



Salem District Highlights

DRPT is a state agency that reports to the Secretary of Transportation. Our focus is the movement of people and goods throughout the Commonwealth, and our primary areas of activity are rail, public transportation, and commuter services.

DRPT's mission is to facilitate and improve the mobility of Virginia citizens and to promote the efficient transport of goods and people in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner. Below are summaries of ongoing projects and funding allocations that support this mission.

General Funding

DRPT's Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for Fiscal Years 2018-2023 allocates \$669.3 million in Fiscal Year 2018. In the Salem District, this funding includes \$18.1 million in transit and \$900,000 in rail.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2019, a portion of transit capital program funding will begin to phase out as the ten-year life of Capital Project Revenue bonds expires. The bonds represent over 40% of transit capital program funding. The Virginia General Assembly passed legislation to establish

the Transit Capital Projects Revenue Advisory Board (RAB) in the 2016 Session as recognition of the need to identify new funding sources for transit capital investments. In its final report, the RAB identified a \$130 million annual average funding gap between revenues and needs over the next ten years, suggested potential revenue sources to meet those needs, and made recommendations for a project-based prioritization framework to allocate limited funding. To view the report, please visit www.drpt.virginia.gov.



Fiscal Year 2018 Smart Scale Applications

Smart Way Vehicle Expansion Project

The Greater Roanoke Transit Company (GRTC) will add an express commuter bus service between Virginia Tech and the Virginia Tech Carillion Research Institute in Roanoke.



Valley Metro's Route 91/92 Vehicle Expansion Project

GRTC will replace its 35-foot buses with 40-foot buses used along the U.S. 460 corridor in Roanoke and Salem due to increased ridership and increased vehicle capacity.

Blacksburg Transit (BT) Expansion Bus Purchase

BT will purchase two 60-foot articulated buses to expand capacity and ease overcrowding on its existing routes due to the Virginia Tech student ridership growth.

GRTC's Automatic Vehicle Locator/Real-Time Project

This project will implement an automatic vehicle locator system to create a safer, more reliable, and timely service.

Public Transportation

Organizations in the Salem District that receive state funding in Fiscal Year 2018 of DRPT's SYIP are:

- Blacksburg Transit
- City of Radford
- Greater Roanoke Transit Company
- New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
- New River Valley Senior Services (Senior Shuttle)
- Pulaski Area Transit
- RADAR/UHSTS
- Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RIDE Solutions)
- Southern Area Agency on Aging (Miles 2 Independence, Transportation Options Martinsville)

DRPT also is a funding partner with Blacksburg Transit in building a new Multi-Modal Transit Facility that will serve as a central hub for transit services at Virginia Tech. This new building will have two bus loops with a total of 17 bus bays. It is being built to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Intercity Bus Program: Blacksburg to Washington, D.C.

Intercity bus service creates a connection between rural areas and the larger regional or national system of buses. Bus schedules are developed to make practical connections to current intercity carriers making travel accessible, reliable, and convenient. Under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 rural transit formula program, Virginia is required to utilize up to 15% of its annual appropriation towards facilitating intercity bus service in the Commonwealth where it is otherwise underserved or does not exist.

Following a 2013 study, DRPT determined that the I-81 and 1-66 corridor between Blacksburg and Washington, D.C. presented an underserved, yet viable market to pilot an intercity bus



service. In February 2017, DRPT issued a request for proposals for a pilot program between Blacksburg and D.C. This service will be 100% federally funded and has a planned route along both I-81 and I-66. The proposed route will be accessible to a number of colleges and universities and will connect to local transit. It is anticipated that service will begin in November 2017.

Roanoke Amtrak Extension

DRPT has entered into agreements with Norfolk Southern and the City of Roanoke to extend Amtrak service from Lynchburg to Roanoke beginning on or about October 31, 2017. This service will allow passengers to travel into the Northeast Corridor and offer one-seat rides to destinations including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. As part of this expansion, the Commonwealth has provided over \$100 million in funding for six projects along the rail corridor to expedite service. Those six projects are:

- Constructing the Green-Smothers Double-track, a ten-mile second mainline, to improve network fluidity by allowing freight trains to pass at a strategic location.
- Increasing five railroads tunnel clearances and five roadway bridges near Altavista to allow double stack intermodal traffic to shift to the Altavista Route opening up capacity for Amtrak Service between Roanoke and Lynchburg.
- Upgrading signals and electrifying switches on the Lynchburg Wye at Woodall Road to allow for safer and more efficient movement of trains between Lynchburg and Roanoke.
- Building an Amtrak Service facility in Roanoke for a locomotive and eight cars which enables Amtrak to turn and service the train set in Roanoke for early morning departures and late evening arrivals.
- Refining network study recommendations for freight traffic improvements along the Altavista route and identify improvements to the Roanoke area to accommodate additional intermodal traffic shifted to the Altavista route.
- Constructing an 850 foot high-level platform in downtown Roanoke for level boarding of Amtrak trains.

Virginia State Rail Plan

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 tasks states with producing a State Rail Plan to establish policies, priorities and implementation strategies for freight and passenger rail transportation, which enhance rail service in the public interest, and serve as the basis for federal and state rail investments within Virginia.

The State Rail Plan includes both short-term and long-term planning horizons and serves as a unifying vision for advancing passenger and freight rail initiatives in the Commonwealth. DRPT consulted with various industry stakeholders including freight and passenger rail owners and operators, governmental and non-governmental entities (including municipalities and regional planning organizations), the general public, elected officials, and interest groups in in this effort. The Commonwealth of Virginia will strategically utilize the State Rail Plan to guide policy and



funding decisions which will promote safer travel alternatives, reduce environmental impacts, prioritize numerous advancements in the State's rail transportation network and serve as a catalyst for economic development along the Commonwealth's rail corridors.

For more information, go to www.varailplan.org.

If you have any questions or comments about any of these projects, please contact our office:

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