



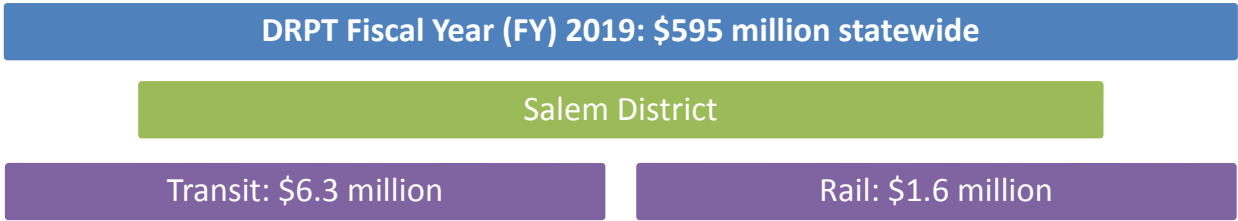
Salem District Highlights

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



Transit and Commuter Programs

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



DRPT also is a funding partner with Blacksburg Transit in building a new Multi-Modal Transit Facility that will serve as a central hub for transit services at Virginia Tech. This new building will have two bus loops with a total of 17 bus bays. It is being built to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.



The Virginia Breeze, the state’s intercity bus service, creates a connection between rural areas and the larger regional or national system of buses, connecting Blacksburg to Washington D.C. 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 1-66 corridor between Blacksburg and Union Station in Washington, D.C. presented an underserved, yet viable, market to pilot an intercity bus service. This service is 100% federally funded with stops in Christiansburg, Lexington, Staunton, Harrisonburg, Front Royal, Dulles International Airport, and West Falls Church. Service started in December 2017.

Rail Programs



DRPT provides funding for six Virginia intercity passenger rail trains along four routes operated by Amtrak. Included in this funding is one roundtrip per day from Roanoke. All of these passenger rail services travel along the Northeast Corridor and offer one-seat rides to destinations including

Washington, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

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

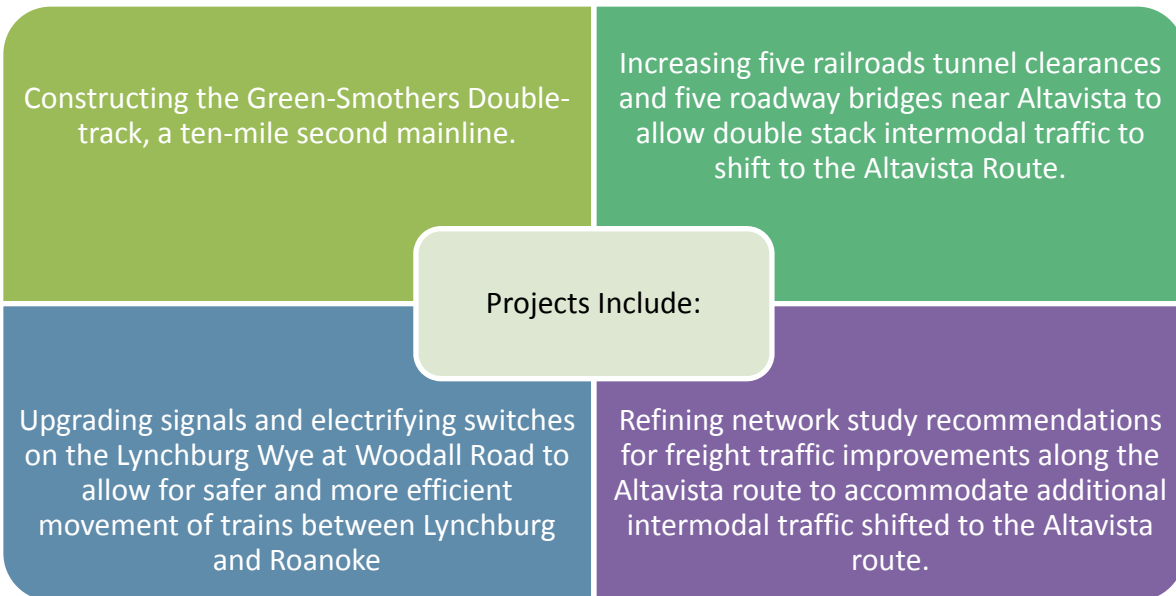
Ridership	FY 16 (10/1/15- 9/30/16)	FY 17 (10/1/16-9/30/17)	Percent Change
Route 46: Lynchburg to DC	184,868	189,881	2.7%
Route 47: Newport News to DC	329,551	331,308	0.5%
Route 50: Norfolk to DC	146,605	155,389	6.0%
Route 51: Richmond to DC	177,305	174,935	-1.3%
TOTAL	838,329	851,443	1.6%

Roanoke Amtrak Extension

DRPT has entered into agreements with Norfolk Southern and the City of Roanoke to extend Amtrak service from Lynchburg to Roanoke which began service on October 31, 2017. This service allows passengers to travel into the Northeast Corridor and offer one-seat rides to destinations including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. As part of this



expansion, the Commonwealth has provided over \$100 million in funding for six projects along the rail corridor to expedite service.

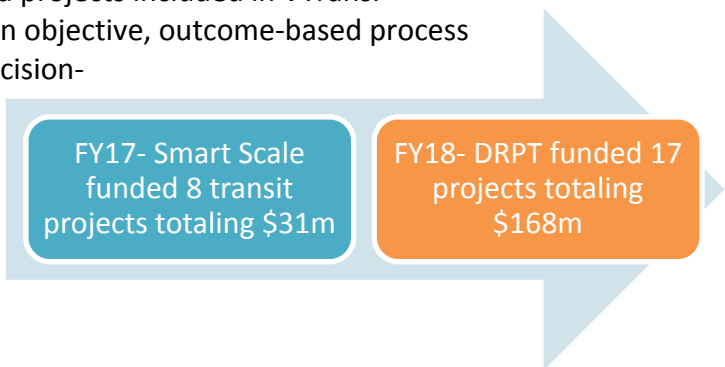


Smart Scale is a prioritization process focused on investing limited tax dollars into the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. Virginia's Smart Scale selects the right transportation projects for funding and ensures the best use of limited

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.



Smart Way Vehicle Expansion Project

The Greater Roanoke Transit Company (GRTC) will add an express commuter bus service between Virginia Tech and the Virginia Tech Carillion Research Institute in Roanoke.

Valley Metro's Route 91/92 Vehicle Expansion Project

GRTC will replace its 35-foot buses with 40-foot buses used along the U.S. 460 corridor in Roanoke and Salem due to increased ridership and increased vehicle capacity.



Blacksburg Transit (BT) Expansion Bus Purchase

BT will purchase two 60-foot articulated buses to expand capacity and ease overcrowding on its existing routes due to the Virginia Tech student ridership growth.

GRTC's Automatic Vehicle Locator/Real-Time Project

This project will implement an automatic vehicle locator system to create a safer, more reliable, and timely service.

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

www.drpt.virginia.gov

