DRPT Agency Update – November 2026

FY2028 Grant Application Cycle

DRPT will begin accepting applications for rail, transit, and commuter assistance grants for the Fiscal Year 2028 at 12:01 A.M. on **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**. The annual grant application period runs through **Monday, February 1, 2027**. Funds for rail, transit, human services transportation, and commuter assistance are available from multiple state and federal sources to support public transit services, human service transportation, planning, transportation demand management, and rail programs in Virginia. Current Application Guidance for transit grants, including eligible project categories, is available in the latest version of **DRPT's Blue Book** and the **5310 Guidebook for Human Services Transportation**.

DRPT's public transportation staff will host Fiscal Year 2028 grant application workshops for their partners. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with DRPT's public transportation programming and planning experts regarding the latest information on the FY28 application cycle, including technical assistance and application guidance for all public transportation programs administered by DRPT. All applicants are strongly encouraged to attend these webinars.

Workshop Schedule:

1. **November 16th at 10 AM: 5310/Human Services Transportation New Applicant Grant Workshop** Register Here!
2. **November 17th at 10 AM: Transit Program Grant Workshop** Register Here!
3. **November 18th at 10 AM: Commuter Assistance Program Grant Workshop** Register Here!
4. **November 19th at 10 AM: 5310/Human Services Transportation Returning Applicant Grant Workshop** Register Here!

Prospective rail partners should contact DRPT's rail program managers for further assistance.

Once the application period closes, DRPT will evaluate all submissions and submit recommended project funding to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for the Draft FY28 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). A series of statewide public hearings will then be held before the CTB considers the final adoption of the FY28 SYIP next June.

Statewide Rail Plan

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) invites you to take the second phase of the 2026 Statewide Rail Plan Survey and share your priorities for passenger and freight rail.

Whether you ride the train, rely on rail to move goods, or want better connections for your community, we want to hear from you. The survey takes 5-10 minutes and asks which strategies Virginia should prioritize to improve passenger and freight rail service.

Link to the Survey

As a thank-you for participating, you can choose to enter a drawing for two roundtrip Amtrak Northeast Regional tickets.

The survey is open through early November. Your feedback will build on what we heard during the first survey in March and subsequent public and stakeholder meetings, helping guide rail priorities and investment decisions across the Commonwealth.

DRPT updates the Statewide Rail Plan every four years. The final 2026 plan is expected in early 2027.

Learn more about the Statewide Rail Plan **here**.

Group TAM Plan

The draft TAM plan was released **July 1st** and accepted comments until **July 31st**. The final plan was released in mid-August with communication from DRPT to relevant MPOs for incorporation into TIPs/CLRPs. DRPT hosted a webinar on August 25th, and the recorded webinar can be viewed **here.**

The TAM plan was adopted on September 30th and MPOs have an 180-day deadline for MPO performance target language on **March 29th, 2027.**

Comments, Questions, and concerns can be directed to your DRPT planner or Grace Stankus – **Grace.Stankus@drpt.virginia.gov**

Statewide TOD Study

The General Assembly has directed DRPT and DHCD to conduct a statewide review to plan, promote, and identify barriers and opportunities for transit-oriented development around existing and proposed transit and rail stations. The review will also investigate barriers to housing production and the potential for economic development.

The study will be submitted to General Assembly by Dec. 15, 2026, with Phase 2 scheduled to begin in early 2027.

Director's Update to CTB – October

The most recent DRPT Report to the CTB featured Jaunt turning 50, FXBGO! Turning 30, Commuter Choice is turning 10! Check it out **here**.