

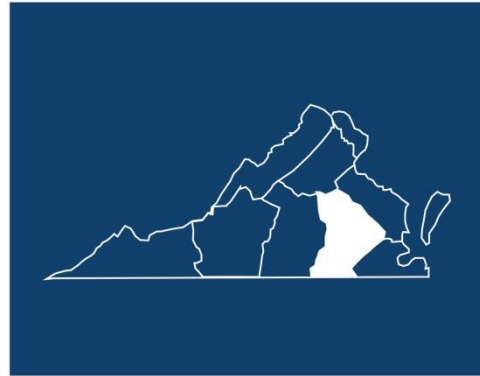


Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

## Richmond District: Six-Year Improvement Program Highlights

### General Funding Information

- The Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for Fiscal Years 2017-2022 provides \$3.7 billion in funding for rail and transit programs over the six year period.
- Governor McAuliffe's omnibus transportation bill, HB 1887, which passed in the 2015 General Assembly Session with bipartisan support, provides approximately \$40 million annually in additional transit capital funding. FY17 marks the first year that these funds are available.
- The additional transit capital funding mitigates a portion of the loss of funding anticipated in FY21 due to the expiration of transportation Capital Projects Revenue (CPR) bonds; however, more funds will be necessary to fully address the impending funding shortfall.
- For FY17, DRPT's SYIP includes \$695.5 million funding for mass transit, rail, public transportation, and related programs, which is a combination of state and state-controlled federal funding.
- Of the state total, \$36.2 million is going to the Richmond district to support public transportation and commuter services, and ongoing studies for projects that may potentially impact the area; and \$30.4 million\* is going to support freight and passenger rail in the district.



\*This number includes funding for projects that span multiple districts

### Public Transportation and Commuter Services

DRPT has allocated \$16.7 million in FY17 to continue with the construction of a Bus Rapid Transit system for the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC), known as the GRTC Pulse. This system will provide the city with a high-quality, high-capacity rapid transit system along the Broad Street Corridor, running from Willow Lawn to Rocketts Landing, and will serve as a catalyst for economic development along the Corridor.

The Department is providing Transportation Demand Management Program funding for the ongoing operation of the RideFinders regional commuter assistance program, which promotes carpooling, vanpooling, bus services and biking in the region; provides free ridematching service to the public to join or form carpools and vanpools and to match commuters with the appropriate bus service; and provides an Emergency Ride Home program. RideFinders also operates a commuter store in downtown Richmond that sells bus passes and provides



information on commute options to the public and employers. Additionally, RideFinders works with businesses to establish telework and employee transit benefit programs and to increase teleworking, bus ridership, and carpooling and vanpooling participation.

DRPT has allocated \$1.5 million in funding for commuter programs and human services. Commuters use these programs to get to work, while human services address the needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and low income communities.

### **Freight and Passenger Rail**

The Department supports two roundtrip Amtrak trains per day from Richmond; two round trip trains per day from Newport News, which serves Richmond; and one round trip Amtrak train from Norfolk, which serves the Ettrick station in Petersburg and Richmond. These services travel into the Northeast Corridor to destinations including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

DRPT is continuing its funding of the expansion of the Staples Mill parking lot to accommodate the high ridership for Amtrak passenger rail in and out of Richmond. It has allocated \$3.3 million towards the project in FY17.

Through a joint grant application, Virginia won a \$165 million dollar federal grant to finally break the gridlock on I-95, the most heavily congested corridor on the East Coast. Project partners include DRPT, VDOT, CSX, and Transurban. The \$1.4 billion dollar Atlantic Gateway project will transform how people and goods move through the Commonwealth. Improvement projects include extending the I-95/I-395 Express Lanes for eight miles north to the Potomac River and 10 miles south to Fredericksburg, providing faster and more reliable trips from Fredericksburg to the D.C. line. DRPT has allocated \$20.5 million towards the project in FY 17.

### **Studies**

Southeast High Speed Rail Project – The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and DRPT are working together on the Washington, D.C. to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail project (DC2RVA) to advance rail service and infrastructure improvements in this important corridor. The project will produce recommendations for higher speed passenger rail service, increased passenger and freight rail capacity, and improved passenger rail service frequency and reliability in the corridor. This corridor is shared by growing volumes of passenger, commuter, and freight rail traffic, thereby providing a competitive option for travelers going between Washington, D.C. and Richmond and those traveling to and from adjacent connecting corridors. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is expected later this year.

