



Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Virginia Intercity Bus Program

Status Update to the Commonwealth Transportation Board

March 14, 2017

Jennifer DeBruhl
Chief of Public
Transportation

Why Intercity Bus?

Creates a connection between rural areas and the larger regional or national system of intercity bus service

Bus schedules are developed to make practical connections to current intercity carriers making travel accessible, reliable, and convenient

Supplemental network will fill gaps in statewide transit system by bringing new routes to rural communities that are currently underserved



What is Intercity Service?

- Available to the general public
- Regularly scheduled fixed-route service
- Operates with limited stops between two or more urban areas not in close proximity
- Capable of carrying baggage
- Schedules coordinate with longer-route service, not commuter service
- Meaningful connections to national intercity bus network



Consultation Process/ Planning

Identify gaps
in service

Develop
potential
alternatives
to address
gaps and
unmet needs

Estimate
demand,
revenue, and
operating
costs

Identify and
prioritize
routes

Solicit to
provide
service on
selected
route(s)

Pilot:
Blacksburg
to D.C.

Planned routes along both I-81 and I-66

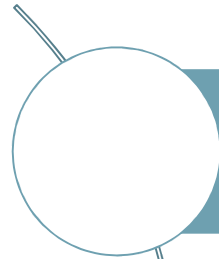
Strong local interest and support

Accessible to a number of college and universities

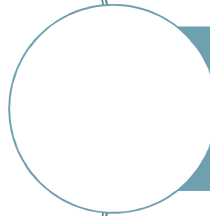
Connectivity with local transit



Estimated Costs and Funding



Total annual operating cost: ~ \$1M



Estimated annual revenue: \$525,000 (53% farebox recovery after 2 years)



Within existing Federal funding allocated to support annual operating and capital (FTA 5311)



Next Steps

February 22, 2017 – Request for Proposals Issued

Summer 2017 – Complete procurement/contracting process

Fall 2017 – Initiate service and ongoing evaluation

Future – Ongoing evaluation and implementation of additional routes





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