

Legislative Priorities Archive 2020

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles for Hampton Roads Transit Public Policy Initiatives

- Deploying services that commuters can depend on;
- Achieving and maintaining a State-of-Good Repair;
- Improving project and service delivery methods to efficiently connect communities across the region with transit infrastructure and services;
- Ensuring flexibility and diversity of funding sources and financing options, including new dedicated regional transit funding, with the ability to leverage resources to make each available dollar go farther;
- Balanced and equitable investments across modes and areas of the Commonwealth;
- Fostering innovation and data-driven decision making, incorporating new technologies, and using robust methods to evaluate and prioritize investments;
- Integration of transportation and land-use policies, plans and projects that foster private investments and expand access to safe and reliable transit for more segments of the Hampton Roads region;
- Connecting more workers to jobs, customers to businesses, and access to educational, retail, medical, recreational, and other opportunities that support quality of life and thriving local and regional economies;

Benefits of Public Transportation

- Nationwide, 71% of riders are employed and 7% are students;
- Home values in areas located near high-frequency public transit perform 43% better than other areas;
- 45% of Americans have no access to public transit;
- HRT services support over 20,300 jobs and \$548 million in employment income across the region;

- Transit supports consumer spending of \$93 million every year in Hampton Roads;
- HRT services provided more than \$8.8 million in safety and environmental benefits to Hampton Roads;
- HRT services saves commuters \$13.5 million in vehicle operating costs;
- Transit Supports Industry and Growth with a Total Regional Output = \$1.5 Billion Annually (Direct, Indirect, and Induced)

State Policy Positions

Regional Dedicated Funding Model

The TDCHR supports the collaborative development of a new regional funding model to support priority regional public transit projects.

Employer Tax Credits For Public Transportation

The TDCHR supports the creation of a state tax credit for employers who subsidize the cost of public transit commuting for their employees.

Statewide Transit Capital Funding

The TDCHR supports state funding, to replace state bond funding that has exhausted during the past biennium, for transit state-of-good repair (SOGR) and transit expansion projects.

Federal Policy Positions

Innovation Grants For Multimodal Transportation

The TDCHR supports new financing programs for innovative pilot initiatives to meet needs of the commuting public.

Federal State-of-Good Repair (Bus)

The TDCHR supports increased federal funding for bus and bus facilities.

☑ Federal Environment Preservation Via Public Transit Use

The TDCHR urges federal financial support for better transit travel options designed to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles on roadways thereby reducing congestion, air pollution, and stormwater runoff, while combatting climate change.

☑ Federal Funding And Surface Transportation Reauthorization

The TDCHR supports passage of new surface transportation authorization legislation called America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA) to ensure the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) | Mass Transit Fund.