

Transit Champions Breakfast

Federal Update, General Assembly Update, and Tips on
Effective Legislative Advocacy



2024
Annual Conference
& Bus Expo

Thank you to our Silver Sponsors for making this breakfast session possible.



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FTA Update

2024 Virginia Transit Association Conference

May 22, 2024

The contents of this presentation do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This presentation is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- FTA Updates
- Region III Updates
- Project Highlights



FTA Agency-wide News



**FTA Acting Administrator
Veronica Vanterpool**



**FTA Region III
Regional Administrator
Terry Garcia-Crews**



FTA Turns 60!

- President Lyndon Johnson signed the Urban Mass Transportation Act into law on July 9, 1964.
- The new measure provided **\$125 million (or \$1.23 billion in 2024 dollars)** in capital assistance annually.
- It passed the House by a vote of 212-to-129 and cleared the Senate 52-41.
- Today, FTA administers a **\$20 billion** annual program with historic funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law!

Recently Released FTA Resources

- Bus Manufacturing + Procurement Trends - Dear Colleague Letter + Webinar Available
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/procurement/bus-procurement>
- Procurement Training, E-Learning Courses, and Clause Resource
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/program-oversight/webinars-and-training>
 - <https://www.nationalrtap.org/Technology-Tools/ProcurementPRO>
- US Department of Transportation / US Department of Energy Joint Office
 - <https://driveelectric.gov/>



Recently Released FTA Resources (cont.)

- New Series of Safety and Mental Health Workshops, Trainings, and Resources
 - Transit Customer Assault Prevention
 - De-escalation Training
 - Bus and Fatigue Resources for Transit Operation
 - Mental Health Resources for Transit Workers
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/safety/safety-training>
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/safety/mental-health-resources>
- Spare Ratio Policy – New Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/procurement/third-party-procurement>



Recent Notices and Final Rules

Register Notices

- Federal Transit Administration Invites Public Input on Proposed Policy Changes for Major Capital Grant Program – June 4, 2024
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/grant-programs/capital-investments/proposed-capital-investment-grants-policy>
- Rail Transit Roadway Worker Protection Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – May 24, 2024
 - <https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/FTA-2023-0024-0001>

Final Rules

- DBE Final Rule - Published April 9, 2024
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-programs/civil-rights-ada/guidance-fta-tier-ii-recipients-implementing-dbe-program>
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans and National Public Transportation Safety Plan Final Updates
 - <https://www.transit.dot.gov/PTASP>



USDOT and FTA Federal Funding Opportunities

USDOT

- <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dashboard>

FTA

- <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/notices>

Current Opportunities

- FTA - Passenger Ferry Grant Program – \$51M - June 17
- FTA - Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program – \$49M - June 17
- FTA - Ferry Service for Rural Communities – \$216M - June 17
- FHWA – Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program – \$44.5M - June 17

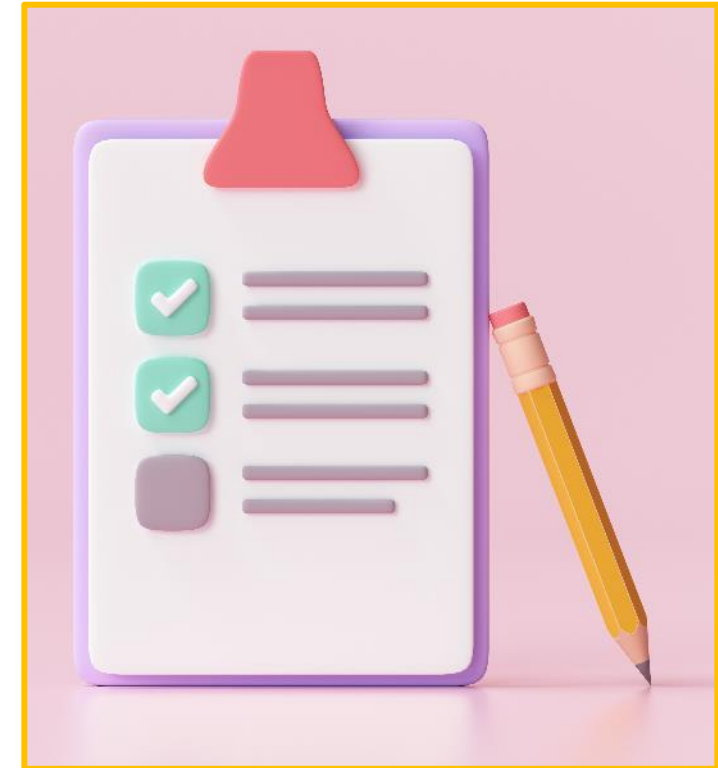
Under Review

- Low-No Program and Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Programs (\$1.1B and \$390M)



Pre-Award: Getting Ready for Grant Season

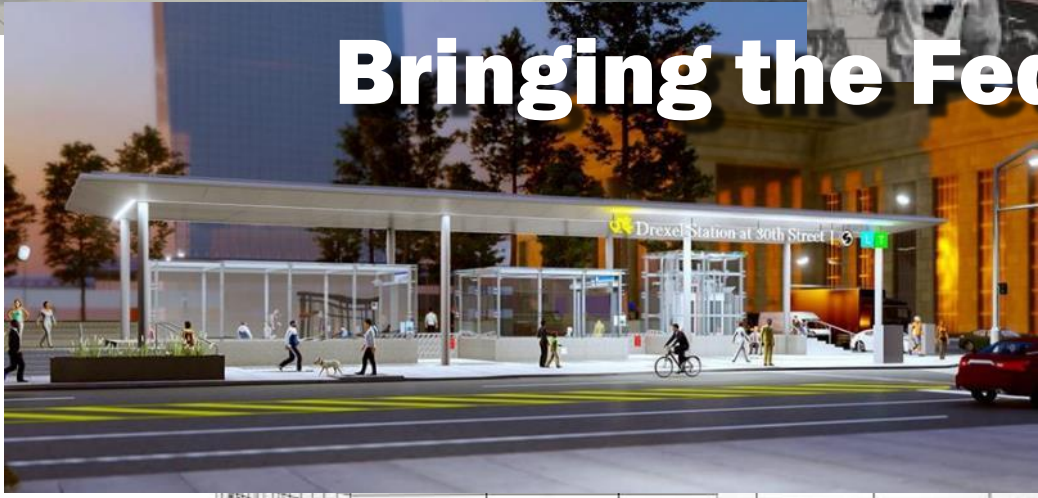
- System for Award Management (SAM) registration is required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to be updated annually
- Civil Rights Programs
 - Submittals must be in “approved” or “in review” status
 - Email: FTACivilRightsSupport@dot.gov
- Review/update your TrAMS Users and User Roles
 - Certifications and Assurances
- Split allocation letters
 - Email: fta-tro3-reservationist@dot.gov
- Projects are in the TIP/STIP/UPWP
- NEPA, Section 106 – work with your FTA grant rep and planner on construction or ground disturbance projects



Post Award: FY 24 Program Oversight Update

- FY2024 Triennial and State Management Reviews
 - FY24 Reviews will be hybrid on-site/virtual
 - Recipients will now have access to FTA's Oversight Tracking System (OTrak) to view/download final reports and manage corrective actions
 - Top FY23 findings were Procurement (50%)
- FTA Award Management Circular 5010.1F Update
 - FRN: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-02-14/pdf/2024-03044.pdf>

Bringing the Federal Investment to Life!



DASH Low-No

Project Sponsor: DASH

Project Phase: Purchase of BEBs and charging equipment

Total Project Cost: \$28,783,000

Funding:

Federal Funding Type

FFY23 Low-No Discretionary Funding

Amount

\$28M



Loudoun County Low-No

Project Sponsor: Loudoun County

Project Phase: Purchase of CNG buses & refilling equipment

Total Project Cost: \$13,880,910.

Funding:

<u>Federal Funding Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>FFY23 Low-No Discretionary Funding</i>	<i>\$13.8M</i>



Loudoun County

VIRGINIA

WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

Cinder Bed Road Low-No

Project Sponsor: WMATA/Fairfax County DOT

Project Phase: Purchase of BEBs and conversion of facility for BEBs for WMATA/FCDOT

Total Project Cost: \$268,427,045

Funding:

<u>Federal Funding Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>FFY23 Low-No Discretionary Funding</i>	<i>\$104M</i>



Fredericksburg Station Rehabilitation

Project Sponsor: Virginia Railway Express

Project Phase: Completed

Total Project Cost: \$12,980,622

Funding:

<u>Federal Funding Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>FFY17, FFY18, FFY19 Section 5537</i>	<i>\$7.7M</i>



Blacksburg Transit: Administration and Maintenance Facility Renovation and Multi-Modal Transit Facility

Project Sponsor: Blacksburg Transit

Project Phase: Construction

Total Project Cost: \$7,296,418 (Admin and Maint, Facility)
\$6,000,000 (Multi-Modal Transit Facility)

Funding:

Federal Funding Type

FY 20, 21 & 22 – Section 5339

FY 20 & 21 – Section 5307

FY17 STP Flex Funds

Amount

\$10.5 M



DRPT – State TRIP Grants – Zero Fare Systems

- Alexandria DASH
- Blacksburg Transit
- Charlottesville Area Transit
- District III Mountain Lynx Transit
- City of Fairfax CUE
- Fredericksburg FXBGo!
- Richmond GRTC
- MEOC (Mountain Empire)
- Petersburg Area Transit
- PRTC OmniRide (local service only)



Thank you!

**David Schilling, Director
DC Metro Office
FTA Region III
David.Schilling@dot.gov**



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

FTA Mission, Vision, Values



Mission

Improve America's Communities through Public Transportation



Vision

A Better Quality of Life for All Built on Public Transportation Excellence

Values

Service

Provide reliable, transparent, responsive, and anticipatory services to meet stakeholder needs

Integrity

Commitment to the highest professional and ethical standards

Innovation

Foster new ideas, concepts, and solutions for improved outcomes

Sustainability

Optimize decisions, resources, and systems to make long-term positive impacts on the environment, infrastructure, and safety

Equity

Remove barriers for systemically underserved communities to access all aspects of economic, social, and civic life

Virginia General Assembly Update

Danny Plaughter | Virginia Transit Association



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FY 2025 + FY 2026 Virginia Budget

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025 (Comp)	FY 2026 (Comp)
Financial Assistance for Rail Programs (61000): Item 434	\$127,488,369	\$127,488,369	\$137,107,434	\$197,112,195	\$429,232,018	\$361,843,997	\$406,080,710	\$456,516,133
Rail Industrial Access (61001)	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Rail Preservation Programs (61002)	\$14,583,520	\$14,583,520	\$14,523,370	\$14,523,370	\$14,523,370	\$14,523,370	\$14,523,370	\$14,523,370
Passenger and Freight Rail Financial Assistance Programs (61003)	\$109,904,849	\$109,904,849	\$119,584,064	\$179,588,825	\$70,441,575	\$70,244,843	\$70,244,843	\$70,244,843
Passenger Rail Development and Operation Program (61004)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$341,267,073	\$274,075,784	\$318,312,497	\$368,747,920
Financial Assistance for Public Transportation (60900): Item 433	\$600,178,455	\$600,206,455	\$699,845,958	\$713,045,958	\$745,028,796	\$751,660,063	\$909,191,629	\$945,149,660
Public Transportation Programs (60901)	\$420,042,153	\$420,042,153	\$520,042,153	\$535,042,153	\$572,892,153	\$588,142,153	\$731,187,824	\$767,145,855
Congestion Management Programs (60902)	\$13,344,000	\$13,344,000	\$8,741,503	\$8,741,503	\$8,741,503	\$8,741,503	\$8,741,503	\$8,741,503
Human Service Transportation Programs (60903)	\$9,862,302	\$9,862,302	\$9,862,302	\$9,862,302	\$9,862,302	\$9,862,302	\$9,862,302	\$9,862,302
Distribution of WMATA Capital Fund Revenues (60905)	\$156,930,000	\$156,958,000	\$161,200,000	\$159,400,000	\$159,400,000	\$159,400,000	\$159,400,000	\$159,400,000
Total	\$727,666,824	\$727,694,824	\$836,953,392	\$910,158,153	\$1,174,260,814	\$1,113,504,060	\$1,315,272,339	\$1,401,665,793
	\$1,455,361,648		\$1,747,111,545		\$2,287,764,874		\$2,716,938,132	



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FY 2025 + FY 2026 Virginia Budget Highlights

- **\$149.5M** (\$64M/\$84.5M) in General Fund revenue directed to WMATA for operating assistance (Item 433.F.1)
- Budget directs WMATA to complete a comparison of “*total costs and overhead costs, defined as general administration and non-vehicle maintenance costs*” against similar agencies (Item 443.F.2)
- Budget allows PRTC/OmniRide to contract with localities in adjacent planning districts for commuter service from those regions into DC along the I-66 and US-29 corridors (Item 433.G)
- Fixes a potential issue with shortline railroad funding coming from the mass transit fund (Item 448.B)
- Directs up-to \$15 million annually off the top of the Commonwealth Transportation Fund to the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF). Will reduce transit funding by **\$1.7M** annually (Item 438.K.1).
- Public Transit funding increased from **\$1.2 billion** in FY 2019/FY 2020 biennial budget to **\$1.7 billion (+42%)** in FY 2025/FY2026 biennial budget.



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Other Transit Related Legislation Highlights

- **HJ 28:** Joint subcommittee to study long-term, sustainable, dedicated funding and cost-containment controls for WMATA and other transit systems in NoVA. Subcommittee shall complete meetings by 11/30 of each year and report to the Governor and General Assembly.
- **HB 285:** Streamlined the bus stop improvement process for projects along VDOT right-of-way. Moves approval authority from DGS to local building officials.

Defeated Items

- **HB 447:** Would have redirected the motor vehicle rental tax to the aviation fund. It would have reduced transit funding by **\$28.4M** over the SYIP.
- **HB 854:** Creates a temporary gas tax holiday and re-indexes the gas tax rate to inflation in later years. It would have reduced transit funding by **\$60.9M** over the SYIP.



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Tips on Effective Legislative Advocacy

Discussion



Noelle Pinkard
Hampton Roads Transit



Joe Dillard
GRTC



Greg Potts
WMATA



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