



Bristol 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

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

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

Bristol District

Transit: \$1.4 million

Rail: \$350,000

Transit and Commuter Programs

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



Bristol TN/VA Metropolitan Planning Organization



Kingsport TN/VA Metropolitan Planning Organization



Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc.
Serving Southwest Virginia Since 1974



Rail Programs

In the past, DRPT has included \$13.6 million 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, which began October 2017, before any further extension(s) can be initiated.



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 transit projects totaling \$31m

FY18- DRPT funded 17 projects totaling \$168m

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.

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

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