

Highlights for Salem District:

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 for rail and transit 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.
- For FY15, DRPT's draft SYIP includes \$529.2 million in state funding and \$77.7 million in state-controlled federal funding for mass transit, rail, public transportation, and related programs.
- Of the state total, \$5.5 million is going to the Salem district to support public transportation and commuter services, and \$55.8 million* is going to support freight and passenger rail in the district.

* This number includes funding for projects that span multiple districts

Public Transportation and Commuter Services

DRPT is funding the ongoing operation of the RIDE Solutions commuter assistance program, which services the Salem district. RIDE Solutions provides ridematching services and alternative transportation options – carpool, vanpool, biking, public transit, walking, and guaranteed ride home services – to residents living within the greater New River and Roanoke Valleys and Lynchburg regions of southwestern Virginia.

The Department has also allocated funding for the purchase of 29 vehicles for the following commuter and human service providers in the area: Adult Day Care of Martinsville, Blacksburg Transit, City of Radford, Giles Health and Family Center, New River Valley CSB, NRV Senior Services, Pulaski Area Transit, RADAR, and Southern Area Agency on Aging.

Additionally, DRPT is contributing to the construction of an administration building for Blacksburg Transit on the Virginia Tech campus.

Freight and Passenger Rail

DRPT has entered into agreements with Norfolk Southern and the City of Roanoke to extend Amtrak service from Lynchburg to Roanoke by 2017. This service will travel into the Northeast Corridor and offer one-seat rides to destinations including Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

The SYIP includes funding for a number of freight rail improvements in the Lynchburg 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. The rail improvements in the district are all in an effort to accommodate more and larger trains.

