Virginia Transit Equity & Modernization Study

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Statewide Transit Planning Manager, DRPT
Outline

• Study Overview
• Study Development Process
• Topic Areas
• Questions
Study Overview

*How did we get here?*

HJ 542 (2021)

- DRPT to complete a needs assessment focusing on the equitable delivery of transit services and modernization of transit in the Commonwealth

- Emphasis on transit services and engagement opportunities for underserved and underrepresented communities
Study Overview

How did we get here?

• In addition to “equity” and “modernization” the resolution requires DRPT to explore a wide variety of topics

• Key deliverables
  • December 2021: Interim Report
  • August 2022: Final Report
Study Overview

What will this study accomplish?
✓ Will identify transit agency, rider, and stakeholder needs
✓ Will develop an action plan to address those needs

What will this study not accomplish?
× Will not be an asset inventory
× Will not single-out transit agencies for poor performance, conditions, etc.
Study Development Process

• Project Administrator: DRPT
• Prime Consultant: Kimley Horn & Associates
• Sub-consultants:

  Powerful Pathways  
  Sharpe & Company  
  WBA Research  
  Virginia Navigator  
  Connetics Transportation Group

  IBI Group  
  Center for Transportation and the Environment  
  Interactive Elements Inc.  
  Virginia Transit Association  
  Trillium
Study Development Process

- **Data Collection**
  - Summer 2021

- **Needs and Opportunities Assessment**
  - Fall 2021

- **Action Plan**
  - Winter 2021-2022

- **Final Report**
  - Spring 2021
Study Development Process

- TDPs & TSPs
- Public Participation Plans
- Title VI Plans
- GIS/GTFS data
- Bus stop amenities data
- Capital Improvement Programs/Plans
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP)
- TransAM data and other fleet data
- Transit Asset Management (TAM) plans

- NTD data
- Census data
- ADA accessibility data
- Emergency preparedness procedures
- Employee safety training manuals
- COVID-19 strategies and cleaning protocols
- DRPT Multimodal System Design Guidelines

Data Collection
Study Development Process

Transit agency and public engagement activities will inform the development of a needs and opportunities assessment

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Study Development Process

- Findings from the Needs and Opportunities Assessment will inform the development of a Study Action Plan.
- The Study Action Plan will include recommendations and implementation strategies that address barriers by topic area.
- The plan will describe specific actions, next steps, coordination required, timeline for implementation and responsible agencies.

**IMPORTANT:** We anticipate that the Study Action Plan will advise changes to DRPT funding programs and policies, and the development of future plans.
Study Development Process

• Due to General Assembly in August 2022
• Summary of the study process and findings, including an executive summary

Questions that we want answered:

What will it take to make the Commonwealth’s transit networks equitable and modern?

What can DRPT and other partners do to achieve this goal?
Topic Areas

Four (4) Technical Working Groups (TWGs) will focus on the following topics:

- Accessibility & Adequacy of Infrastructure
- Emerging Technologies & Electrification
- Transit Safety
- System Engagement & Governance
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Questions?

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