



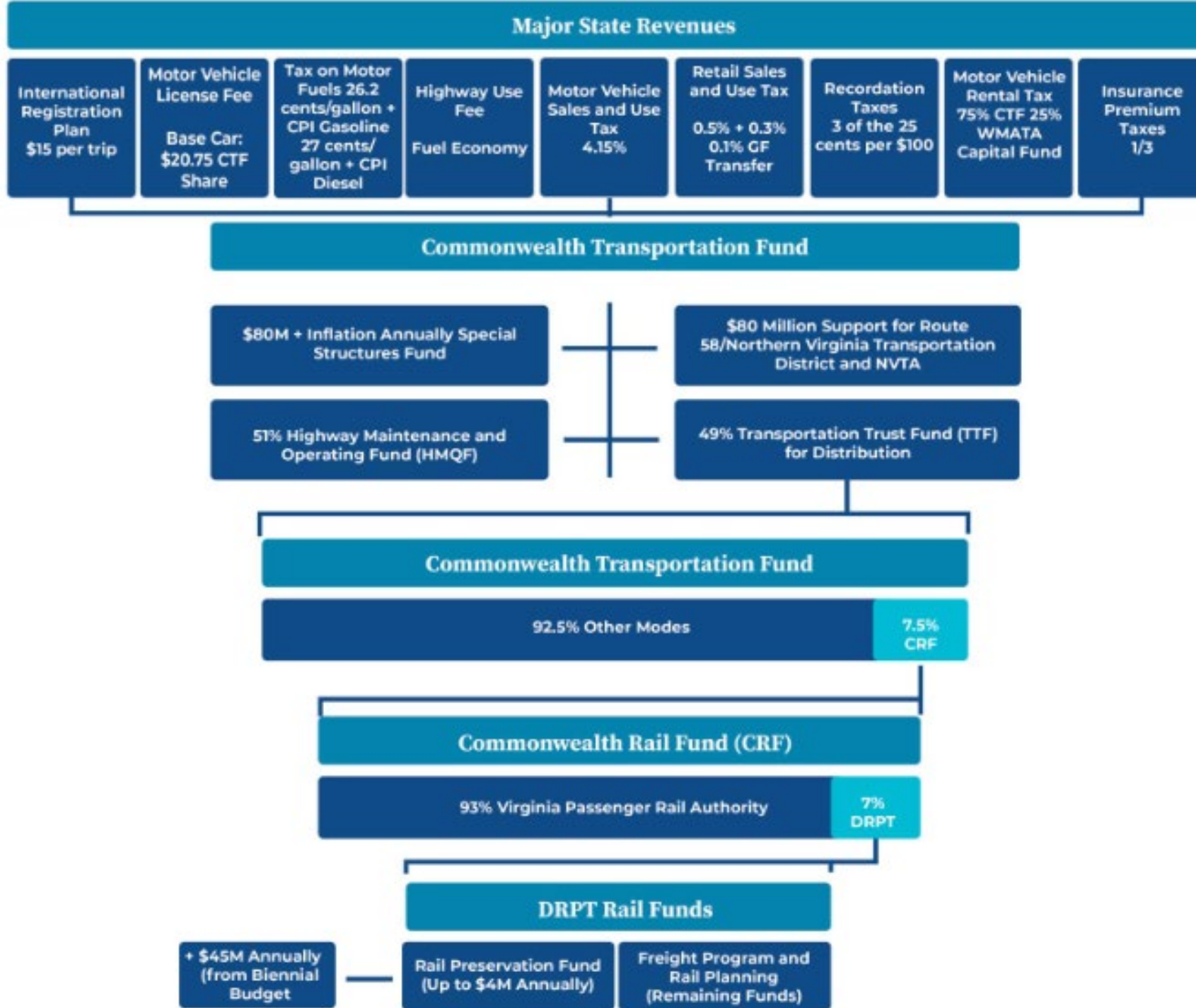
Virginia Rail Programs

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Rail Funding



Rail Responsibilities

	RAIL	
	FREIGHT	PASSENGER
Funding Administration	DRPT	VPRA
Corridor Planning	DRPT	VPRA
Statewide Planning	DRPT	
Programming/SYIP	DRPT	VPRA
Policy Setting	DRPT	VPRA
Design/Construction		VPRA
ROW/3 rd Party		VPRA
Operations Oversight		VPRA



Rail Planning Steps



Rail Programming

DRPT Rail Grant Programs

Freight

- Funds Freight Capacity
- Private Match Required
- Robust BCA
- Performance Reporting

- Currently – 14 projects for \$134.7M

Preservation

- Funds Shortline State of Good Repair
- Class II Track Development
- 30% Private Match Required
- Multi-year Approach

Industrial Access

- Economic Development Incentive
- 30% Private Match Required
- Reimbursement Cap
- “Last Mile” Connectivity

Freight Fund



Benefit Virginia highways



Improve economy



Increase goods movement

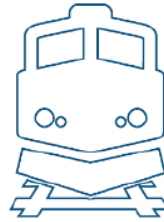
§ 33.2-1526.4. Commonwealth Rail Fund

"... The remaining seven percent shall remain in the Fund for the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for planning purposes and for grants for rail projects not administered by the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority."

Eligibility

- Align with state goals
- Network capacity expansion
- Minimum of 30% design complete

Eligible Projects



- Railways: Mainline, siding, crossover, yards, terminals, and storage tracks
- Railroad equipment
- Rolling stock
- Right-of-way acquisition
- Rail facilities
- Signaling
- Engineering and design
- Environmental
- 30% design complete

Eligible Recipients



- Freight rail operators
- Virginia Port Authority
- Local and regional governments
- Non-profit organizations
- Private companies
- Any combination thereof

Not Eligible



- Railroad operating expenses
- Passenger rail subsidies
- Passenger rail capacity expansion
- Equipment to handle, store, process, load, or unload goods

Scoring

All grant applications must meet the minimum threshold of eligibility

Benefit-Cost Analysis	Point Values	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 points = BCA score below 50th percentile of applications• 6 points = BCA score 50th percentile or above• 7 points = project with highest BCA score	Benefit-Cost Analysis	7
Matching Funds	Matching Funds	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 points = 30% match• 3 points = 40% match• 6 points = 50% match	Project Readiness	4
Project Readiness	Statewide Goals	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 points = 60% design complete• 4 points = 90% design complete	Statewide Goals	3
Statewide Goal Alignment	Total	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 point awarded for each goal met in Statewide Rail Plan (up to 3 points)	Total	20

Rail Preservation

- 9 Shortline railroads in Virginia
- Supports State of Good Repair
- Supports “last mile” service for small and medium sized businesses
- Project types include – Bridge Upgrades, rail and tie upgrades, crossing upgrades, siding and signal upgrades, switch heaters, tunnel upgrades, and transload sites
- Grant funds are based on a 70/30% split (70% state funds / 30% grantee match)
- Projects can be single or multi-year
- Currently 49 single and multi-year projects in Six Year Improvement Program for a total of \$111.8M
- Carloads must be reported each year and 15 year contingent interest

Rail Preservation

- Scoring based on prioritization process:
 - Program Goals
 - State Initiatives
 - Cost Effectiveness
 - Applicant Priority

Yes/
No

- Program Eligibility – project supports program goals

25
Points

- State of Good Repair

10
Points

- Maintain Operational Efficiency

3
Points

- Aligns with Additional State Priorities (State Rail Plan)

5
Points

- Critical Infrastructure

3
Points

- Regional Economic Benefit

3
Points

- Supports Past RPF Projects & Investments

3
Points

- Supports Rail Industrial Access Grant Investments

Rail Industrial Access

- Economic development incentive fund that provides funding to new or expanding businesses to defray the cost of rail access and encourage truck diversion to railways
- DRPT – Virginia Economic Development Partnership and Jurisdictional Coordination
- Up to \$450,000 per jurisdiction each fiscal year
- Applications accepted year-round
- Program updated recently to allow smaller projects to be competitive
- Requires Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Approval

Rail Industrial Access

- Grant funds are based on a 70/30% split (70% state funds / 30% grantee match)
- Must Score 50 of 100 points for recommendation to the CTB
- Approximately 60 days from receipt of complete application packet to CTB Action (vote)
- 3-year performance period with 15 year contingent interest
- Must meet a minimum threshold of carloads

20
Points

- Anticipated Carloads

20
Points

- New Full Time Equivalent Positions (scoring purposes only)

10
Points

- RIA investment as a percentage of overall capital investment.

20
Points

- Ratio: Local Unemployment to State Unemployment Rate

10
Points

- VEDP Coordination and Support

10
Points

- Percentage of non-state contributions to track construction

10
Points

- Contributes to long term viability of a shortline

Grant Management

- Agreements
 - Once a project has been approved and funded, an agreement is executed, which allows the grantee to further develop a detailed scope, schedule, and budget.
- Notice to Proceed
 - The scope, schedule, and budget are used to request a notice to proceed for construction. DRPT must issue a notice to proceed before construction activities commence.
- DRPT Oversight
 - DRPT will conduct routine site visits and gather progress reporting as the project moves forward. The grantee is responsible for project management duties.
- Reimbursement
 - The Freight program is reimbursement based, meaning the grantee spends money up front and is reimbursed once an appropriately document invoice is submitted.
- Contingent Interest
 - The Commonwealth will hold an interest in the improvements to ensure the infrastructure remains in service. Recommended length of interest is 6+ years for FREIGHT and 15 years for Preservation and Industrial Access.
- Reporting
 - Grantee will be responsible for reporting annual carload information. RIA reports for 3 years, FREIGHT for 6 years, and Preservation reports every year.

Recent Awards

Virginia's 2022 State Rail Plan (built in Storymap) won national and state awards this spring:

- Best Digital Application at the VAMLIS 2023 Conference in Harrisonburg, VA
- The Storymap also won 1st place in the "Savvy Mapper" Web Application Competition at the AASHTO GIS Transportation (GIS-T) Conference

Virginia State Rail Map also won two awards at the GIS-T Conference:

- 1st in the People's Choice Awards (voted on by GIS professionals from every state DOT)
- 2nd in the Best Official Transportation Publication category



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