
TRANSIT FUNDING OVERVIEW

GWRC/FAMPO

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Department of Rail and Public Transportation



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

DRPT Role in Transit/TDM Funding

- State and Federal grant funds administered by DRPT provide financial assistance to support Public Transportation and TDM services throughout the state and support DRPT's core mission
 - *“To facilitate and improve the mobility of the citizens of Virginia and to promote the efficient transport of goods and people in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner.”*
- DRPT's transit funding prioritization program is referred to as MERIT (Making Efficient and Responsible Investments in Transit)
- Annual Grant Application and Award Schedule
 - December 1 – Application cycle opens
 - February 1 – Applications due (must be submitted online)
 - April – Draft SYIP published for comment
 - June – CTB approves Final SYIP
 - July 1 – Funding available for expenditure

State and Federal Grant Programs

- State Grant Programs (**GWRC eligibility**)
 - Transit Operating Assistance
 - Transit Capital Assistance
 - **Demonstration Project Program**
 - **Technical Assistance Program**
 - **Public Transportation Intern Program**
 - **TDM Operating Assistance**
 - **Mobility Programs Assistance**
 - Senior Transportation Program
 - **SMART SCALE**
- Federal Grant Programs (DRPT administered)
 - **Metropolitan Planning – FTA Section 5303**
 - **Small Urban Areas Program – FTA Section 5307**
 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities – FTA Section 5310
 - Rural Areas – FTA Section 5311
- Federal Flexible Funding Grant Programs (FHWA to FTA)
 - **Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality – CMAQ**
 - **Regional Surface Transportation Program - RSTP**

State Transit Grant Programs

- **Demonstration Project Program**
 - Supports innovative investments in all functional areas of public transportation
 - Two project types:
 - New service (traditional transit services) – 12 month pilot projects
 - Technology and Innovation
 - State funding up to 80% of eligible expenses with 20% local match requirement
- **Technical Assistance Program**
 - Supports planning or technical assistance to help improve or initiate public transportation or TDM related services
 - Lafayette Boulevard Multimodal Transportation Study (FY 18)
 - State funding up to 50% of eligible expenses with 50% local match requirement
- **Public Transportation Intern Program**
 - Supports internships for careers in public transportation
 - State funding up to 80% of eligible expenses with 20% local match requirement

State TDM/Mobility Grant Programs

- **TDM Operating Assistance**

- Supports the operation of existing Transportation Demand Management / Commuter Assistance programs
- GWRC – GWRideConnect
 - \$310,662 in FY 20 state funding
- State funding up to 80% of eligible expenses with 20% local match requirement

- **Mobility Programs Assistance**

- Supports vanpool programs, Employer Outreach/Services programs, Telework!VA, other TDM programs and projects beyond the basic commuter assistance program operations
- GWRC – Vanpool Connections
 - \$86,154 in FY 20 state funding
- State funding up to 50% of eligible expenses with 50% local match requirement

Federal Grant Programs (administered by DRPT)

- **Metropolitan Planning – Section 5303**
 - Supports multimodal transportation related planning expenses by MPOs
 - Formula based funding program
 - DRPT apportions FTA Section 5303 funds in Virginia
 - Federal funding up to 80% of eligible expenses with 10% state funding contribution and 10% local match requirement
 - Annual award to GWRC for FAMPO
 - \$143,446 in FY 20 federal funding + \$17,031 in FY 20 state funding
 - Federal & state funding combined into one grant agreement from DRPT
 - Funding available on October 1 of each year
 - Draft or Final UPWP must be submitted to DRPT with funding applications
 - It is anticipated that MPOs will utilize 5303 funding to support the development of Urban Transit Agency Strategic Plans required by the Code of Virginia

Federal Grant Programs (administered by DRPT)

- **Urbanized Area Formula Program – Section 5307**
 - Supports operating and capital costs of transit operators in urbanized areas
 - Small urbanized area (50,000-200,000); large urbanized area (>200,000)
 - Formula based funding program with allocations based on annual FTA *Federal Register* apportionments and net operating expenses
 - FTA apportions funding based on transit performance data entered into the National Transit Database (NTD) and regional population
 - Funding can be used for up to 50% of net operating expenses and/or up to 80% of eligible capital expenses
 - State funding can be used for a portion of the remaining funding gap
 - Direct recipients of Section 5307 funding are public bodies with the legal authority to receive and dispense federal funds and are subject to all FTA policies and compliance requirements
 - Direct recipients are subject to direct Triennial Reviews and other compliance reviews by FTA

Federal Grant Programs (administered by DRPT)

- **Urbanized Area Formula Program – Section 5307 (*continued*)**
 - WMATA is the direct recipient of Section 5307 funding for the MWCOG region
 - PRTC and MTA are subrecipients to WMATA for the Section 5307 funding that is generated outside of the WMATA geographic area
 - A “Split Letter” is developed and agreed to each year that determines the annual funding amounts for WMATA, PRTC and MTA
 - PRTC then further allocates its Section 5307 funding to OmniRide, VRE, FRED and the Vanpool Alliance (including GWRC)
 - FRED is both a direct recipient from FTA **and** a subrecipient from PRTC (for funding generated by service in MWCOG region)
 - GWRC is a subrecipient from PRTC for funding generated by vanpools
 - » An MOU between PRTC and GWRC governs the administration of Section 5307 funding by PRTC for GWRC projects
 - PRTC applies for the funding from FTA and is the grantee on behalf of GWRC

Federal Flexible Funding Grant Programs (FHWA to FTA)

- **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)**
 - CMAQ is federal highway program that provides funds for transportation projects or programs that will contribute to meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act.
 - CMAQ funds may be used for any transit capital expenditures otherwise eligible for FTA funding as long as they have an air quality benefit.
- **Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)**
 - RSTP funding may be used for a wide range of projects to preserve and improve the conditions and performance of surface transportation, including highway, transit, intercity bus, bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- FAMPO determines how available CMAQ and RSTP funding will be used.
 - FAMPO submits annual project list to the CTB for approval as part of the SYIP.
 - If FAMPO allocates CMAQ or RSTP funding for a transit project, DRPT will work with VDOT and the funding recipient to “flex” the funding from FHWA to FTA.
 - DRPT will award a grant agreement, inclusive of federal and state controlled CMAQ funding, to the recipient transit agency

I-395/I-95 Commuter Choice Program

- Invests a portion of the toll revenues from the I-395/95 Express Lanes facility into new multimodal transportation enhancements that benefit toll road users by moving more people and expanding transportation options in the corridor.
- NVTC manages the program in partnership with PRTC and the Commonwealth
 - Transurban provides an Annual Transit Payment to the Commonwealth
 - NVTC solicits funding proposals through a bi-annual Call for Projects
 - Fall 2020 Call for Projects for FY 22-23 funding
 - NVTC, with input from PRTC and DRPT, select projects for funding
 - CTB approves projects for funding and inclusion in to the SYIP
- OmniRide bus routes from Staffordboro to Washington, DC and the Pentagon are I-395/I-95 Commuter Choice funded projects

Questions?

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