

Highlights for Hampton Roads:

What's in store in the Six Year Improvement Program

General Funding Information

- The draft Revised Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for Fiscal Years 2015-2020 provides \$3.2 billion in funding for rail and transit programs over the six year period.
- A Revised SYIP for FY15-20 is being issued due to a \$13.7 million decrease in estimated revenues for FY15.
- While HB 2313 provided increased transportation funding, state transportation revenue estimates have declined 13% since its enactment.
- Through a number of mitigation procedures, DRPT was able to maintain previously issued funding levels for FY15; however, significant funding impacts are anticipated in subsequent years.
- State SYIP funding for FY15 is \$529.2 million for mass transit, rail, public transportation, and related programs throughout the Commonwealth.
- Of the state total, \$37.2 million is going to Hampton Roads to support public transportation and commuter services, and ongoing studies for projects that may potentially impact the area; and \$8.1 million* is going to support freight and passenger rail in the district.
- Apportioned operating funds for the area in FY15 total \$20 million, and capital funds total \$17.2 million.

*This number includes funding for projects that span multiple districts

Public Transportation and Commuter Services

Hampton Roads Transit (HRT)

- Traffic Commuter Assistance Program

DRPT is providing 80% of the funding for additional marketing and outreach for HRT's Traffic program. Traffic works with employers and travelers in the Hampton Roads region to develop telework programs and increase usage of the array of transit options. It also operates a Guaranteed Ride Home program, providing commuters with a ride back to their point of origin in case of an emergency once they get to work. DRPT also administers the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding and its state funding match for the ongoing operation of the Traffic program.

- DRPT is funding a new Downtown Norfolk Transit Center (DNTPC), which will provide connectivity between HRT's Tide light rail, regional, local and intercity bus service, and downtown pedestrians.
- State funds are continuing for the HRT ferry dock structural improvements and expansion, as well as for a replacement ferry. The funding will cover the purchase of the new ferry to replace the aged-out ferry and will cover upgrades to the docks and ferry operational facilities.
- Allocated federal funds of up to \$155 million will be used for the expansion of HRT's Tide Light Rail System to Virginia Beach.

DRPT has approved an application from Suffolk Transit that will expand their service area into the urbanized area of Northern Suffolk. The area has not previously had transit service and this expansion will provide 12 hours of deviated fixed route service daily. In addition this service will provide five hours of daily connection service between downtown Suffolk and connections to Chesapeake Square Mall and Hampton Roads Transit.



Additionally, DRPT has allocated funding for 105 vehicles to support public transit and human services for the City of Suffolk, Eastern Shore Community Services Board, HRT, Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board, Peninsula Agency on Aging, Portco, Presbyterian Homes and Family Services, Senior Services of Southeastern VA, Western Tidewater Community Services Board and the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority.

Freight and Passenger Rail

Amtrak

- 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; passengers can catch the train directly from the Harbor Park station, or embark on an Amtrak Thruway bus connection to the Newport News station. These services travel along the Northeast Corridor and offer one-seat rides to destinations including Washington, DC, Philadelphia, New York and Boston.
- DRPT has allocated \$20 million of FY16 and FY17 funding towards improvements to the Newport News station.

Freight

- The Bay Coast Railroad is replacing ties in the mainline and at switches to ensure safe operations and work towards maintenance of Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) class 2 track safety standards. DRPT also worked with the railroad and the Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission to restore rail barge service across the Chesapeake Bay.
- The Norfolk and Portsmouth Beltline Railway has several tie replacement and bridge improvement projects to maintain FRA class 2 track safety standards. DRPT has worked with the railroad to improve rail yard capacity to accommodate business growth vital to the Port of Virginia.
- The Commonwealth Railway has tie and surface improvement projects underway to ensure operation at FRA class 2 track safety standards and support rail service at APM Terminal port in Norfolk.

Studies

- Naval Station Norfolk Transit Extension Study – This study will define potential routes and transit modes in Norfolk that will link The Tide light rail system with the Navy base.
- Virginia Beach Transit Extension Study – This study will identify options for extending transit service east of Birdneck Road and the oceanfront area, as well as evaluate alternatives for a transit extension.

