

Guiding Principles for State Transit Capital Funding Needs and Prioritization

August 29, 2016

These guiding principles have been adopted by the TSDAC to inform deliberations and may be amended, as needed, in the future.

- **Maintain Integrity of the statewide program:**
 - Identify and articulate goals of DRPT’s capital program – utilization of state resources to gain greatest benefit with limited resources
 - Account for the fact that “one size doesn’t fit all” based on systems, services, and local/regional characteristics
 - Mitigate risk of disparities across regions of the Commonwealth and transit providers of different sizes
 - Be scalable
 - Balance state of good repair needs with needs for expansion
 - Proceed with caution to avoid unwarranted instability and harm

- **Promote Efficiency, Accountability and Transparency:**
 - Avoid overly complicated and burdensome requirements that reduce efficiency and effectiveness.
 - Align policy to utilize prioritization and performance-based standards and planning requirements already in place at federal and local/regional levels.
 - Avoid duplication or misalignment with other data reporting requirements. (Ensure synergy with FTA Asset Management requirements, Smart Scale, FTA New/Small Starts, USDOT TIGER),
 - Establish and widely publicize measures and methods used to ensure compliance with various funding entities, enabling grantees to apply for funds or leverage other funds.

- **Support Implementation:**
 - Ensure statewide consistency in program administration
 - Provide technical capacity support for program participants
 - Establish clear definitions and criteria, including how “expansion” aspects within “replacement” projects are identified and handled.
 - Utilize accessible and dependable data sets
 - Define clear parameters to allow flexibility in program administration to meet unique needs

- **Make the Business Case for Transit**
 - Quantify and articulate transit’s specific and powerful role in every Virginia community
 - Articulate how transit enhances a community’s economy, mobility, health, and livability

- Describe what is at stake for Virginia if transit needs go unaddressed
- Quantify and articulate needs versus resources
- Aid understanding of how transit is funded, including differences across service types, areas of the state, and compared to other modes
- Identify underlying conditions related to the objectives mandated for the Transit Capital Project Revenue Advisory Board to address which are significant problem areas and require new public policy (i.e., need for separate and sustainable dedicated transit funding sources in major urbanized areas)