



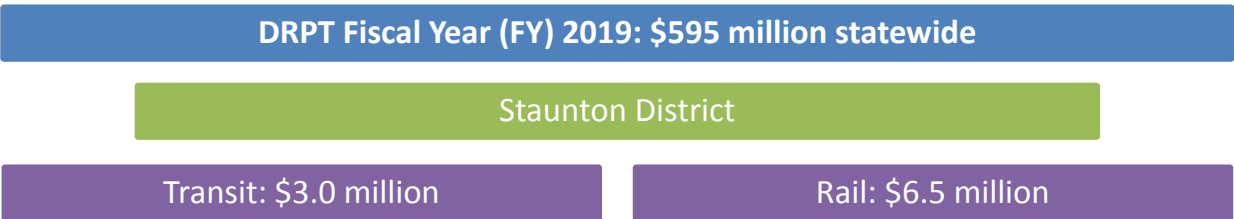
## Staunton District Highlights

*We are the Commonwealth's advocate for promoting transportation options to the general public, businesses, and community decision makers.*

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is a state agency that reports to the Secretary of Transportation. DRPT's mission is to facilitate and improve the mobility of Virginia citizens and to promote the efficient transport of goods and people in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner. Our primary areas of activity are rail, public transportation, and commuter services. DRPT works with local, regional, state, and federal governments, as well as private entities, to provide support for projects and programs by:

Assessing feasibility and environmental impacts of new and expanding services	Conducting statewide rail and public transportation studies	Planning and programming new services and capital improvement projects	Providing leadership, advocacy, technical assistance, and funding
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**Below are summaries of ongoing projects and funding allocations in the proposed Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) that support this mission in the Staunton District.**



### Transit and Commuter Programs

Organizations in the Staunton District that receive state funding in FY 2019 of DRPT's SYIP are:



In FY 2017, DRPT provided funding to the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission for the transfer of the BRITE Transit Facility. In partnership with Virginia Regional Transit, BRITE Transit Facility provides public transportation to the Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro areas.



The Virginia Breeze, the state’s intercity bus service, creates a connection between rural areas and the larger regional or national system of buses, connecting Blacksburg to Washington D.C. Bus schedules are developed to make practical connections to current intercity carriers making travel accessible, reliable, and convenient. Under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 rural transit formula program, Virginia is required to utilize up to 15% of its annual appropriation towards facilitating intercity bus service in the Commonwealth where it is otherwise underserved or does not exist.

Following a 2013 study, DRPT determined that the I-81 and 1-66 corridor between Blacksburg and Union Station in Washington, D.C. presented an underserved, yet viable, market to pilot an intercity bus service. This service is 100% federally funded with stops in Christiansburg, Lexington, Staunton, Harrisonburg, Front Royal, Dulles International Airport, and West Falls Church. Service started in December 2017.

### Rail Programs

In the past, DRPT has included funding in its Six-Year Improvement Program for a number of freight rail improvements that are part of the I-81 Crescent Corridor program. This program endeavors to attract domestic freight from paralleling interstate highways and alleviate truck congestion on major highways including I-81.

### Virginia Shortline Railway Preservation and Development Program

The Rail Preservation Fund benefits the nine shortline railroads operating in Virginia, which provide the “local” network and the “last mile” of service for rail freight to reach its destination. The fund promotes the continuation of rail service by achieving Federal Railroad Administration Class 2 track safety standards, allowing freight service to operate at speeds up to 25 mph. It also promotes development of rail transportation support facilities, encouraging industrial growth and promoting truck diversion from Virginia’s highways.





**Smart Scale** is a prioritization process focused on investing limited tax dollars into the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. Virginia's Smart Scale selects the right

transportation projects for funding and ensures the best use of limited tax dollars. It is the method of scoring planned projects included in VTrans. Transportation projects are scored based on an objective, outcome-based process that is transparent to the public and allows decision-makers to be held accountable to taxpayers. Once projects are scored and prioritized, the Commonwealth Transportation Board is given the best information possible in order to approve the right projects for funding.

FY17- Smart Scale funded 8 transit projects totaling \$31m

FY18- DRPT funded 17 projects totaling \$168m

#### Waynesboro Towne Center Park and Ride

This project will repave and add parking spaces and transit facilities to the Waynesboro Towne Center Park and Ride lot located in the southeastern corner of the I-64/US 340 interchange at Exit 94. This proposal will make needed improvements to expand and improve the existing facility by increasing parking by 55 additional spaces to a total of 175, adding a bus stop, shelter, and bus zone/pull off, and by improving pedestrian access to adjacent commercial locations.

**If you have any questions or comments about any of these projects, please contact our office:**

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