

### Discover Transit Month

- September is Discover Transit Month and throughout the month, DRPT will be informing Virginians about transportation options and encouraging use of local transit services to commute, travel, and explore their communities.
- This promotional effort is in an effort to help increase ridership, which has decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This month will help raise awareness of options, offer incentives, and highlight the many benefits of public transportation.
- Promotional events include the Try Transit Pledge, which will enter participants in a contest to win free Virginia Breeze and Amtrak Northeast Regional tickets, and recording commutes on the Commute!VA app, which will automatically enter them to win a \$100 gift card.
- More information on Discover Transit Month may be found at [transitva.gov](https://transitva.gov).

### Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)

- DRPT is excited to announce a mid-cycle funding opportunity for the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP). This call for applications focuses on projects aimed at mitigating regional congestion in the following regions:
  - Blacksburg, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Hampton Roads, Lynchburg, Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Roanoke
- Eligible projects will benefit commuting patterns by incentivizing use of transit for key trips within the targeted regions:
  - The development or improvement of regionally significant transit routes
  - The prioritization of transit in regional streetscapes through bus only lanes, prioritized lighting, etc.
- All potential applicants should review the application guidelines prior to submission and applications will open on **Thursday, September 1, 2022** and formally close on **Monday, October 3, 2022**.
- Letters of support and other time consuming supporting documentation will be accepted until **Friday, October 21, 2022**.
- All applications should be submitted via email to [TRIP@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:TRIP@drpt.virginia.gov) and for more information, please visit the DRPT TRIP webpage (<https://www.drpt.virginia.gov/ongoing-grant-programs/trip/>) or contact Lauren Magnotto, DRPT TRIP Program Manager at [lauren.magnotto@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:lauren.magnotto@drpt.virginia.gov).

### Virginia Statewide Rail Plan

- The Virginia Statewide Rail Plan for 2022 will provide long-term guidance for the Commonwealth's rail needs for people, communities, and commerce through consistent policies, public education, and ensuring that rail transportation continues to be a safe, economical, and environmentally friendly mode choice. This plan must be updated every four years.
- DRPT will be hosting a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, September 27 from 6-7PM. The public meeting will provide an opportunity for public comment on the state plan before it goes to the Commonwealth Transportation Board this winter.
- Registration for the public meeting may be found at this link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2505966644919195149>.
- More information on the Virginia Statewide Rail Plan can be found on the DRPT website at <https://drpt.virginia.gov/work-were-doing/virginia-statewide-rail-plan/>.

## **HJ 542 Transit Equity and Modernization Study**

- The Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study team has completed its work and will hold a virtual forum October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
- More information may be found on the study website: [www.vatransitmodernization.com](http://www.vatransitmodernization.com)