

March 19, 2009:

CTB discusses state (SYIP) and federal (ARRA) funding

The Commonwealth Transportation Board received three timely and important presentations at its monthly work session meeting on March 18:

1. [VDOT presentation and update regarding the FY 2010 - 2015 SYIP](#)
2. [VDOT presentation regarding Virginia's ARRA highway funding](#)
3. [VDRPT presentation regarding Virginia's ARRA rail and transit funding](#)

The following VACo summary highlights key points from each presentation. The links direct members to each presentation.

VACo's Larry Land attended the CTB's March meetings and filed [this helpful and timely summary about state and federal funding](#).

1. VDOT outlines Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) funding hurdles: [VDOT presentation and update regarding the FY 2010 - 2015 SYIP](#)

The VDOT leadership posed the following key but rhetorical question to the CTB: "Can we continue to draw down all available federal funding without additional resources - other than debt?" Resolution to Virginia's transportation funding problem obviously requires significant new and dedicated state funding approved by a General Assembly and governor.

VDOT also outlined its "next steps" to drawdown federal dollars in the new SYIP (FY 2010-2015): "We are having the Districts review and identify available resources in previous allocations - allocations from FY 2009 back that we can use to fund federally qualifying projects to obligate all of our federal funds for Federal FY 2009."

2. VDOT outlines ARRA highway funding: [VDOT presentation regarding Virginia's ARRA highway funding](#)

The VDOT leadership discussed the details about ARRA funding including its next planning steps.

The Federal Priorities:

- Meet all federal planning requirements (i.e. states are not exempt from federal environmental and procurement processes)
- Complete projects within 3 years (Feb. 17, 2012)

- Take into consideration allocating dollars in economically distressed areas (per capita income and unemployment rate data).

VDOT's Next Steps:

- Governor certifications and decisions (to make Virginia eligible for funding)
- VDOT and DRPT state budget amendments for FY 2009 (included in the governor's forthcoming budget amendments to be considered by the General Assembly on April 8)
- SYIP amendments for FY 2009-2014
- State Transportation Improvement Plan amendments*
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- Obligate funding for projects
- Advertise projects

* The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is a four-year document that identifies those highway construction and maintenance and transit projects that will utilize federal funding, or for which federal approval will be required. This document includes, by reference, the approved Transportation Improvement Program for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) areas. Additionally, the STIP includes all federally funded highway projects located outside the MPO areas.

3. VDRPT outlines ARRA rail and transit funding: [VDRPT presentation regarding Virginia's ARRA rail and transit funding](#)

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation leadership discussed specific details about ARRA funding for Virginia including transit and rail dollars – including Amtrak funding.

Summary of Key Rail/Transit Dates:

- March 19: Amtrak funds awarded
- April 15-16: DRPT presents recommended rural and small urban transit projects to CTB
- April 18: Strategic plan for high speed and intercity rail issued
- May 18: Criteria issued for Supplementary Discretionary Grants for a National Surface Transportation System
- June 19: Guidance issued on high speed and intercity rail grant terms
- July 1: Transit applications due to FTA
- Aug. 16: Applications due for supplemental Discretionary Grants for a National Surface Transportation System

Staff contacts: [Larry Land](#) and [Mike Edwards](#)