

Federal CARES Act – Transit Funding

- The CTB allocated \$100 million of the \$456 million in public transportation CARES Act funding appropriated to Virginia at their meeting on April 21.
- The FTA will appropriate \$356 million directly to urban transit agencies, while the \$100 million balance includes \$47 million in the FTA small urban program, and \$53 million from the FTA rural program. These funds are distributed by the state.
- Of the \$53 million in rural funding, \$25.7 is being distributed million to rural agencies based on the FY2020 federal operating formula. Fifteen percent of the program, approximately \$7.7 million, is being allocated to support the Commonwealth’s intercity bus program, including the Virginia Breeze service and the Roanoke SmartWay bus. The balance will be held in reserve for future needs.
- The allocation of the \$47 million in small urban funding is based on the apportionment of funds between agencies by Federal Transit Administration formula. The small urban agencies may now apply directly to FTA to receive their share of funding.

DRPT SYIP

- The 2020 Virginia General Assembly reconvened on April 22 and approved Governor Northam’s revised biennial budget with changes, including no increase in spending.
- The budget included an amendment extending the existing Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) through FY21 or until a new SYIP can be adopted with revised revenue forecasts.
- DRPT plans to award FY21 federal planning funding to MPOs as planned. Applications are due by May 31st.

Amtrak

- Amtrak Virginia is running limited service and state supported ridership is down over 95%.
- Starting April 1st, Amtrak is operating on the following schedule:
 - Roanoke: One daily roundtrip
 - Norfolk: One daily roundtrip
 - Newport News: One daily roundtrip
 - Richmond: No service; however, Staples Mill and Main Street are serviced by through train service from national routes and Hampton Roads trains.

Virginia Breeze – Intercity Bus

- All Virginia Breeze service was suspended effective April 10th.
- DRPT is moving forward with a contract for two new routes, one of which will connect through Richmond. The timeframe for this service becoming operational is dependent on the COVID-19 situation.