



## Staunton 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 Staunton District, this funding includes \$9.2 million for transit and \$3.8 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](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov).



### Fiscal Year 2018 Smart Scale Projects

#### Waynesboro Towne Center Park and Ride

This project will repave and add parking spaces and transit facilities to the Waynesboro Towne Center Park and Ride lot located in the southeastern corner of the I-64/US 340 interchange at Exit 94. This proposal will make needed improvements to expand and improve the existing facility by increasing parking by 55 additional spaces to a total of 175, adding a bus stop, shelter and bus zone/pull off, and by improving pedestrian access to adjacent commercial locations.



## Public Transportation

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

- Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission/BRITE Transit
- City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation
- City of Winchester
- Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (RideSmart)
- RADAR/UHSTS
- Rockbridge Area Transportation System
- Shenandoah Area Aging on Aging, Inc. (WellTran)
- Valley Program for Aging Services (Valley Program for Aging Services, Senior Transportation Voucher Program)

In Fiscal Year 2017, DRPT provided funding to the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission for the transfer of the BRITE Transit Facility. In partnership with Virginia Regional Transit, BRITE Transit Facility provides public transportation to the Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro areas.

### **Intercity Bus Program: Blacksburg to Washington, D.C.**

Intercity bus service creates a connection between rural areas and the larger regional or national system of buses. Bus schedules are developed to make practical connections to current intercity carriers making travel accessible, reliable, and convenient. Under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 rural transit formula program, Virginia is required to utilize up to 15% of its annual appropriation towards facilitating intercity bus service in the Commonwealth where it is otherwise underserved or does not exist.

Following a 2013 study, DRPT determined that the I-81 and I-66 corridor between Blacksburg and Washington, D.C. presented an underserved, yet viable market to pilot an intercity bus service. In February 2017, DRPT issued a request for proposals for a pilot program between Blacksburg and D.C. This service will be 100% federally funded and has a planned route along both I-81 and I-66. The proposed route will be accessible to a number of colleges and universities and will connect to local transit. It is anticipated that service will begin in November 2017.

### **Freight Rail**

In the past, DRPT has included funding in its Six-Year Improvement Program for a number of freight rail improvements 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 highways including I-81.



DRPT also works closely with the nine shortline railroads that provide local and switching services to industries and ports across the state. In the Staunton District, DRPT provided funding in Fiscal Year 2018 to the Buckingham Branch Railroad, Shenandoah Valley Railroad, and Winchester and Western Railroad Company for projects.

### **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)

