Six-Year Plans on an annual basis allows the department to provide an update on schedules and estimates of current projects in the plan. The process gives citizens a chance to request new improvements annually; facilitates Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) planning and planning requirements of SAFETEA-LU; allows the Board of Supervisors to evaluate their program annually and update it to address any changes in county priorities.