



Commonwealth Transportation Board

Responsibilities

Membership

17 members :

- ⇒ 14 Appointed Citizens
- ⇒ Secretary of Transportation
- ⇒ DRPT and VDOT directors are ex-officio.
- Citizen members are appointed by the Governor and serve 4 year terms - can NOT be removed as Governor changes, except for cause (fraud, conflict etc).
- CTB generally meets monthly with exceptions of August and November. Meetings are live streamed. Documents are available to the public in advance via a website
- 9 CTB members represent districts (NVTA jurisdictions make up NOVA district)
- 5 Members are at-large, at least 2 must be urban members and at least 2 must be rural members

CTB is responsible for the development and approval of VTRANS

- the state's long-range surface transportation plan that focuses on accessibility and safety needs. This plan is updated every four years on a rolling basis.

VTrans analyzes travel and demographic trends, identifies and prioritizes needs based on the four focus areas listed below, and develops recommendations for the Tier I needs.

VTRANS focuses on 4 key kinds of places:

1. Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS) – Key multimodal travel corridors that move people and goods within and through Virginia, serving primarily long-distance /inter-regional travel markets
2. Regional Networks (RN) – Multimodal networks that facilitate travel within urbanized areas/intra-regional travel markets
3. Urban Development Areas (UDA) – Areas where jurisdictions intend to concentrate future population growth and development consistent with the UDA section within the Code of Virginia (§ 15.2-2223.1)
4. Transportation Safety Needs – Statewide safety needs identified in VTrans

Statutory Requirements

Primary responsibilities of the Board are to:

- (i) program surface transportation funds through the Six-Year Improvement Program,
- (ii) develop the long-range surface transportation plan, and
- (iii) conduct oversight of transportation programs including SMART SCALE, State of Good Repair Program, and Revenue Sharing Program.

In addition, the Board has other powers related to the establishment of regulations for operation of the state highway system including location of routes, and entering into contracts with other entities.



Commonwealth Transportation Board

Main Responsibility = Oversight of Road & Transit Funding

The CTB oversees the following key transportation programs:

- **State of Good Repair Programs:** capital funding for rehabilitating and replacing bridges and reconstruction pavements with funds distributed to each district based on an asset management based needs formula
- **SMART SCALE funds are allocated every two years and are divided 50/50 into two programs:**
 - *High Priority Projects Program:* a statewide discretionary funds with projects selected on a competitive basis across districts
 - *Construction District Grant Program:* a district-based distribution of funds with projects selected on a competitive basis within each district
- **Transit Programs:**
 - *Transit Capital Funds:* used to purchase assets for transit systems, bulk of funds are used for transit facilities and replacement of existing buses
 - *Transit Operating Assistance:* used to support the existing operations of transit systems
 - *Transit Special Funds:* used to support transportation demand management activities, planning studies and other activities
- **Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital Program:** used to support direct costs of operating state supported Amtrak services in the Commonwealth as well as make capital investments to expand passenger rail service in the Commonwealth
- **Rail Enhancement Fund:** used to support freight and passenger rail investments, requires a 30% non-state match
- **Specialized Programs:**
 - *Revenue Sharing Program:* a state program that requires 50% local match for projects with an annual cap per locality of \$5 million
 - *Transportation Alternatives Program:* a federal program to fund pedestrian, bicycle and other improvements
 - *Highway Safety Improvement Program:* a federal program focused on reducing crashes that results in fatalities and severe injuries
 - *Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program:* a federal program focused on improving air quality, these funds may not be used to expand capacity for single-occupant vehicles
 - *Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank:* a state revolving fund that provides low-interest loans to finance transportation improvements with applications accepted on a rolling basis
- DRPT also runs a number of smaller grant programs; allocations from those programs typically require a vote of the CTB.

Regional Coordination

The NOVA District CTB member is also appointed by the Governor to sit on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. This linkage ensures that the two funding bodies are aware of each other's processes and timelines. There have been numerous snags to work through as funding has increased significantly since the passage of HB 2313 in 2013. Cross-appointment has been helpful in this regard. CTB holds spring and fall meetings to gather information from the public about proposals the CTB is considering.