

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

**Rail and Transit Funding**  
**March 18, 2009**

# Rail and Transit Funding Overview

- ❑ Federal Transit Funding:
  - \$8.4 billion nationwide for:
    - Transit capital
    - Fixed guideway infrastructure
    - Capital investment grants
  - Virginia total: approximately \$116 million
  
- ❑ Federal Rail Funding:
  - \$9.3 billion nationwide for:
    - High speed rail
    - Amtrak
  - Virginia total: competitive nationwide grants
  
- ❑ Supplemental Discretionary Funding:
  - \$1.5 billion nationwide for:
    - Projects of national or regional significance
    - Highways, transit, passenger/freight rail and ports
  - Virginia total: competitive nationwide grants

# Federal Transit Capital

## ❑ \$6.9 billion nationwide

- Federal timeline:
  - Within 21 days: funds apportioned
  - Within 180 days: half of funds must be obligated
  - Any remaining funds not obligated within one year withdrawn
  - Funding available through September 30, 2010
- Energy-related investments:
  - \$100M in discretionary grants to transit agencies for capital investments that assist in reducing energy consumption or greenhouse emissions of transit systems
  - Priority based on total energy savings per project, and projected energy savings as a percent of total transit system energy usage
- Federal share up to 100%

# Virginia's Federal Transit Capital Funds

- Large Urban Transit Capital: (Sections 5340 and 5307)
  - Washington, DC-VA-MD: \$214,637,589
    - » PRTC: \$3.86 million
    - » VRE: \$9.78 million
    - » WMATA Virginia portion: approx. \$50.58 million
  - Hampton Roads: \$25,355,487
    - » HRT: \$24.1 million
    - » Williamsburg Area Transit Authority: \$1.2 million
  - Richmond: \$13,837,772
    - » Greater Richmond Transit Company
- Rural/Small Urban Transit Capital: (Sections 5311, 5307 and 5340)
  - Virginia allocation: \$30.5 million
    - Rural: \$18,555,163
    - Small Urban: \$11,993,189
  - CTB allocates individual grants

# Fixed Guideway Transit

## ❑ \$750 million nationwide

- For fixed guideway transit, such as Metrorail and Light Rail
- Same features and timeline as transit capital funds

## ❑ Virginia's Fixed Guideway Transit Funds

- Washington, DC-VA-MD (Metrorail): \$17,749,826
  - Metrorail Virginia share: approximately \$4.88 million
- Hampton Roads (Light Rail): \$437,148
  - Hampton Roads Transit

# Transit Capital Investment Grants

- ❑ \$750 million nationwide
  - For FTA New Starts and Small Starts projects
  - Federal timeline
    - Funding available through September 30, 2010
  - Priority: projects that are currently in construction or able to obligate funds within 150 days of enactment
    - Dulles Metrorail
    - Norfolk Light Rail

# Federal Rail Funding

# Federal High Speed and Intercity Rail

## ❑ \$8 billion nationwide

- How does FRA define High Speed Rail? (March 2009)
  - High Speed Ground Transportation Act of 1965 and follow-on legislation defines it as a family of transportation options that address long-term passenger transport needs in heavily populated corridors.
  - Self-guided intercity passenger ground transportation that is time-competitive with air and/or autos on a door-to-door basis for trips in the approximate range of 100 to 500 miles.
  - This is a market-based, not a speed-based definition: it recognizes that the opportunities and requirements for high speed rail differ markedly among different pairs of cities.
  - Technologies range from upgrades to existing rail lines to entirely new rail lines exclusively devoted to 150-250 mph trains. Amtrak has 150 mph train service known as “Acela” in the Boston-Washington NE Corridor.
- Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (Oct. 2008)
  - The term high speed rail means intercity passenger rail service that is reasonably expected to reach speeds of at least 110 mph.

# Federal High Speed and Intercity Rail

- Federal timeline:
  - Within 60 days: Secretary submits strategic plan to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees (by April 18)
  - Within 120 days: Secretary issues interim guidance to applicants covering grant terms, conditions and procedures (by June 19)
  - Funding available through September 30, 2012
- Priority:
  - Projects that support development of intercity high speed rail service
- Language suggests that three funding categories will be available:
  - High speed rail
  - Intercity rail
  - Congestion related projects
- Federal share up to 100%

# Virginia's High Speed Rail and Intercity Funding

- ❑ FRA will issue guidance on high speed rail funding by June 19
- ❑ Projects will likely be considered based on their ability to significantly advance regional high speed rail initiatives
- ❑ DRPT has begun to identify projects through the Rail Resource Allocation Plan that could qualify for high speed rail funding.
- ❑ Projects are likely to include construction of improvements required to increase rail capacity, service reliability and operating speeds
- ❑ With our demonstrated commitment to investing in high speed rail improvements, Virginia is well positioned to compete for federal high speed rail funding
- ❑ CTB will be provided regular updates as more information becomes available

# Federal Amtrak Funding

- ❑ \$1.3 billion nationwide, administered by Amtrak
  - Federal timeline:
    - Within 30 days: funds awarded to Amtrak
    - Within two years: projects completed
    - Funding available through September 30, 2010
  - Priority:
    - For repair, rehabilitation or upgrade of assets or infrastructure
    - For capital projects that expand passenger rail capacity, including rehabilitation of rolling stock
    - Funds cannot be used to subsidize operating losses
  - \$450M for capital security grants
  - No more than 60% of funds for non-security activities can be used for capital projects in the Northeast Corridor
  - DRPT is developing recommendations for potential Virginia projects

# Supplemental Discretionary Funding

- Supplemental Discretionary Funding- \$1.5 billion nationwide
  - Federal timeline:
    - Within 90 days: criteria published
    - Within 180 days: applications submitted
    - Projects selected within 1 year of enactment
  - Priority:
    - For projects of national or regional significance
    - Must be completed within 3 years of enactment
    - Eligible projects include but not limited to highways, transit, passenger/freight rail and port infrastructure
    - Focus on projects that require additional federal share to complete funding package
  - Grants not less than \$20M and not greater than \$300M, not more than 20% to a single state

# Summary of Key Rail/Transit Dates

- ❑ **March 19:** Amtrak funds awarded
- ❑ **April 15-16:** DRPT presents recommended rural and small urban transit projects to CTB
- ❑ **April 18:** Strategic plan for high speed and intercity rail issued
- ❑ **May 18:** Criteria issued for Supplementary Discretionary Grants for a National Surface Transportation System
- ❑ **June 19:** Guidance issued on high speed and intercity rail grant terms
- ❑ **July 1:** Transit applications due to FTA
- ❑ **August 16:** Applications due for supplemental Discretionary Grants for a National Surface Transportation System
- ❑ **March 5, 2010:** FTA withdraws any remaining unobligated funds
- ❑ **Sept. 30, 2010:** Any unobligated funds revert to US Treasury



**[www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov)**

**[drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov)**

**804-786-4440**