

## **POLICY BOARD AGENDA 10/4/21**

### **ITEM B.-4. – TRIP Program Funding Application Support – GRTC Request Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization**

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To express Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) support for a Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) grant application for “Transit Ridership Incentive Program, Zero Fare and Low-Income Projects” funding through the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Chapter 1230 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020, the General Assembly enacted the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (the “TRIP Program”); and

**WHEREAS**, the TRIP Program was developed by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the TRIP Program application process opened on August 1, 2021, and closed on September 17, 2021, with all supplemental data being due by October 4, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the TRIP Program is a statewide grant program whose purpose is to improve regional transit connectivity in urban areas and reduce barriers to public transit through low income and zero fare programming; and

**WHEREAS**, the TRIP Program focuses on urban metropolitan areas with populations of 100,000 or more, which includes the GRTC service area; and

**WHEREAS**, other Virginia localities and transit agencies are considering the extension of “fare free” or “zero fare” policies post COVID-19, including but not limited to the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Lynchburg, and Roanoke; and

**WHEREAS**, GRTC believes there is a need for further study of the social and economic impacts of fare collection systems, including zero fare operations on GRTC’s current service population; and

**WHEREAS**, the GRTC Board of Directors passed a resolution stating its belief that it is in the best interests of all GRTC public transit riders and the citizens of the GRTC service area

to continue to study the costs, benefits, and transportation equity of various fare collection systems and zero fare policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond City Council passed a resolution stating its belief that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council supports GRTC’s application for the TRIP Program through DRPT for the purpose of maintaining GRTC’s current zero fare policy; and

**WHEREAS**, GRTC has obtained financial commitments from the City of Richmond and from VCU as local funding partners to fully match state pilot funding under the TRIPS grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, GRTC must explore and define additional, new and sustainable sources of funding for all potential future fare collection systems prior to permanent implementation of any; and

**WHEREAS**, GRTC applied for grant funding through TRIP Program through DRPT for the purpose of maintaining the GRTC’s current zero fare policy while GRTC continues to study fare systems and equity considerations;

**RESOLVED** that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board hereby supports the GRTC’s application for the TRIP Program through DRPT for the purpose of maintaining the GRTC’s current zero fare policy while studying social and economic impacts of various fare collection systems.

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This is to certify that the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization Policy Board approved the above resolution at its meeting held October 4, 2021.

WITNESS:

BY:

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Janice Firestone  
Program Coordinator  
PlanRVA

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Chet Parsons  
Secretary, Richmond Regional Transportation  
Planning Organization