



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Chairperson

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Agenda item # 7

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

July 14, 2020

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Rucker, Seconded By: Ms. Hynes
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Allocation of Funds to VRE for Track Lease Costs

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2019, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (“the Board”) approved the Fiscal Years 2020 through 2025 Six-Year Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation is responsible for the sub-allocation and management of Flexible STP funds in compliance with FHWA and FTA requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation provides funding each year for track access payments to Virginia Railway Express (VRE); and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board to ensure the maximum use of all available federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation recommends that the Board approve the addition of \$15,031,200 in Flexible STP funds to the FY20-25 Six Year Improvement Program to fund VRE’s track lease access payments to Amtrak, Norfolk Southern, and CSX for FY21.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board authorizes the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to disburse \$15,031,200 of federal funds for VRE’s FY21 track lease access payments to Amtrak, Norfolk Southern, and CSX.

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CTB Decision Brief

Allocation of Funds to VRE for Track Lease Costs

Issue: Each year the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) must adopt a Six-Year Improvement Program (Program or SYIP) and allocations for anticipated projects and programs based on the most recent official revenue forecasts and debt management policy, and other funds available as set forth in the Final Fiscal Years 2020-2025 Six-Year Improvement Program in accordance with policy or statutory formula. In addition, each year additional federal funds and obligation authority are anticipated to be made or to become available after adoption of the SYIP and authority to utilize these funds is sought. DRPT provides funding each year to Virginia Railway Express (VRE) for track lease payments to Amtrak, Norfolk Southern and CSX using Flexible Surface Transportation Program (Flexible STP) funds.

Facts: DRPT has available carryover Flexible STP funds from FY20. The CTB has not yet adopted a Six-Year Improvement Program of anticipated projects and programs by July 1st in accordance with Section 33.2-214 (B) for Fiscal Year 2021.

Recommendations: DRPT recommends that the CTB approve the addition of Flexible STP funding in the amount of \$15,031,200 to the FY20-25 Six Year Improvement Program for track lease access payments from VRE to Amtrak (\$5,503,200), Norfolk Southern (\$2,753,600), and CSX (\$6,774,400) for FY21.

Action Required by CTB: Approve the amendment of the FY20-25 Six Year Improvement Program and allocation of Flexible STP funding.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer.