Statewide Transit Planning In Virginia
AASHTO MTAP Winter Meeting - Nov 19, 2019

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Planning Focus at DRPT

• Planning that is:
  • Strategic
  • Targeted
  • Implementable

• Focus areas:
  • Internal operations/direction
  • Supporting Statewide Multimodal Planning efforts
  • Statewide Strategic Planning Efforts:
    ▪ Integrated Mobility
    ▪ Intercity Bus
    ▪ Coordinated Human Service Mobility
  • State mandated transit agency strategic plans

Image Credit: maliasili.org
Internal Operations/Direction

• DRPT Transit and TDM Strategic Plan

• Followed goals established in agency biennial budget:
  • Goal 1 - Provide statewide leadership to improve mobility options.
  • Goal 2 - Create stable and reliable funding environment for transit, commuter assistance and rail providers to meet current and future needs.
  • Goal 3 - Identify new multi-modal transportation opportunities and assist agencies and partners in developing these successfully.
  • Goal 4 - Successful delivery of projects and programs.
Supporting Statewide Multimodal Planning

- VTrans 2045
  - VTrans lays out the overarching vision and guiding principles for transportation in the Commonwealth
  - Identifies transportation investment priorities
  - Provides direction on implementation strategies and programs to the CTB and to transportation agencies such as Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), as well as regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).
Integrated Mobility

**Responsibility & Timeline**

**1-2 Years**
- **DRPT**
  - A.2. Scoping and requirements guidance
- **A.3. Grant program restructuring**
- **B.1. Statewide technology contracts**
- **B.2. Statewide business intelligence platform and data analytics**
- **B.3. TNC partnership(s)**

**2+ Years**
- **DRPT**
  - A.1. Evaluate performance metrics
- **A.6. Update DRPT’s Multimodal System Design Guidelines**
- **B.2. Statewide business intelligence platform and data analytics**

**Ongoing Projects**
- **Local Agencies**
  - C.1. Fare collection technology projects
  - C.2. Real-time data technology projects
  - C.3. Pilot projects – new service models
- **DRPT and Local Agencies**
  - A.4. Shared mobility information forum
  - A.5. Workforce training and development
  - C.4. Research projects and university partnerships

**Recommendations**

**A. DRPT Program Development**

**B. Statewide Contracts and Platforms**

**C. Local Projects**
Intercity Bus

- Connect underserved communities to interregional bus, rail, and air travel
- Provide travel options in corridors where alternatives to the personal vehicle are limited or do not exist
- Supplement service of private providers – fill gaps and make connections
Coordinated Human Service

• Former: CHSM Plans by planning district commission (PDC) region
  • More than 20 plans
  • Dividing plans made them hyper local and relevant, but made it hard to synthesize and address common issues
• New: One statewide plan with regional elements
  • Many of the challenges that exist in one region exist in another.
  • Identifies statewide gaps and proposes broad solutions
  • The regional elements address the unique challenges, needs, and goals of a single area while building on statewide solutions where appropriate
Urban Transit Agency Strategic Plans

- Required for agencies serving areas with population greater than 50k and more than 20 buses
- Major Components:
  - Assessment of state of good repair needs
  - Review of the performance of fixed-route bus service
  - Evaluation of opportunities to improve operating efficiency of the transit network
  - Examination and identification of opportunities to share services where multiple transit providers' services overlap
  - Examination of opportunities to improve service in underserved areas
Upcoming Statewide Planning Efforts

- Capital Needs Assessment
- Economic Impacts of Transit
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