



Report of the Subcommittee on
Transportation

Senate Finance &
Appropriations Committee
Virginia General Assembly

February 16, 2020



SENATE OF VIRGINIA

Senate Finance & Appropriations Committee

**2020 Report of the Transportation Subcommittee
The Honorable George L. Barker, Chair
February 16, 2020**

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Your Transportation Subcommittee has reviewed the Governor's introduced budget for the Transportation Secretariat. We endorse his recommendation to allocate funding among our multi-modal transportation agencies from new revenues that will be realized as the result of legislation currently under consideration by the 2020 General Assembly. Our proposed amendments build on the steps already taken, and increase accountability and oversight of the nascent Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, as it comes into existence in the coming years.

As a result of actions the Senate has already taken this year, and accounting for the increased revenues assumed in the introduced budget, our proposed amendments allocate more than \$700 million in dynamic new transportation revenue across all of our major transportation agencies; including:

- \$350 million in critically needed highway construction and maintenance funding;
- \$300 million in new funding for necessary investments in transit and rail programs;
- \$30 million dedicated to addressing ongoing staffing and retention issues at the Department of Motor Vehicles; and
- Additional revenues dedicated to the Port Authority, Spaceport, and Aviation agencies.

With this historic level of new funding, and other proposals, including the new Passenger Rail Authority and the potential for major

investments in offshore wind energy projects at the Port of Virginia, the Subcommittee recommends that the legislature remain prudent stewards of these public investments. Accordingly, the Subcommittee recommends that prior to the Commonwealth entering into long-term contractual agreements with private sector partners, proposals for investments in enhanced passenger rail capacity or for energy-related economic development initiatives be subject to thorough review by the MEI Project Approval Commission.

Additionally, the Subcommittee recommends that we begin planning today for the mobility needs of the future. We believe now is the time to begin evaluating mobility options along the Route 1 corridor, in an effort to assess the most cost-effective approaches for mass transit throughout one of our fastest growing regions. We further recommend that the time to begin planning for additional passenger rail services -- not only along Virginia's "Golden Crescent" corridor, but west to Roanoke -- is now.

Madam Chair, this completes the report of your Transportation Subcommittee and I hope it will be the pleasure of the Committee to adopt our amendments.

Report of the Subcommittee on Transportation
 (Recommended Amendments to SB 29 and SB 30, As Introduced)

(All Amounts NGF)

	Amendment	SB 29	SB 30		
		FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Biennium
1	Transportation				
2	Secretary of Transportation				
3	Adjust Language to Reflect SB 890		<i>Language</i>		
4	Orphan Drainage Outfalls		<i>Language</i>		
5	Virginia Passenger Rail Authority		<i>Language</i>		
6	Transit Ridership Incentive Program		<i>Language</i>		
7	Virginia Commercial Spaceflight Authority				
8	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890: Spaceflight Fund		\$ 723,618	\$ 3,635,751	\$ 4,359,369
9	Department of Aviation				
10	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890: Aviation Operations		\$ 923,618	\$ 3,057,253	\$ 3,980,871
11	Department of Motor Vehicles				
12	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890: DMV Operations		\$ 4,900,000	\$ 8,748,890	\$ 13,648,890
13	Adjust Appropriation: Driver Priviledge Cards (SB 34)		\$ 9,402,135	\$ 9,402,135	\$ 18,804,270
14	Department of Rail and Public Transportation				
15	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890: Public Transportation Programs		\$ 30,573,517	\$ 37,140,362	\$ 67,713,879
16	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890: Rail Programs		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 59,700,000	\$ 61,200,000
17	Adjust Language to Reflect SB 890: Public Transportation Programs		<i>Language</i>		
18	Adjust Language to Reflect SB 890: Rail Programs		<i>Language</i>		
19	Adjust Language to Reflect SB 890: Administrative		<i>Language</i>		
20	Extension of Blue Line to Prince William County		<i>Language</i>		
21	Amtrak Connector Bus - Clifton Forge		<i>Language</i>		
22	Commonwealth Corridor Study (SJ 50)		<i>Language</i>		
23	Shortline & Excursion Railway		<i>Language</i>		
24	Commonwealth Railway Extension Feasibility Study		<i>Language</i>		

Report of the Subcommittee on Transportation
 (Recommended Amendments to SB 29 and SB 30, As Introduced)

(All Amounts NGF)

	Amendment	SB 29		SB 30		
		FY 2020		FY 2021	FY 2022	Biennium
25	Department of Transportation					
26	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890: Construction			\$ 48,156,779	\$ 49,209,657	\$ 97,366,436
27	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890: Maintenance			\$ 15,000,000	\$ 10,582,008	\$ 25,582,008
28	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890: Statewide Special Structures			\$ (8,148,928)	\$ (16,263,174)	\$ (24,412,102)
29	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890: Financial Assistance to Localities			\$ 5,000,000	\$ 1,416,911	\$ 6,416,911
30	Financial Assistance to Localities: City Street Payments			\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
31	Mobility Talks International			<i>Language</i>		
32	Local Project Adminstraion			<i>Language</i>		
33	Virginia Port Authority					
34	Adjust Appropriation to Reflect SB 890			\$ (1,203,686)	\$ 1,460,451	\$ 256,765
35	Waterway Maintenance			\$ 650,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 1,300,000
36	Port Lease Payment Technical Correction			<i>Language</i>		
37	Porstmouth Marine Terminal: Wind Energy (Item C-72)			<i>Language</i>		
38	Part 3 Transfers					
39	3-1.01 Waterway Maintenance Fund Transfer			<i>Language</i>		

Respectfully Submitted,

The Honorable George L. Barker, Chair

The Honorable Richard L. Saslaw

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.

The Honorable Stephen D. Newman

The Honorable R. Creigh Deeds

The Honorable David W. Marsden

The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan

Transit Ridership Incentive Program

Transportation

Secretary of Transportation

Language

Language:

Page 425, following line 48, insert:

"L. The Department of Rail and Public Transit shall establish within the Transit Ridership Incentive Program, established pursuant SB 890 of the 2020 General Assembly, a Congestion Mitigation Program that will use at least \$5,000,000 annually for operating cost assistance to reduce congestion in urban areas. The funds from this program will be allocated to transit systems in amounts that collectively achieve maximum congestion mitigation and passenger miles traveled. The Secretary shall provide to the Chairs of House Appropriations; Senate Finance and Appropriations; House Transportation; and Senate Transportation Committees the methodology used and the distributions of such funds to transit systems by June 30, 2021."

Explanation:

(This amendment directs the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that at least \$5.0 million NGF of the annual allocation to the Transit Ridership Incentive Fund, established in SB 890 of the 2020 General Assembly, is used to provide operating assistance to transit programs that reduce congestion in urban areas. The Secretary is directed to report on the methodology that will be implemented by June 30, 2021.)

Orphan Drainage Outfalls

Transportation

Secretary of Transportation

Language

Language:

Page 425, following line 48, insert:

"L. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Chairs of the House Appropriations; Senate Finance and Appropriations; House Transportation; Senate Transportation; House Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources; and Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources Committees, as well as counties containing subject outfalls, shall evaluate the scope of drainage outfalls across the

Commonwealth originating from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintained roads with no assigned maintaining entity, and recommend cost-effective solutions and means by which to fund maintenance of such outfalls. The Secretaries shall provide a report of their findings to the aforementioned committee chairs no later than December 11, 2020."

Explanation:

(This amendment directs the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Natural Resources to study and report on the extent of orphaned drainage outfalls and recommend solutions to fix them. Since the issues involve both road maintenance and stormwater runoff, the combined expertise of engineers from both agencies should be utilized.)

Item 430 #4s

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

Transportation

Secretary of Transportation

Language

Language:

Page 425, following line 48, insert:

"L. Prior to the execution of any Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia for participation in the construction of any potential improvements to the bridge and related railroad infrastructure located between the Rosslyn (RO) Interlocking near Long Bridge Park in Arlington, Virginia and the L'Enfant (LE) Interlocking near 10th Street SW in Washington, D.C., or prior to the authorization for the issuance of any bonds or the sale of any land by the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, as may be established by legislation adopted by the 2020 Session of the General Assembly that becomes law, the Secretary of Transportation shall present for the approval of the MEI Project Approval Commission established pursuant to Chapter 47 (§30-309 et seq.) of Title 30, a draft of any Memorandum of Understanding, any proposed bond issuance, or contract related to the sale of land, or the terms of any agreement between or among any political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, any political subdivision of the United States, federal government agency, the National Passenger Railroad Corporation, a commuter rail service jointly operated by the Northern Virginia Transportation District established pursuant to § 33.2-1904 and the Potomac Rappahannock Transportation District established pursuant to the Transportation District Act (§ 33.2-1900 et seq.), and any Class I private railroad corporation."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides initial oversight of the proposed terms of the Long Bridge project agreement to the MEI Commission.)

Item 442 #1s

Amtrak Connector Bus - Clifton Forge

Transportation

Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Language

Language:

Page 433, after line 5, insert:

"F. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation, shall evaluate enhanced public transportation services from the City of Roanoke to the town of Clifton Forge, for the purpose enhanced connectivity to existing Amtrak service, including the potential ridership, cost and feasibility of multimodal transportation options along the Interstate 81 and U.S. Route 220 corridors. The Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall submit a report of its findings to the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee by December 1, 2021."

Explanation:

(This amendment directs the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to evaluate the feasibility and cost of connector bus service from the City of Roanoke to Clifton Forge's Amtrak station.)

Item 442 #2s

Extension of Blue Line to Prince William County

Transportation

Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Language

Language:

Page 433, after line 5, insert:

"F. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation, in cooperation with Fairfax and Prince William counties, shall evaluate enhanced public transportation services from the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station to Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Potomac Mills, and Marine Corps Base Quantico in Prince William County, including the cost and feasibility of extending the Blue Line and other multimodal options such as bus rapid transit along Interstate 95 and U.S. Route 1. The Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall submit a report of its findings to the Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee by December 1, 2021."

Explanation:

(This amendment directs the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to evaluate enhanced public transportation services from the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station to Marine Corps Base Quantico in Prince William and Stafford Counties.)

Item 443 #1s

SJ 50: Commonwealth Corridor Study

Transportation

Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Language

Language:

Page 433, following line 50, insert:

"E. Out of the amounts in this Item for Passenger and Freight Rail Assistance Programs, \$300,000 the first year is allocated to study the feasibility of an east-west Commonwealth Corridor passenger rail service connecting Hampton Roads, Richmond, and the New River Valley consistent with the provisions of SJ 50 of the 2020 General Assembly."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides funding from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the Commonwealth Corridor Study, established through SJ 50 of the 2020 General Assembly.)

Item 443 #2s

Shortline and Excursion Railroad

Transportation

Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Language

Language:

Page 433, following line 50, insert:

"E. The Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall work with the Virginia Museum of Transportation to determine the feasibility of providing funding from the Shortline Railway Preservation and Development Program for improvements to a federally-classified shortline rail line, located in Roanoke, Virginia and transferred to the Museum from Norfolk Southern. The Director shall report on the potential eligibility of the rail line and its proposed projects to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Appropriations Committee no later than November 1, 2020."

Explanation:

(This amendment directs DRPT to investigate the eligibility of a rail line formerly owned by Norfolk Southern for receiving financial assistance from the Shortline Railway Preservation and Development Program.)

Item 443 #3s

Commonwealth Railway Extension Feasibility Study

Transportation

Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Language

Language:

Page 433, following line 50, insert:

"E. From the amounts in this item for Passenger and Freight Rail Financial Assistance, \$2,000,000 the first year and \$1,500,000 the second year is allocated for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to conduct an environmental impact analysis and feasibility assessment for an extension of the Commonwealth Railway to connect the existing Norfolk Southern and CSX main lines to the the existing Commonwealth Railway median rail line at Pughsville Road. As part of this review, the Department shall develop a cost estimate for the Commonwealth Railway Mainline Safety Relocation Project Phase 2, I-664 Pughsville Road to Bowers Hill. The Department shall complete the assessment no later than June 30, 2021 and communicate its findings to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Transportation, the House Appropriations Committee and the House Transportation Committee."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides funding for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to conduct an environmental and feasibility study and develop a cost estimate for the Commonwealth Railway Mainline Safety Relocation Project Phase 2.)

Item 446 #1s

Mobility Talks International

Transportation

Department of Transportation

Language

Language:

Page 434, line 38, following "needs.", insert:

"Included in the amounts in this Item, \$50,000 the first year from the allocations to the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment is provided for sponsorship support of the fifth annual Mobility Talks International (MTI) Conference in January, 2021. The Director of the Office of Innovation shall actively identify and engage connected and autonomous vehicle stakeholders in the Commonwealth in order to most effectively maximize the return on investment from participation in the MTI Conference for the operation of unmanned systems throughout Virginia."

Explanation:

(This amendment directs \$50,000 from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment in FY 2021 to support the fifth annual Mobility Talks International (MTI) Conference being held in Washington, D.C. on January 27-28, 2021. MTI brings together industry leaders with policymakers from across the nation and around the world to exchange ideas on best practices related to the development and regulation of connected and autonomous vehicles.)

Item 451 #1s

Financial Assistance for City/Town Road Maintenance

Transportation	FY20-21	FY21-22	
Department of Transportation	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	NGF

Language:

Page 437, line 17, strike "\$1,029,300,669" and insert "\$1,030,300,669".

Page 437, line 17, strike "\$1,036,179,898" and insert "\$1,037,179,898".

Page 437, line 19, strike "\$395,959,093" and "\$411,291,188" and insert: "\$396,959,093" and "\$412,291,188".

Page 437, line 28, strike "\$482,300,669" and "\$499,479,898" and insert: "\$483,300,669" and "\$500,479,898".

Page 438, following line 4, insert:

"E. The Department of Transportation shall adjust annually for inflation the payments made as part of Financial Assistance to Localities distributions. The rate shall be adjusted annually based on the greater of (i) the change in the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the U.S. Department of Labor for the previous year or (ii) zero, and report such inflation adjustment to the Commonwealth Transportation Board."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides \$1.0 million NGF in each year to increase funding for street maintenance payments to localities, held constant in FY 2020. Payments to localities for road maintenance would be adjusted for inflation.)

Item 459 #1s

Waterway Maintenance Fund

Transportation	FY20-21	FY21-22	
Virginia Port Authority	\$650,000	\$650,000	NGF

Language:

Page 445, line 50, strike "\$5,958,525" and insert "\$6,608,525".

Page 445, line 50, strike "\$5,962,325" and insert "\$6,612,325".

Page 446, line 24, strike "\$1,350,000 the first year and \$1,350,000 the second year" and insert "\$2,000,000 the first year and \$2,000,000 the second year".

Page 446, following line 41, insert:

"2. In making grant awards from the Fund beginning in Fiscal Year 2021, substantial and preferred consideration shall be given to projects along the Appomattox River serving a locality or localities whose individual or collective Composite Fiscal Stress Index exceeds the Commonwealth's standard for Median Household Income and may award a grant of up to 90 percent of the total project cost."

Explanation:

(This amendment increases the appropriation to the Waterway Maintenance Fund to \$2.0 million in each year to support shallow-draft dredging projects and authorizes eligibility for funding of the Appomattox River dredging project in the City of Petersburg at a 90 percent rate. The increased allocation to the Waterways Maintenance Fund results in a corresponding reduction in available general fund revenues of \$650,000 annually.)

Item C-72 #1s

Portsmouth Marine Terminal

Central Appropriations

Central Capital Outlay

Language

Language:

Page 505, strike line 31 through line 33 and insert:

"B. Pursuant to § 2.2-2260 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Public Building Authority is authorized to issue bonds in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$40,000,000, plus amounts needed to fund issuance costs, reserve funds, original issue discount, interest prior to and during acquisition, construction, or renovation and for one year after completion thereof, and other financing expenses, in order to finance a capital project at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal of the Virginia Port Authority consisting of the expansion, renovation, and improvement of infrastructure for the offshore wind supply chain; provided, however, that such debt may only be issued if the MEI Project Approval Commission, established pursuant to Chapter 47 (§30-309 et seq.) of Title 30, and the Virginia Port Authority each approve a public private partnership with respect to such capital project. The General Assembly hereby appropriates the proceeds from any such bonds for the foregoing projects. Debt service on any such bonds for such project shall be provided from appropriations to the Treasury Board."

Explanation:

(This amendment provides initial oversight of the proposed terms of the Portsmouth Marine Terminal wind energy project agreement to the MEI Commission.)
