WMATA CTB Policy Review

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Jen Monaco, NOVA Senior Program Manager Major Investments

September 16, 2025

DRPT
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Background

- Original *Policy and Guidelines for Implementation of Governance and Funding Reforms for WMATA* (CTB Policy) adopted September 18, 2018
- Requirement: *Given that the condition of the WMATA system may change over time, the CTB will consider revisions and/or updates to these guidelines at least every two years.*
- *Policy changes to date:*
  - *2021*
    - *Reflect changes to Code from 2020 session*
    - *Consider revisions and/or updates to these guidelines **at least** every two years*
    - *Technical corrections/clarifications*
  - *2023*
    - *Reflect changes to Code from 2023 session*
    - *Minor clarifications resulting from start of Phase 2 of Silver Line*

Scope of CTB Policy vs. Code

- Establishes July 1 deadline for WMATA to submit documentation asserting compliance with Code requirements.
- Provides clarification for certain broad language in Code
- Includes allowance for mitigating actions that can release withholding funding
- Specifies additional considerations such as:
  - DRPT role
  - Reservation of CTB's right to approve exceptions at any time
  - Timeline for consideration of revisions

Current Context and Recommendation

- Context:
  - No Code changes to incorporate this year
  - Code is very detailed, so CTB Policy mostly speaks to process for compliance determination; existing clarifications assist certification process for all parties
  - *DMVMoves* and SJ28 may make recommendations for Code changes for 2026 or future legislative session

- Recommendation:
  - DRPT does not recommend any change to CTB Policy language at this time but looks forward to the next 3-year Strategic Plan due July 1, 2026, which will incorporate the following components required by the 2023 Code update:

    (a) an assessment of state of good repair needs;

    (b) a review of the performance of fixed-route bus service

    (c) an evaluation of the opportunities to improve operating efficiency of the transit network;

    (d) an examination and identification of opportunities to share services where multiple transit providers' services overlap; and

    (e) an examination of opportunities to improve service in underserved areas.

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