



## Salem District Highlights

*We are the Commonwealth's advocate for promoting transportation options to the general public, businesses, and community decision makers.*

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is a state agency that reports to the Secretary of Transportation. 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. Our primary areas of activity are rail, public transportation, and commuter services. DRPT works with local, regional, state, and federal governments, as well as private entities, to provide support for projects and programs by:

Assessing feasibility and environmental impacts of new and expanding services	Conducting statewide rail and public transportation studies	Planning and programming new services and capital improvement projects	Providing leadership, advocacy, technical assistance, and funding
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**Smart Scale** is a prioritization process focused on investing limited tax dollars into the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. Virginia's Smart Scale selects the right transportation projects for funding and ensures the best use of limited tax dollars. It is the method of scoring planned projects included in VTrans. Transportation projects are scored based on an objective, outcome-based process that is transparent to the public and allows decision-makers to be held accountable to taxpayers. Once projects are scored and prioritized, the Commonwealth Transportation Board is given the best information possible in order to approve the right projects for funding.

### Round 1 and 2 Public Transportation Projects

#### 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

FY17- Smart Scale funded 8 public transportation projects statewide totaling \$31m

FY18- Smart Scale funded 17 public transportation projects statewide totaling \$168m



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.

### **Round 3 Public Transportation Application**

#### Blacksburg Multi-Modal Transit Facility

The Town of Blacksburg is developing a Transit Center, known as the Multi-Modal Transit Facility (MMTF), on the campus of Virginia Tech to provide a safe, efficient location for over 20,000 daily passengers to board and alight on Blacksburg Transit buses. The project will replace the current on-street hub which consists of multiple stops around the Virginia Tech Drillfield where an extremely high volume of pedestrian and vehicle conflicts are a major safety concern and cause frequent delays. The Town of Blacksburg is managing the project in close cooperation with Virginia Tech. The town and Virginia Tech have worked together on the design to ensure the operational needs of Blacksburg Transit are addressed as well as Virginia Tech's design standards. The project is located along Perry Street between West Campus Drive and Stanger Street and straddles the east and west sides of the existing Perry Street parking garage. The project consists of 2 bus loops with a total of 17 bus bays with canopy cover, a 2-story building to serve as a waiting area, bicycle hub, administrative space, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, and extensive site work over the 14 acre project area. The project has committed funding from federal, state, and local sources for about 80% of the estimated cost.

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

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