2023 General Assembly
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Andrew Wright
Chief of External Affairs & Strategic Initiatives
January 24, 2023
Changes to the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund

- Makes changes to § 33.2-1526.1 regarding the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund by creating a separate category of funds for the Virginia Railway Express (VRE)---Virginia’s sole commuter rail provider
- Provides additional Commonwealth Transportation Board oversight requirements for VRE and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Patrons: Delegate Terry Austin (HB1496) and Senator John Cosgrove (SB1079)
- One of the Governor’s two transportation priorities for 2023 Session
Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund
Current Distribution of State Dollars

- **Operating:**
  - Distributed via performance metrics to support transit operations (excluding WMATA)

- **Capital:**
  - Allocated via an application-based prioritization process to support transit capital purchases (excluding WMATA)

- **NVTC/WMATA:**
  - Distributed for operating assistance and capital expenditures

- **Transit Ridership Incentive Program:**
  - Allocated to support regional connectivity and low-income programs

- **Special:**
  - Support for transportation demand management, pilot projects, and provide technical assistance

- **“Off the Top” Deductions:**
  - WMATA PRIIA ($50M)
  - State Safety Oversight ($2M)
  - Paratransit ($1.5M)
  - DRPT Administrative Costs (up to 5%)

FY21: DRPT allocated $13.4M to VRE for operating assistance and capital projects
VRE will not receive funding for capital and operating assistance in the same manner as other transit agencies that predominately provide bus service.

Separate category of **up to 3.5%** within the CMTF dedicated for VRE:
- CTB will determine exact share by using performance-based metrics specific to commuter rail
- Funds not used will be redistributed to the statewide capital program for use by other transit systems

Changes will go into effect with the FY2025 Six Year Improvement Program.
VRE FY2025-2029 Maximum Allocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2025</td>
<td>16.3M</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2026</td>
<td>16.6M</td>
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<td>FY2027</td>
<td>16.9M</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2028</td>
<td>17.3M</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2029</td>
<td>17.6M</td>
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CTB Oversight

- VRE is required to submit a detailed operating budget and proposed capital expenditures annually to the Board by February 1
  - The Board may withhold 20 percent if VRE fails to do so
  - VPRA has similar requirement