



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the

SECRETARY of TRANSPORTATION

2021 Transportation Initiative

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Deputy Secretary of Transportation

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Appropriations Act Provisions

- **Conference Report for the Budget includes several new provisions related to transportation**
- **New item directs spending of \$323.4M in one-time funds**
- **Policy statement of General Assembly that ‘normal’ transportation dollars should be allocated by the Board pursuant to establish program**

Intent of the General Assembly

Subsection Q of Item 430 (Secretary of Transportation)

“It is the intent of the General Assembly that state funds in the Commonwealth Transportation Fund and federal funds provided on a recurring, non-one-time basis, for surface transportation *be distributed and allocated at the discretion of the entities responsible for such funds* based on the policy direction and requirements set forth in the Code of Virginia.”

2021 Transportation Initiative

- **Directs allocation of \$323.4M in one-time federal funds, one-time general funds and previous year funding in economic development transportation funds**
- **Amount based on the following:**
 - **\$233.4M in COVID Relief/Appropriations Funds**
 - **\$55.0M in General Funds**
 - **\$20M in previous year funds from the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund**
 - **\$15M in previous year funds from the Access Programs**

2021 Transportation Initiative

- **Allocations directed to:**
 - **Western Rail Initiative**
 - **VRE Manassas Line**
 - **Interstate 64 Corridor**
 - **WMATA Funding**
 - **Regional Trails**
 - **Transit Equity Funding**
 - **Connected Infrastructure Demonstration Program**

Western Rail Initiative

- **Up to \$83.5M to extend passenger rail service from Roanoke to New River Valley and increase the frequency of service along the I-81/US 29 Corridor**
- **Provide an assessment to General Assembly by November 1, 2021 of total costs and incremental costs for—**
 - **Providing rail service to Bedford, VA**
 - **Extension of rail service to Bristol, VA**

VRE Manassas Line

- **Up to \$83.5M to improve commuter rail service on the Virginia Railway Express Manassas Line**
- **DPRT will engage Norfolk-Southern about potential actions to help improve service**
- **Potential outcomes include—**
 - **Additional peak period trains**
 - **Bi-directional service**
 - **Weekend service**

Interstate 64 Corridor

- **Up to \$93.1M for improvements to the Interstate 64 Corridor**
- **First, to cover any funding shortfall for the Hampton Roads Express Lanes Network (HRELN)**
- **Any remaining funds to improve Interstate 64 between Bottoms Bridge (Exit 205) and Lightfoot (Exit 234)**

Interstate 64 Corridor

- **Prior to the distribution of any funds to the HRELN, HRTAC must complete traffic and revenue modeling related to weekend travel, and update the financial plan to determine size of any funding shortfall**
 - **Work to be done in coordination with the Board**
- **If funds remain for remaining 64 Corridor Improvements, the Board is required to coordinate with the Central Virginia Transportation Authority on opportunities to partner to complete such work**

WMATA Funding

- **Up to \$32.4M is available for WMATA funding**
- **Funds to be used first to ensure Virginia meets its commitments to the \$500M in dedicated regional funding in Fiscal Year 2022**
 - **Virginia's share is \$154.5M and anticipated shortfall is \$22.4M**
- **Any remaining funds will be transferred to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission to reduce the local contribution necessary to support WAMTA helping to address reduced regional gas tax revenues**

Regional Trails

- **Up to \$10M for planning, development and construction of regional trails**
 - **Priority to be given to new regional trails, improved connectivity of existing trail networks, and geographic diversity in the use of funds**
- **Requires the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment to establish a work group on regional trails and report to General Assembly by October 2021**
 - **Focus on prioritization for identifying new trails, master planning process and a funding needs assessment**

Transit Equity Funding

- **Up to \$10.9M to establish pilot programs for fare-free transit with urban and rural transit providers**
- **Up to \$0.9M of this amount may be used a transit equity and modernization study as required by HJ542 (McQuinn)**
 - **DRPT to lead study and complete a needs assessment focusing on equitable delivery and modernization of transit services**
 - **Key areas to be considered – transit accessibility, adequacy of infrastructure, electrification, emerging technologies, safety and system engagement**
 - **Interim report due December 2021 and final report due August 2022**

Connected Infrastructure Demonstration Program

- **Up to \$10M for a connected vehicle and infrastructure demonstration project in the City of Falls Church in partnership with Virginia Tech**
 - **Conduct research on connected and autonomous vehicles**
- **Board shall not distribute any funds until the implementing entity enters into an agreement with VDOT to facilitate information sharing and knowledge exchange**

General Funds and Future COVID Packages

- Budget language includes provision governing availability of \$55M in General Fund dollars
- Funds must be returned to the General Fund in the event the following takes place by June 30, 2021
 - Additional one-time, supplemental federal funds of at least \$55M are provided to Virginia by FHWA, and
 - Eligibility of the additional funds is similar to that of the December COVID Relief package transportation funds

Next Steps

- **Review actions, if any, from the reconvened session on April 7th**
- **Coordinate with entities as required by Budget language**
- **Provide additional detail on each item at April Board meeting**