



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III
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Agenda item # 12

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

October 15, 2025

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Coleman, **Seconded By:** Ms. Dunlop

Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

**Title: Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund Allocation to the City of
Williamsburg Economic Development Authority for the Colonial Williamsburg
Transportation and Arrivals Center Project**

WHEREAS, Chapter 847 of the 2005 Acts of Assembly created the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF) to provide funds to address the transportation aspects of economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 684 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly and Chapter 1230 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly revised the TPOF, adding components of the Commonwealth Transportation Fund as a funding source and codifying the TPOF as § 33.2-1529.1 of the *Code of Virginia*; and

WHEREAS, Chapters 546 and 547 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly (Acts) amended § 33.2-1529.1, establishing a new statutory process:

1. Authorizing the Governor to direct funds from the TPOF to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for transportation projects determined to be necessary to support major economic development initiatives or to enhance the economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs when recommended by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade; and

2. Expanding the uses of the TPOF to allow for property acquisition and new or improved infrastructure to support economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs; and
3. Requiring that if funds directed by the Governor are (i) in excess of \$5 million dollars, the Secretary of Transportation is to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations within 30 days, and (ii) in excess of \$35 million dollars on any one project, the direction shall be submitted for review to the Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission for approval; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2023, the CTB approved revised TPOF Guidelines and Criteria, incorporating the changes to §33.2-1529.1, as amended by the Acts; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 725 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly further restricts the direction of funds pursuant to § 33.2-1529.1 (C)(2), requiring that amounts in excess of \$20 million dollars for any one project, and any cumulative direction of funds in excess of \$50 million dollars during a biennium, shall be subject to approval by the Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade have recommended that the Governor direct \$5.0 million from the TPOF to the CTB for allocation to the Economic Development Authority of the City of Williamsburg (EDA) for the Colonial Williamsburg Transportation and Arrivals Center (Arrivals Center) Project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Williamsburg does not have a formal downtown arrival area for buses, tourists, and other visitors. The City has long recognized the challenges posed by dispersed parking and inadequate accommodation for buses serving visitors to the Historic Area. The lack of designated bus parking has led to congestion and safety concerns, as buses frequently idle or discharge passengers along city streets in areas not designated for that purpose. This situation leads to buses dropping riders off throughout the City on busy streets and other locations, causing tourists and visitors to have a difficult time navigating through the City and orienting themselves to the many amenities and points of interest; and

WHEREAS, the development of a centralized and well-organized arrivals center for Colonial Williamsburg will directly address these issues by creating a safer, more efficient experience for both motorcoach operators and visitors. The Colonial Williamsburg Transportation and Arrivals Center Project in the City of Williamsburg is a partnership among the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) and the City of Williamsburg, working through the EDA of Williamsburg. The project will provide designated parking for cars and buses, accommodate rideshare services, and streamline visitor flow, providing an enhanced experience for visitors at Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area. This facility will also become part of the area's transit network. The Williamsburg Area Transit Authority intends to provide a WATA bus stop at this location to facilitate tourists' travel in the Historic Area and throughout the greater Williamsburg area; and

WHEREAS, Colonial Williamsburg had approximately 3.5 million visitors annually over the past couple of years and visitation is anticipated to increase to over 5 million in 2026. The levels of tourism expected with the 250th celebrations will generate both fiscal and economic growth. The Arrivals Center will help support the large volume of visitors by improving transportation logistics and providing enhanced safety and an improved visitor experience during the celebrations and in the future; and

WHEREAS, this Project is vital to improve the visitor experience, making the Williamsburg Historic Areas more welcoming and attractive, and allowing a more efficient use of Colonial Williamsburg's real estate assets. Furthermore, the Arrivals Center would reinvigorate a blighted section of Colonial Williamsburg and significantly relieve traffic and parking issues in the downtown Williamsburg area; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has directed \$5.0 million from the TPOF to the CTB for allocation to the EDA of the City of Williamsburg to support this Project; and

WHEREAS, the total estimated cost of the Project is \$12,688,780 and the EDA will use the TPOF funds to fund a portion of the Project and has secured the remaining funding for the Project; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, that the \$5.0 million in TPOF funding directed by the Governor is hereby allocated to the EDA of the City of Williamsburg for the Colonial Williamsburg Transportation and Arrivals Center Project.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, that VDOT shall enter into an agreement with the EDA of the City of Williamsburg, outlining the reimbursement process by which the EDA will obtain the TPOF funds allocated herein and the EDA's commitment to construct the Project.

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CTB Decision Brief

Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund Allocation to the Economic Development Authority of the City of Williamsburg for the Colonial Williamsburg Transportation and Arrivals Center Project

Issue: The Governor has directed \$5.0 million from the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF) to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) pursuant to § 33.2-1529.1 of the *Code of Virginia* for allocation to the Economic Development Authority of the City of Williamsburg (EDA) for the Colonial Williamsburg Transportation and Arrivals Center Project. The direction of funds has been recommended by the Secretaries of Transportation and Commerce Trade and CTB allocation of said funds to the EDA for the Project is sought.

Facts: Chapter 847 of the 2005 Acts of Assembly created the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF) as a source of financing to support major economic development initiatives or to enhance the economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs. Chapter 684 of the 2015 Acts of Assembly and Chapter 1230 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly revised the TPOF, adding components of the Commonwealth Transportation Fund as a funding source and codifying the TPOF as § 33.2-1529.1 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Chapters 546 and 547 of the 2023 Acts of Assembly (Acts) amended § 33.2-1529.1, establishing a new statutory process:

1. Authorizing the Governor to direct funds from the TPOF to the CTB for transportation projects determined to be necessary to support major economic development initiatives or to enhance the economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs if recommended by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade;
2. Requiring that if funds directed by the Governor are (i) in excess of \$5 million dollars, the Secretary of Transportation is required to submit a report to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations within 30 days, and (ii) in excess of \$35 million dollars on any one project, the direction shall be submitted for review to the Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission for approval; and
3. Expanding the uses of the TPOF to allow for property acquisition and new or improved infrastructure to support economic development opportunities of the Commonwealth's transportation programs.

On June 21, 2023, the CTB approved revised TPOF Guidelines and Criteria, which had been revised to render them consistent with §33.2-1529.1, as amended by the Acts.

Chapter 725 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly further restricts the authority to direct funds pursuant to § 33.2-1529.1 (C)(2) of the *Code of Virginia*, requiring that amounts in excess of \$20 million for any one project, and any cumulative direction of funds in excess of \$50 million during a biennium, shall be subject to approval by the Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission.

- Pursuant to § 33.2-1529.1 (C.2), the Governor has directed \$5.0 million from the TPOF to the CTB for allocation to the EDA of the City of Williamsburg to provide funding for the Colonial Williamsburg Transportation and Arrivals Center (Arrivals Center) Project. This Project is vital to improve the visitor experience, making the Historic Areas more welcoming and attractive, and allowing a more efficient use of Colonial Williamsburg's real estate assets. Furthermore, the Arrivals Center would reinvigorate a blighted section of Colonial Williamsburg and significantly relieve traffic and parking issues in the downtown Williamsburg area.
- The City of Williamsburg does not have a formal downtown arrival area for buses, tourists, and other visitors. The City has long recognized the challenges posed by dispersed parking and inadequate accommodation for buses serving visitors to the Historic Area. In particular, the lack of designated bus parking has led to congestion and safety concerns, as buses frequently idle or discharge passengers along city streets in areas not designated for that purpose. This situation leads to buses currently dropping riders off throughout the City on busy streets and other locations, and tourists and visitors have a difficult time navigating through the City and orienting themselves to the many amenities and points of interest.
- The development of a centralized and well-organized arrivals center for Colonial Williamsburg will directly address these issues by creating a safer, more efficient experience for both motorcoach operators and visitors. The Colonial Williamsburg Transportation and Arrivals Center Project in the City of Williamsburg is a partnership among the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF), the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) and the City of Williamsburg, working through the EDA of Williamsburg. The project will provide designated parking for cars and buses, accommodate rideshare services, and streamline visitor flow, providing an enhanced experience for visitors at Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area.
- The Arrivals Center will also become part of the area's transit network. The Williamsburg Area Transit Authority intends to provide a WATA bus stop at this location to facilitate tourists' travel in the Historic Area and throughout the greater Williamsburg area. This project is an example of the strong partnership that exists among CWF, WATA, and the City of Williamsburg as they strive to provide visitors an exceptional experience.
- Colonial Williamsburg had approximately 3.5 million visitors annually over the past couple of years and visitation is anticipated to increase to over 5 million in 2026. The levels of tourism expected with the 250th celebrations will generate both fiscal and economic growth. A new Arrivals Center, aligning with planned investments and activities in the Historic Area leading up to the 250th anniversary of American independence, will enhance the City's readiness to welcome increased visitation for the celebration and in the future.

- The Arrivals Center is vital to improve the visitor experience, making the Historic Areas more welcoming and attractive, and allow a more efficient use of Colonial Williamsburg's real estate assets. Furthermore, the Arrivals Center would reinvigorate a blighted section of Colonial Williamsburg and significantly relieve traffic and parking issues in the downtown Williamsburg area. This project will replace outdated facilities with modern infrastructure that improves mobility, reduces congestion, and enhances the visitor experience.

The total estimated project budget is \$12,688,780.

Source	Amount
City of Williamsburg	\$4,000,000
VA250 Grant (2024 Budget)	1,000,000
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation	2,688,780
Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (Sought)	5,000,000
Total	\$12,688,780

Recommendations: That the CTB (i) allocate the \$5.0 million in Governor-directed TPOF funding to the EDA of the City of Williamsburg for the Colonial Williamsburg Transportation and Arrivals Center Project, and (ii) direct VDOT to enter into an agreement with the EDA that outlines the reimbursement process by which the EDA will obtain these TPOF funds and the EDA's commitment to construct the Project.

Action Required by CTB: The CTB will be presented with a resolution for a formal vote to allocate the funds.

Result, if Approved: The TPOF funds will be used as directed by the Governor and recommended by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.

Public Comments/Reactions: None