Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Policy and Guidelines

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



VRE Funding in Code and CTB Policy

- **Code:** Section 33.2-1526.1 (2023 Acts of Assembly) restructured the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund so that **up to 3.5 percent of its funds for distribution to VRE for capital and operating assistance**
  - Directed the Board to establish **service delivery factors** to determine the amount of funds delivered annually to VRE
  - Requires withholding 20% of funds available each year unless VRE submits a detailed annual **operating budget by February 1**
- **Policy:** Includes Code language and directs DRPT to make a recommendation to the CTB on funding based on assessment of established **service delivery factors:**
  - Change in passenger trips
  - Change in passenger trips per mile
  - Cost per passenger
  - On-time performance
  - Mean distance between failures
  - Preventable injuries and fatalities
- **Practice:** DRPT **examines trend data and compares with other commuter rail system**s to understand relative performance.
- **Finding:** While service delivery factors have not warranted reduction in recommended funding; they have allowed for productive monitoring of VRE performance.
- **Recommendation: DRPT is recommending largely administrative changes to enshrine current practice and to align with similar policies.**

Summary of Proposed Changes

Proposed Revision	Explanation
Includes explicit reference to Annual Consolidated Financial Report in submittal	Technical correction
Specifies Feb 1 due date for VRE performance measures submittal to DRPT	Technical correction; enshrines current practice
Adds requirement for VRE CEO to appear before CTB	Uses same language as in Code for WMATA
Adds a cover memo requirement providing commentary on notable factors	Enshrines current practice
Adjusts review period to every three years	In line with other CTB policies

Recommended CTB Action

- Adopt Proposed Policy and Guidelines for Implementation of Funding for the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) at the July Action Meeting.