

Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) Program

CTB Rail Subcommittee

April 14, 2015



I. Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) Program Background

In 2004, Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner tasked the Governor's Commission on Rail Enhancement for the 21st Century in the Commonwealth of Virginia ("the Commission") to review the State Rail Plan and Senate Bill 413 (2004), consider the formation of a rail authority, explore innovative financing options, and make other recommendations as appropriate.

The Commission's findings revealed several issues and many recommendations were put forth. The major recommendations made by the Commission were that rail transportation "*must be considered in developing transportation solutions;*" and that "*Virginia's rail system must be a partner in the mid-Atlantic region for higher speed and intercity passenger and commuter service to improve mobility, support economic development, reduce congestion, and address environmental challenges.*" The Commission also acknowledged that the state rail system would have "*to absorb significant increases in freight*" in the decades to come.

As part of its proposal for the state's rail goals, the Commission emphasized "*strengthening Virginia's economic base, providing an environmentally-friendly approach to added capacity for people and goods in our major corridors, and looking to a future higher-speed network in the mid-Atlantic region.*"

The Commission also recommended that the rail leadership be reaffirmed in the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), with close coordination with the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). It also emphasized that a new, dedicated funding source was essential for the purpose of enhancing and advancing rail transportation within Virginia.

As a result of the Commission and its recommendations, the Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) was created in 2005.

II. Rail Enhancement Fund Code

This information can be found under Tab 5 of the DRPT Rail Programs binder that was provided to the CTB Rail Committee on March 18, 2015.

III. REF Program Overview

This information can be found under Tab 9 of the DRPT Rail Programs binder that was provided to the CTB Rail Committee on March 18, 2015.

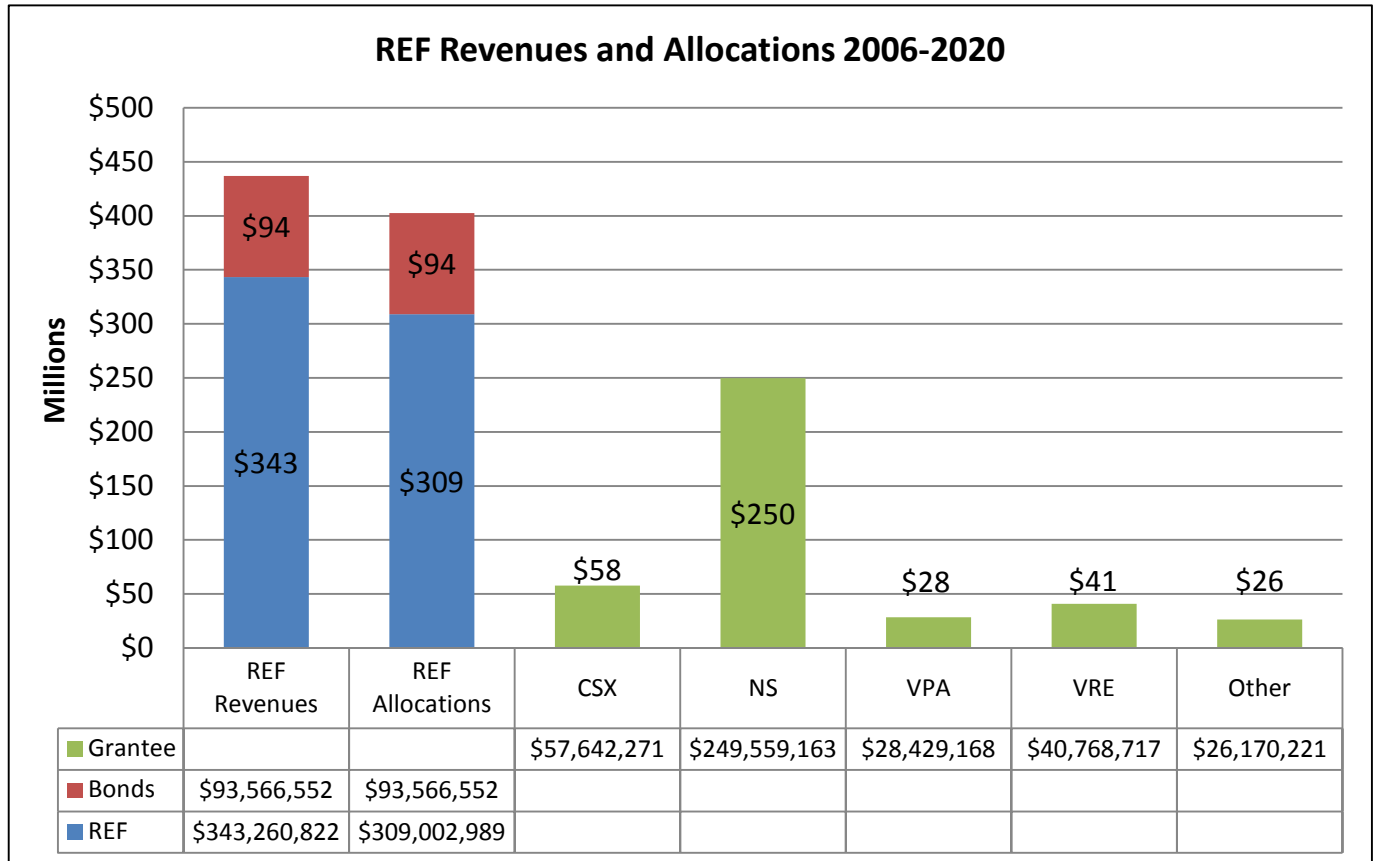
IV. Summary of REF Program Revenues and Expenditures

Number of Projects Funded with REF

Category	Number
Total Projects funded since inception (2006)	57
Projects Under Agreement or LONP*	32
Projects funded but not yet under agreement	16
Projects initiated under REF but later advanced with other sources due to other funding opportunities	7
Projects withdrawn	2

*LONP stands for Letter of No Prejudice

Total REF Revenue and Allocations (2006-2020)



REF Allocations vs. Expenditure (FY 2006 – FY 2015)

Grantee	Allocations	Expenditures
CSX	\$57.6	\$34.6
NS	\$182.2	\$135.7
VRE	\$24.1	\$5.3
VPA	\$16.3	\$3.7
Other	\$26.1	\$18.9
Total	\$306.3	\$198.2