



DRPT Transit Program Policy Changes

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Background

Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund Changes

HB1496 (Delegate Austin)/ SB1079 (Senator Cosgrove)

Makes changes to § 33.2-1526.1 by creating a separate category of funds for the Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

Provides additional Commonwealth Transportation Board oversight requirements for VRE and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

One of the Governor's transportation priorities for 2023 Session



Transit Ridership Incentive Program

- **SB1326 (McClellan)/HB 2338 (McQuinn)**
 - Allows the CTB to allocate up to 30 percent of Transit Ridership Incentive Program funds for improving the accessibility of transit bus passenger facilities and improving crime prevention and public safety for transit passengers, operators, and employees.
- By-product of the HJ542 Modernization Study
- Virginia Transit Association-led legislation
- Amended by the Governor to include focus on crime prevention and public safety



Implementation Steps

- Each legislative change requires either a modification of an existing CTB policy or establishment of CTB policy to govern implementation
 - VRE – New CTB Policy
 - WMATA – Update of existing CTB Policy
 - TRIP – Update of existing CTB Policy
- Schedule
 - July CTB Workshop – Brief CTB on proposed policies
 - July 20 – Release policies for public comment in accordance with agency policy
 - September CTB – Finalize policies and seek CTB approval

Virginia Railway Express

Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund Legislative Changes and Requirements

Legislative Change: HB 1496/SB 1079 (2023)

- Created a commuter rail specific allocation from the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund

Legislative Requirement: §33.2-1526.1

“Three and one-half percent of funds may be allocated to NVTC for distribution to the commuter rail system jointly operated by NVTC and PRTC, established pursuant to Chapter 19 (§ 33.2-1900 et seq.), for operating and capital purposes. The amount of funds distributed pursuant to this subdivision and the selection of systems receiving funds pursuant to this subdivision shall be based on service delivery factors including effectiveness and efficiency as established by the Board. Such measures and their relative weight shall be evaluated every three years and shall be finalized six months prior to the fiscal year of implementation. Any funds remaining after such distribution shall be redistributed to subdivision 2.”



Summary of VRE Policy

- 1) The CTB shall withhold 20% of funds each year unless VRE submits a detailed annual operating budget and proposed capital expenditures by February 1st**
 - The CTB will release any and withhold funding upon approval or implementation of an approved mitigation action.
- 2) Each year VRE will provide performance metrics that measure ridership, cost efficiency, and system reliability/safety**
 - Specific metrics include annual change in ridership, annual change in passengers per mile, cost per passenger, on-time performance, mean distance between major mechanical failures, and fatalities/injuries.
- 3) The CTB will consider revisions and/or updates to this policy at least every 2 years**

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

WMATA Legislative Changes and Requirements

Legislative Change: HB 1496/SB 1079 (2023)

- Requires local jurisdictions to provide at least 50% of WMATA subsidies, excess is returned to transit statewide capital
- Requires WMATA to submit proposed operating budget by April 1 and address CTB each year or be subject to withholding 20 percent of NVTC WMATA allocation
- Adds strategic plan requirements to look at routes, operating efficiency, overlapping service, and unserved areas
- Requires WMATA General Manager and Virginia Board Members to address the Board annually

Legislative Requirement: §33.2-1526.1

Summary of WMATA Policy Changes

- 1) The CTB shall adjust the annual allocation to ensure that the CMTF's share does not exceed 50% of the total Virginia subsidy (operating and capital)**
- 2) The CTB shall withhold 20% of funds each year unless WMATA submits a detailed annual operating budget, proposed capital expenditures, and financial statements of defined-benefit pension plans by April 1st**
 - The CTB will release any and withhold funding upon approval or implementation of an approved mitigation action
- 3) The CTB shall withhold 20% of funds each year unless WMATA's General Manager and Virginia Board Members address the CTB regarding the WMATA budget, system performance, and utilization of the Commonwealth's investment**
 - The CTB will release any and withhold funding upon approval or implementation of an approved mitigation action.
- 4) Modifies existing language to specify that the CTB shall withhold 20% of funds each unless WMATA submits a transit strategic plan**
 - Assessment of State of Good Repair needs, performance of fixed route bus routes, opportunities to improve efficiency and share services

Transit Ridership Incentive Program

TRIP Legislative Changes and Requirements

Legislative Change: HB 2338/SB 1326 (2023)

- Expanded project categories in the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP):
 - Passenger Amenities and Facilities **NEW**
 - Crime Prevention and Public Safety **NEW**
 - Regional Connectivity
 - Zero/Reduced Fare Programs

Legislative Requirement: §33.2-1526.3 (2020)

- “The Board shall establish guidelines for the implementation of the Program and review such guidelines, at a minimum, every five years.”



Summary of Updates to TRIP Policy

1) Expanded Project Eligibility

- Added two new project categories per HB 2338/SB 1326
- Further defined the types of eligible projects by category

2) Expanded Eligible Applicants for “Regional Connectivity” Project Category based on new Census data/definitions

- Now includes transit providers and regional bodies in the following metro areas: Harrisonburg, Bristol-Kingsport, Staunton, and Winchester

3) Revised Scoring Rubric to Align with Other DRPT Funding Programs

- New “Service Related Score,” which assigns points based on the project’s impact on ridership, accessibility, and the customer experience
- New “Non-Service Related Score,” which assigns points based on project readiness and project scope

Questions?