



Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads Legislative and Public Policy Priorities

2024

Federal Priorities

Public transportation is a driver of economic prosperity and well-being across Hampton Roads. Hampton Roads' ability to thrive depends significantly on a well-performing transportation system, including robust and reliable public transportation. Residents throughout the region deserve access to safe, reliable, and affordable transportation options. Transit connects communities and businesses across the region, and improves access to all the region offers, from jobs, healthcare, and retail destinations to recreation, education, and workforce training opportunities. Each service improvement across our multimodal system produces new connections, greater reliability, and more convenient trips.

The Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads (TDCHR) has outlined the following legislative and public policy priorities, with the goal to maximize opportunities to advance HRT's vision and mission.

FUNDING

- TDCHR supports the IIJA funding levels for public transportation formula and discretionary funds and will pursue all appropriate federal discretionary grant opportunities.
- The TDCHR also supports the continuation of congressionally directed spending programs through annual appropriations as an effective way for our Congressional delegation to directly support our regional multi-modal infrastructure and services.
- The TDCHR will advocate for full funding of the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program – an important source of funding for major fixed guideway capital projects – as HRT pursues expanded service to provide broader regional benefits, including extension of The Tide light rail system.

INNOVATION

- To improve regional air quality and pollution reduction goals through fleet and infrastructure utilizing non-diesel technologies, the TDCHR supports robust funding for the federal Low- or No- Emission Vehicle Program, Bus and Bus Facilities Program, RAISE grants, and other supportive federal programs.
- The TDCHR will advocate for policies and funding to support continued advancements in the use of transformational technologies, including upgrades to trip planning and fare systems, real-time travel information systems, microtransit, and other innovations.
- The TDCHR is committed to building a transportation system that works for all people, centering on addressing shortfalls in service within communities that have been underserved, overburdened, or disadvantaged by past transportation decisions.

PARTNERSHIPS

- The TDCHR will continue to build productive and collaborative relationships with the US Department of Transportation and our Congressional delegation and will actively engage with other transportation entities like the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials and Women in Transportation Seminar whose initiatives align with HRT's vision and mission.
- The TDCHR recognizes the benefits of collaboration between regional leaders throughout Hampton Roads to support public transportation programming and is committed to fostering a robust coalition to capitalize on new funding opportunities.

State Priorities

HRT connects workers, residents, and businesses across six of Virginia's ten largest cities and is Virginia's largest multimodal transit system outside of Washington Metro. Effectively serving residents and visitors who are making connections throughout our unique coastal region demands transit solutions that are reliable, safe, efficient, and sustainable. Accessible, affordable public transportation is critical to helping people reach jobs, education, health care, affordable housing, and recreational and retail opportunities. The resources dedicated to supporting HRT are critical and must be maintained and grow over time to meet demand. Adequate and sustainable funding is imperative.

Hampton Roads is an economic engine and global gateway for commerce, linking Virginia's goods and services to national and global markets, and public transportation is a critical underlying component for a vibrant and healthy region.

- **Protect and Enhance Transit Programs and Funding.** The TDCHR urges the Commonwealth to appropriate essential, consistent funding to meet HRT's capital and operating needs, including innovative transit options such as microtransit.
- **Oppose Any Effort to Reduce Transit's share of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) or divert funds within the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund** that would negatively impact HRT. Transit's share of the TTF is currently 23 percent. These funds are vital to the continued operations and improvement of HRT's multi-modal infrastructure and services.

For more information, contact:

E. Noelle Pinkard, Esq.

HRT Organizational Advancement Officer

(757) 222-6000 x6517 • epinkard@hrtransit.org



gohrt.com