



## Hampton Roads Highlights

*We are the Commonwealth's advocate for promoting transportation options to the general public, businesses, and community decision makers.*

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is a state agency that reports to the Secretary of Transportation. The agency'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. Our primary areas of activity are rail, public transportation, and commuter services. DRPT works with local, regional, state, and federal governments, as well as private entities, to provide support for projects and programs by:

Assessing feasibility and environmental impacts of new and expanding services

Conducting statewide rail and public transportation studies

Planning and programming new services and capital improvement projects

Providing leadership, advocacy, technical assistance, and funding

**Below are summaries of ongoing projects and funding allocations in the proposed Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) that support this mission in Hampton Roads.**

**DRPT Fiscal Year (FY) 2019: \$595 million statewide**

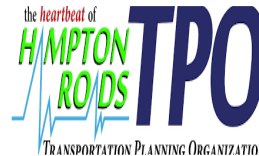
**Hampton Roads District**

**Transit: \$41.9 million**

**Rail: \$28.6 million**

### **Transit and Commuter Programs**

Organizations in the Hampton Roads District that receive state funding in FY 2019 of DRPT's SYIP are:



DRPT funding assisted with the new transit service in the City of Emporia and Greenville County. Greenville - Emporia Transit System began with one route on October 2, 2017 with two buses and will be expanding to two routes, three buses and a para-transit van in late summer 2018.

**Rail Programs**



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.

**Ridership on Virginia State-Supported Routes for Federal FY 16-FY 17**

Ridership	FY 16 (10/1/15- 9/30/16)	FY 17 (10/1/16-9/30/17)	Percent Change
Route 46: Lynchburg to DC	184,868	189,881	2.7%
Route 47: Newport News to DC	329,551	331,308	0.5%
Route 50: Norfolk to DC	146,605	155,389	6.0%
Route 51: Richmond to DC	177,305	174,935	-1.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>838,329</b>	<b>851,443</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

**Richmond Area Improvements & Additional Train Service to Norfolk**

- DRPT is investing over \$100 million to improve Acca Yard in Richmond.
- Once completed in 2019- improved travel reliability for existing passenger rail service between Hampton Roads and Richmond and CSX’s freight rail customers
- It will provide two additional train slots for future passenger service to Norfolk beginning in 2019 and 2022, respectively.

**New Newport News Amtrak Train Station**

- DRPT is funding the construction
- 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.
- Transportations options will increase through new intercity bus service with local connections including HRT, shuttles to the airport, and taxi service.



### Virginia Shortline Railway Preservation and Development Program

The Rail Preservation Fund benefits the nine shortline railroads operating in Virginia, which provide the “local” network and the “last mile” of service for rail freight to reach its destination. The fund promotes the continuation of rail service by achieving

Federal Railroad Administration Class 2 track safety standards, allowing freight service to operate at speeds up to 25 mph. It also promotes development of rail transportation support facilities, encouraging industrial growth and promoting truck diversion from Virginia’s highways.



- Bay Coast Railroad
- Commonwealth Railway, Inc.
- Norfolk Portsmouth Beltline
- North Carolina & Virginia Railroad



**Smart Scale** is a prioritization process focused on investing limited tax dollars into the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. Virginia’s Smart Scale selects the right transportation projects for funding and ensures the best use of limited

tax dollars. It is the method of scoring planned projects included in VTrans. Transportation projects are scored based on an objective, outcome-based process that is transparent to the public and allows decision-makers to be held accountable to taxpayers. Once projects are scored and prioritized, the Commonwealth Transportation Board is given the best information possible in order to approve the right projects for funding.

FY17- Smart Scale funded 8 projects totaling \$31m

FY18- DRPT recommended funding for 17 projects totaling \$168m

### 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.

### 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.

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

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