



## Bristol District Highlights

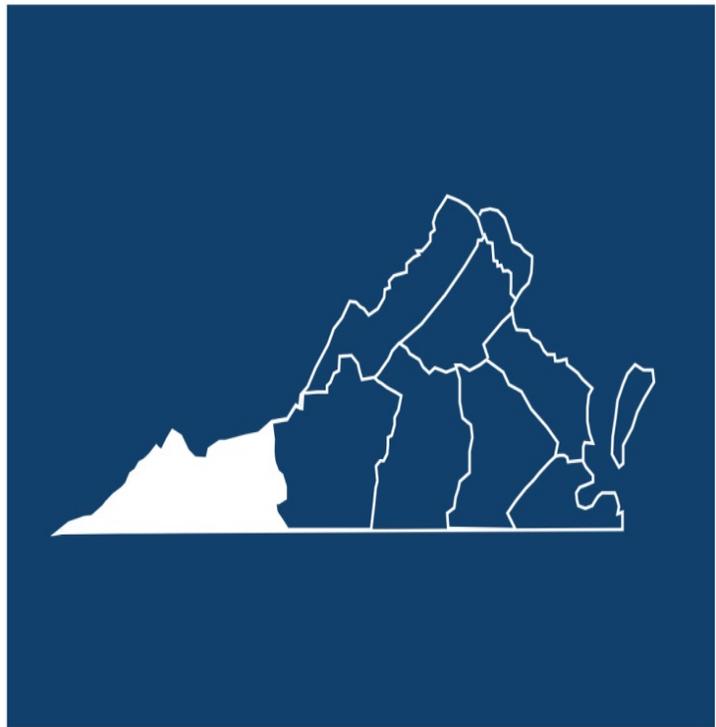
DRPT is a state agency that reports to the Secretary of Transportation. Our focus is the movement of people and goods throughout the Commonwealth, and our primary areas of activity are rail, public transportation, and commuter services.

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 Bristol district, this funding includes \$6.3 million for transit.

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](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov).



### Fiscal Year 2017 Smart Scale Projects

#### US58/23 Access Management with Park & Ride

While there are several components to this project, the Park and Ride proposal fits DRPT's mission of facilitating and improving the mobility of the citizens of Virginia as well as promoting efficient transport of goods and people in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner. The public park and ride would improve redundancy and mode choice by giving travelers and motorists a safe opportunity to commute with others. The park and ride would also increase



the opportunities for public transportation. The Kingsport KATS and Mountain Empire Older Citizens public transportation systems are exploring an agreement to provide a transfer station for public transportation riders.

## **Public Transportation**

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

- AASC/Four County Transit
- City of Bristol
- Kingsport TN/VA Metropolitan Planning Organization
- District Three Public Transit
- Mount Empire Older Citizens, Inc.
- Town of Bluefield-Graham Transit

## **Freight and Passenger Rail**

In the past, DRPT has included funding in its Six-Year Improvement Program for a number of freight rail improvements in the Bristol 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.

DRPT appreciates the desire for passenger rail service extensions to New River Valley and Bristol and awarded \$350,000 in Fiscal Year 2019 for the New River Valley/Bristol Intercity Passenger Rail and Operating Capital Funding application to do a modeling analysis between Roanoke and Bristol. DRPT staff has met with the Bristol study stakeholders several times and has supported Amtrak providing them a ridership analysis for their study. Before the modeling analysis is initiated by the Host Railroad, DRPT needs to obtain and evaluate two years of ridership data from the Roanoke extension, due to begin service in late October 2017, before any further extension(s) could be initiated.

## **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](http://www.varailplan.org).

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

**Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation**

**600 East Main Street, Suite 2102**

**Richmond, VA 23219**

**(804) 786-4440**

[drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov)

[www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov)

