



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Commonwealth Transportation Board*

Shannon Valentine  
Chairperson

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*Agenda item # 10*

### **RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**March 17, 2020**

#### **MOTION**

**Made By: Mr. Yates, Seconded By: Mr. Williams**

**Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously**

**Title: Addition of a Public Transportation Project to the Six-Year Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2020-2025 for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Mitigation**

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the continued spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, a national state of emergency was declared by President Donald J. Trump on March 13, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, Virginia's transit agencies have been on the front lines of responding to the onset of COVID-19, ensuring their employees are prepared and their capital assets are cleaned frequently to help reduce the potential spread of disease while ensuring the public has access to critical transportation services; and,

**WHEREAS**, Virginia's transit agencies are also incurring significant economic impacts associated with reductions in service, losses in ridership, and diminished revenue which will impact recovery and service restoration efforts following the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS**, public transportation provides vital transportation connections to health care, jobs, education, and community which are essential to Virginia's recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Resolution of the Board

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**WHEREAS**, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation recommends that the Board approve the addition of \$11,000,000 to the FY20-25 Six Year Improvement Program for additional operating assistance to offset the COVID-19 pandemic response and mitigation for Virginia's transit agencies.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board authorizes the use of prior year funding deallocated from completed and canceled projects of \$11,000,000 to offset costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic response and mitigation for Virginia's transit agencies.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation will disburse the funding through the operating assistance program established in Section 33.2-1526.1 C 1 of the Code of Virginia to offset the impacts on Virginia's transit agencies.

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## CTB Decision Brief

### Addition of a Public Transportation Project to the Six-Year Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2020-2025 for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Mitigation

#### **Issue:**

On March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph S. Northam declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the continued spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Subsequently, a national state of emergency was declared by President Donald J. Trump on March 13, 2020. The onset and continued spread of COVID-19 have extraordinary and disproportionate impacts on the transit industry, specifically their operating budgets.

#### **Facts:**

Virginia's transit agencies have been on the front lines of responding to the onset of COVID-19, ensuring their employees are prepared and their capital assets are cleaned frequently to help reduce the potential spread of disease while ensuring the public has access to critical transportation services. Additionally, transit agencies are incurring significant economic impacts associated with reductions in service, losses in ridership, and diminished revenue which will impact recovery and service restoration efforts following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transit agencies had to take immediate steps to minimize the risk to their employees, riders, and the general public, which are far beyond anything envisioned in their operating budgets. As more social distancing is implemented, transit agencies are reducing service and seeing significant losses in ridership, which leads to diminished revenue.

Virginia's transit agencies provide vital transportation connections to health care, jobs, education, and community, which are essential to Virginia's preparation for and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commonwealth's 41 transit agencies provided 171,927,129 trips in Fiscal Year 2019.

DRPT recommends the allocation of \$11,000,000, equivalent to one month of operating revenue for the agencies that receive funding under Section 33.1526.1 C 1 of the Code of Virginia. DRPT has identified \$11,000,000 in prior year funding deallocated from completed and canceled projects funding to offset this additional allocation.

**Recommendation:** DRPT recommends that the CTB approve the addition of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Mitigation funding to the FY20-25 Six Year Improvement Program and the allocation of \$11,000,000 in deallocated prior year project funds to be disbursed through the operating assistance program established in Section 33.1526.1 C 1 of the Code of Virginia.

**Action Required by CTB:** Approve the amendment of the FY20-25 Six Year Improvement Program and allocation of deallocated project funds of \$11,000,000.

**Options:** Approve, Deny, or Defer.