

Highlights for Salem District:

What's in store in the Six-Year Improvement Program

General Funding Information

- 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, more 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, \$9.7 million is going to the Salem district to support public transportation and commuter services, and \$44.6 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 funding the ongoing operation of the RIDE Solutions commuter assistance program, which services the Salem district. RIDE Solutions provides ridematching services and alternative transportation options – carpool, vanpool, biking, public transit, walking, and guaranteed ride home services – to residents living within the greater New River and Roanoke Valleys and Lynchburg regions of southwestern Virginia.

The Department has also allocated \$2.6 million of state and state-controlled federal transit capital funding for the purchase of 39 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.

Additionally, DRPT is contributing \$11.5 million in state and state-controlled federal funding to the construction of an administration building for Blacksburg Transit on the Virginia Tech campus, which will become the main hub for all bus routes coming into the campus area. Not only will it reduce vehicle and pedestrian traffic on campus, but it will also allow Blacksburg Transit to consolidate services and provide more direct access to Virginia Tech.

Highlights for Salem District (continued)

What's in store in the Six-Year Improvement Program

Freight and Passenger Rail

DRPT has entered into agreements with Norfolk Southern and the City of Roanoke to extend Amtrak service from Lynchburg to Roanoke by 2017. This service will travel into the Northeast Corridor and offer one-seat rides to destinations including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

The SYIP includes funding for a number of freight rail improvements in the Salem district that are part of the I-81 Crescent Corridor program. This program endeavors to handle more and longer trains in a freight corridor paralleling interstate highways which will help alleviate truck congestion on major interstate highways.