

Highlights for Lynchburg District: What's in store in the Six-Year Improvement Program

General Funding

- The draft Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for Fiscal Years 2016-2021 provides \$3.4 billion in funding for rail and transit programs over the six year period.
- Due to an \$11 million shortfall in revenue collections in FY14, the draft FY16 SYIP reflects a 3% decrease in operating funding compared to FY15 numbers.
- 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. These funds will be available in FY17.
- 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, additional funds will be necessary to fully address the impending funding shortfall.
- For FY16, DRPT's draft SYIP includes \$557.6 million in state funding and \$92.1 million in state-controlled federal funding for mass transit, rail, public transportation, and related programs.
- Of the state total, \$6.2 million is going to the Lynchburg district to support public transportation and commuter services, and \$49.8 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 is providing the Lynchburg district with over \$1.3 million in state and state-controlled federal transit capital funding for the purchase of 20 replacement and expansion vehicles to assist with 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 people with low incomes.

DRPT has allocated \$3.9 million of funding in FY16 towards a new operations and maintenance facility for the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company. The new headquarters will accommodate most of GLTC's 125 employees and provide much-needed space to house their fleet of 53 vehicles as well as provide ample room for any future fleet expansion. Construction is set to begin this spring.

• DRPT •



Highlights for Lynchburg District (continued)

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Freight and Passenger Rail

DRPT is the state partner to Amtrak and it supports regional intercity passenger rail service operated by Amtrak to include one round trip per day from Lynchburg. An additional Amtrak frequency beginning and ending in Lynchburg is planned. All state-supported Amtrak regional intercity passenger rail service travels into the Northeast Corridor and offers a one-seat ride to destinations including Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

The Department is funding a bridge and track upgrade project, as well as rail and tie replacements for the Buckingham Branch Railroad that works to stabilize the Virginia Southern Division to handle 286,000 pound rail carloads from the connection with Norfolk Southern near Keysville to the Dominion coal-fired power plant in Clarksville, Virginia.

The draft SYIP includes funding for freight rail improvements in the Lynchburg district that are part of the I-81 Crescent Corridor program. This program endeavors to attract domestic freight from paralleling interstate highways and alleviate truck congestion on major interstate highways. The rail improvements in the district are all in an effort to increase network fluidity and accommodate more and larger trains.

