

# Update on Federal and State Initiatives for Transportation Services for the Disabled

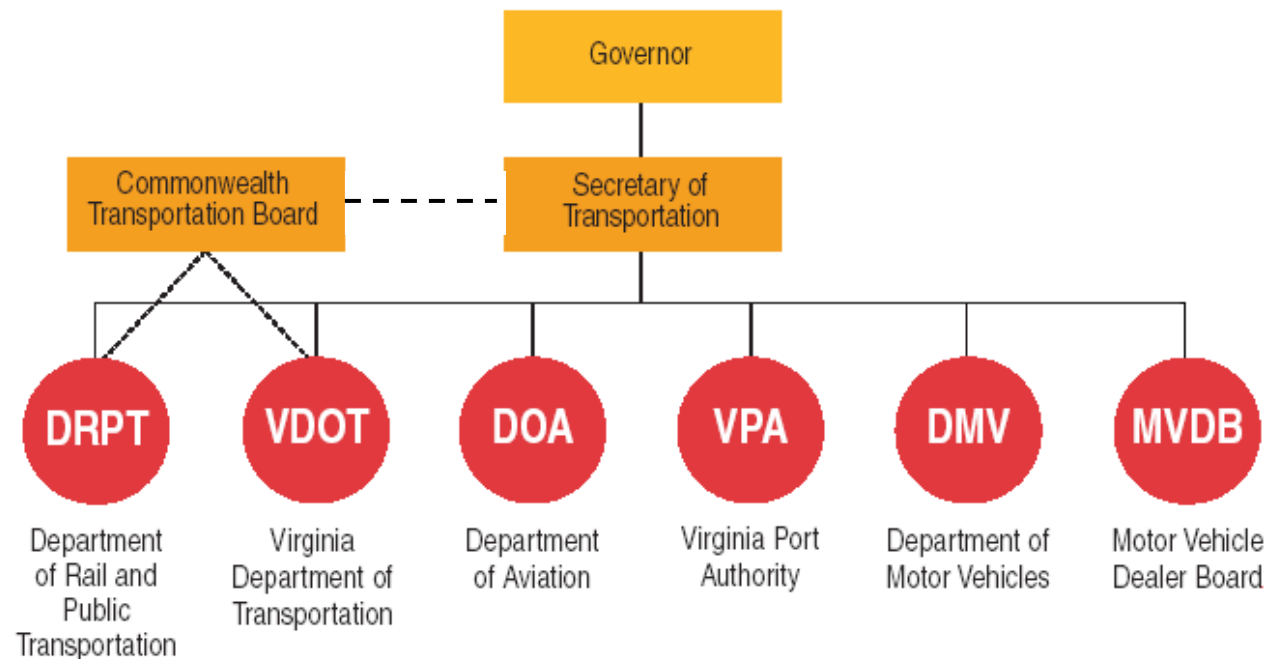
Virginia Department of Rail and Public  
Transportation (DRPT)

A Presentation to the Virginia Disability Commission  
October 16, 2007

[www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov)

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# Who is DRPT?



- ❑ 40 employees, three offices
- ❑ Work with over 100 public and private partners to provide project management services, planning support, technical expertise, financial support and program advocacy



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# Three Main Areas of Activity

- Funding Support
- Advocacy
- Planning and technical support

## ☐ Rail

- Freight rail
- Passenger rail

## ☐ Transit

- Public transit systems and services
- Special needs transportation

## ☐ Congestion Management

- Ridesharing: carpools, vanpools
- Incentive programs for employers
- Telework



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**In 2005, federal transportation programs were reauthorized in the SAFETEA-LU Act. The Act includes some significant changes...**

**SAFETEA-LU  
(Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient  
Transportation Equity Act)**

## Federal SAFETEA-LU Programs Administered by DRPT for Persons with Special Needs:

- 5310 program: Provides capital funding for transportation services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities
- Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC): Provides funds for transportation services for low income workers
- New → New Freedom Program: Provides new program funding for transportation services that go beyond the American with Disabilities Act (ADA)



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## Focus on 5310 program

- Since inception, program has provided great impetus for improvements in options for elderly and people with disabilities
- Grant funds distributed based on size of population
- Federal share 80%; Applicant 20%
- Eligible applicants include:
  - Non-profits corporations/associations
  - Approved public bodies
  - Public bodies where no non-profit is available

# Successful 5310 applicants have:

- Sound managerial and operating strategy, including the capability to monitor and maintain equipment
- Efforts to maximize coordination of transportation services
- Time for planning (process occurs on annual cycle and takes approximately 14 months to complete)



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# Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC)

- Target for individuals with lower incomes
- Access to and from employment/related activities
- Operating match 50-50 percent
- Capital/Planning match 80-20 percent



# New Freedom Program

- Program designed to support and enhance transportation for people with disabilities
- Operating match 50-50 percent
- Capital/Planning match 80-20 percent
- Expanded demand response services
- Travel training

# New Federal SAFETEA-LU Requirement

- ❑ Section 5310, JARC, and New Freedom projects selected for funding must derive from a “locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan” (a.k.a Local Coordination Plan)
- ❑ The planning process must include “representatives of public, private and non-profit transportation and human service providers and participation by members of the public”

# DRPT's Role in Developing Local Coordination Plans

- ❑ A local coordination plan will be completed for each planning district in the Commonwealth
- ❑ Each plan will include the following:
  - Assessment of available services
  - Assessment to address identified gaps
  - Strategies to address indentified gaps
  - Recommendations for implementing strategies

# DRPT's Role in Developing Local Coordination Plans

- In the spring of 2007, 11 workshops were held to assist in assessment of services and service gaps
- In the fall of 2007, 13 workshops will be held to develop strategies, activities and projects to address gaps
- Local Coordination Plans will be complete by the end of 2008



# State Initiatives

- Memorandum of Understanding related to Coordinated Human Service Transportation in Public and Nonpublic Transit Systems has been signed by the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources



# Memorandum Agreements

- Continue an interagency Transportation Work Group composed of state agencies that fund transportation services
- Develop and implement annual work plans
- Produce annual progress reports

# Memorandum Objectives

- ❑ Objective 1: The Interagency Council shall define and publish a matrix of the current service and funding level of humans service transportation from each State agency

# Memorandum Objectives

- ❑ Objective 2: The Council will identify best practices and uniform methods to examine and improve system efficiencies and cost effectiveness of human service transportation.



# Memorandum Objectives

- ❑ Objective 3: The Council will develop an Implementation Plan to meet the requirements of SAFETEA-LU and other relevant laws pertaining to human service transportation coordination

# Universal Access

- ❑ The 2007 Virginia General Assembly directed DRPT to develop a universal access system for Public Paratransit riders by June 30, 2008
- ❑ Currently, eligible persons have to qualify for each system. The intent is to transfer eligibility to all Virginia transit systems



# Examples of Coordination Programs in Virginia

- ❑ **AAA Initiatives:** Four County Transit, New River Valley Senior Services, and Bay Transit
- ❑ **Local Government Initiatives:** RADAR and JAUNT, Inc.
- ❑ **Targeted Coordination:** Fairfax County (FASTRAN) and Rappahannock Area/Fredericksburg Transit, CSB and AAA
- ❑ **Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA)** of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (funded by VBPD)



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