



Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads State Legislative and Public Policy Priorities 2023

Hampton Roads Transit connects workers, residents, and businesses throughout six independent cities and serves as Virginia's premier multimodal transit system. Connecting riders in a coastal region demands solutions that are reliable, safe, sufficient, and sustainable. Accessible, affordable transportation is critical to helping people reach jobs, education, and health care. The dedicated resources that have been provided to ensure mobility for residents and support a robust commercial network that links Virginia's goods and services to national and global markets continues to be appreciated. We continue to be encouraged by the Commonwealth's support of our mission and vision.

- **Protect Existing Transit Programs and Funding.** The TDCHR encourages the Commonwealth to appropriate essential, consistent funding to meet HRT's capital and operating needs, including innovative transit options such as micro-transit. The advancements made possible in the 2020 Transportation Omnibus bill remain historic and transformational. Dedicated regional funding for HRT continues to be essential.
- **Oppose Any Effort to Reduce Transit's share of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).** The Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund receives 23 percent of the TTF. These funds are vital to the continued operation and expansion of HRT's public multi-modal transportation networks.
- **Restore Lost Transportation Revenue Resulting from the Elimination of the State Sales and Use Tax on Groceries.** The 2022 General Assembly action resulted in a \$1.2 million loss in dedicated transportation revenue for HRT during the 2022-2024 biennial budget and \$4.9 million loss over the Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP). This loss was not offset with state general fund revenue or any alternative funding source. Restoration is needed going forward to meet the needs of increased inflationary costs of transit capital and operational costs. If not addressed, this funding loss will have a long-term negative impact on public transportation in Hampton Roads.
- **Support the Southside Bus Operating Division Facility.** In alignment with statewide zero-emission goals and HRT's efforts toward electrification of its fleet and facilities, the TDCHR encourages the General Assembly and Administration to support continued development of the transformational Southside Bus Operating Division Facility. This facility, located in Virginia Beach, is planned to initially accommodate 20 Battery Electric Buses by 2027, expanding to 40 by 2033. State matching funds are essential to leverage federal and local contributions. This project is included in HRT's Ten-year Capital Improvement Plan and the Transportation Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Plan.
- **Support the Implementation of the DRPT Transit Equity and Modernization Study.** The TDCHR supports programs and initiatives that reduce barriers to transit. In addition to transit's well-documented environmental and economic benefits, transit can be a powerful tool to advance equity and inclusion. The TDCHR supports the continued focus on equity and modernization in transit service across the Commonwealth as well as the recommendations of the DRPT study.

For more information, contact:

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