

DRPT Leadership changes

- Secretary Miller has appointed Jennifer DeBruhl to Acting Director of DRPT. Jennifer DeBruhl most recently served as DRPT's Chief of Public Transportation, and we are excited for her to continue her work leading the agency.
- Grant Sparks has been asked to serve as Acting Chief of Public Transportation as Jennifer transitions into her new role.

MPO Updates

- DRPT sent letters identifying changes to DRPT MPO representation effective April 2022.
- FY23 FTA Section 5303 applications are now open with OLGA restored. FTA annualized amounts have not been provided to DRPT so MPOs will be provided amounts from FY22 for their UPWPs.
 - The deadline for submission is May 2, 2022. For questions about the application process, please reach out to your DRPT representative.

HJ 542 Transit Equity and Modernization Study

- The Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study team will host a virtual forum on Thursday, April 21, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- The study team will present an update on the study's key findings, spotlight new tools developed to analyze the state of transit in the Commonwealth, tell stories from transit riders, and share preliminary action plan ideas. Attendees will learn where the opportunities are to improve transit accessibility, infrastructure, electrification, technologies, governance, and safety for all Virginians.
- Attendance is free and open to the public. Registration information will be posted on the study website -- www.vatransitmodernization.com

FTA Competitive Funding

- The FTA discretionary Low-No and Bus & Bus Facilities grant programs are now open to receive applications until May 31, 2022.
- These are the first two FTA competitive grant programs announced under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes a total of \$1.5 billion in competitive funding for transit facilities, equipment, and buses (including low and no emission buses).
- DRPT staff are available to provide Letters of Support as well as assistance in preparing grant applications for any transit agency interested in applying to these programs.

Rediscover Your Ride Initiative

- On March 14, DRPT launched the Rediscover Your Ride campaign aimed to safely and confidently encourage Virginians to return to the transit services used prior to the pandemic.
- DRPT has developed a statewide marketing campaign that will consist of a unified message to most appropriately attract riders back to Virginia transit systems, reiterating the presence of safety measures, and providing explanation on why public transportation is a safe and viable option.
- Preview of the marketing materials is available at <https://transitva.org/marketing-toolkit/>.
- DRPT will launch a statewide media campaign that will include paid print, television, social media, and radio ads.
- Transit Recovery Marketing Initiative funding is available for eligible marketing projects and expenses and may be awarded to the following organizations wishing to increase marketing reach locally:
 - Public Transportation Service Providers
 - Planning District Commissions

- Regional Planning Commissions
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Local Governments
- Transportation Management Associations
- Point of contact for the Rediscover Your Ride Initiative – Miriam Foster
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