



Hampton Roads 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 Hampton Roads District, this funding includes \$51.9 million for transit and \$23.4 million for 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 Projects

Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) Bus Expansion & Three Expansion Bus Shelters

WATA proposes adding additional service to the Upper York County with one new medium bus and additional shelters.



Fiscal Year 2017 Smart Scale Projects

Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) Regional Commuter Express Bus

HRT requested funding to purchase five transit buses to establish two new MAX commuter routes and to extend a local bus route service to the Downtown Norfolk Transit Center. The two new commuter routes will provide service from the Chesapeake Center in Chesapeake and from the Victory Crossing Center in Portsmouth to the Naval Station Norfolk.

HRT Peninsula Regional Park and Ride Enhancement

The Smart Scale funding will assist in providing enhancements to the Hampton Transit Facility and the Newport News Transit Facility. They include parking capacity increases, passenger amenities that induce new ridership, multi-modal enhancements that address first mile/last mile and inter/intra state travel, and retail services and amenities aimed at enhancing customer experience. This project will also provide real time customer information related to bus arrivals and departures at the two facilities. In addition, it will establish four new bus bays. The two facilities currently serve over 23 bus routes and 7,761 daily passenger trips.

Transit and Commuter Programs

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

- City of Suffolk
- Greensville County
- Hampton Roads Transit
- Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
- Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA Transportation Program for Elderly and Disabled)
- Peninsula Agency on Aging (Greater Williamsburg One-Call Transportation Center)
- Portco, Inc.
- Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
- STAR Transit
- Town of Chincoteague
- Williamsburg Area Transit Authority

Passenger and Freight Rail

DRPT provides funding for six Virginia intercity passenger rail trains operated by Amtrak, including one roundtrip per day from Norfolk and two roundtrips per day out of Newport News. All of these passenger rail services travel along the Northeast Corridor and offer one-seat rides to destinations including Washington, DC, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.



DRPT is investing over \$100 million to improve Acca Yard in Richmond. Once completed, this project will help improve travel reliability for existing passenger rail service between Hampton Roads and Richmond, and it will provide two additional train slots for future service to Norfolk. The Acca Yard project is expected to be completed in 2019.

DRPT is funding the construction of a new Amtrak station in Newport News. Located at Bland Boulevard and I-64, this new multi-modal transportation center will be more energy efficient, improve connectivity to other modes of transportation, allow for increased passenger train ridership, and reduce operating costs as Amtrak will be able to turn and maintain the trains on-site. Transportation options will increase through new intercity bus service with local connections including HRT, shuttles to the airport, and taxi service. It is anticipated that work will be completed in Summer 2018.

DRPT also works closely with the nine shortline railroads that provide local and switching services to industries and ports across the state. In the Hampton Roads District, DRPT provides funding to Bay Coast Railroad, Commonwealth Railway, Inc., Norfolk & Portsmouth Beltline, and North Carolina and Virginia Railroad.

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 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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