

STATE OF THE SYSTEM

WEST VIRGINIA DOT – AGENCY OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS



The West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) is comprised of more than 6,000 men and women who work in the Division of Highways; Division of Motor Vehicles; Division of Public Transit; the Public Port Authority; the Parkways, Economic Development and Tourism Authority (W.V. Turnpike); the State Rail Authority; and the Aeronautics Commission.

WVDOT provides essential services in transportation, tourism and economic development, including:

- Safety and protection for citizens through modern operating standards for our highways, rail and airport facilities and licensing and permitting of drivers and motor vehicles.
- Transportation services including support of public transit, railway operation and maintenance, airport and river port development and highway construction and maintenance.
- Community and economic development through accessible roads, transit services, rivers, railways and airports and support for the artisan community through Tamarack and other development initiatives.
- Revenue generation through the highway trust fund; air, railway and waterway fuel funds; tolls and concession fees and fare box and local funding matches.
- Information and education through driver education, travel information, safety guidance, public involvement in transportation planning and continuing education.

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the West Virginia Department of Transportation to create and maintain for the people of West Virginia, the United States and the world a multi-modal and inter-modal transportation system that supports the safe, effective and efficient movement of people, information and goods that enhances the opportunity for people and communities to enjoy environmentally sensitive and economically sound development.

The **Aeronautics Commission** fosters and assists in the development of aeronautics in West Virginia and encourages the establishment of airports and air navigation facilities.

The **Division of Highways** is responsible for planning, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction, reconstruction, traffic regulation and maintenance of more than 34,000 miles of state roads.

The **Division of Motor Vehicles** provides driver information and education through twenty-four (24) regional offices.



The **State Rail Authority** promotes the beneficial use of rail transportation and works to protect essential rail service across the state.

The **Division of Public Transit** is the state administering agency for all federal and state programs relating to public transportation.

The West Virginia **Parkways Authority** fosters economic development and tourism through a safe and efficient mountain transportation system, the West Virginia Turnpike, and accessible tourist information centers.

WVDOT also officially has a Public Port Authority, although it is currently inactive and undergoing review.

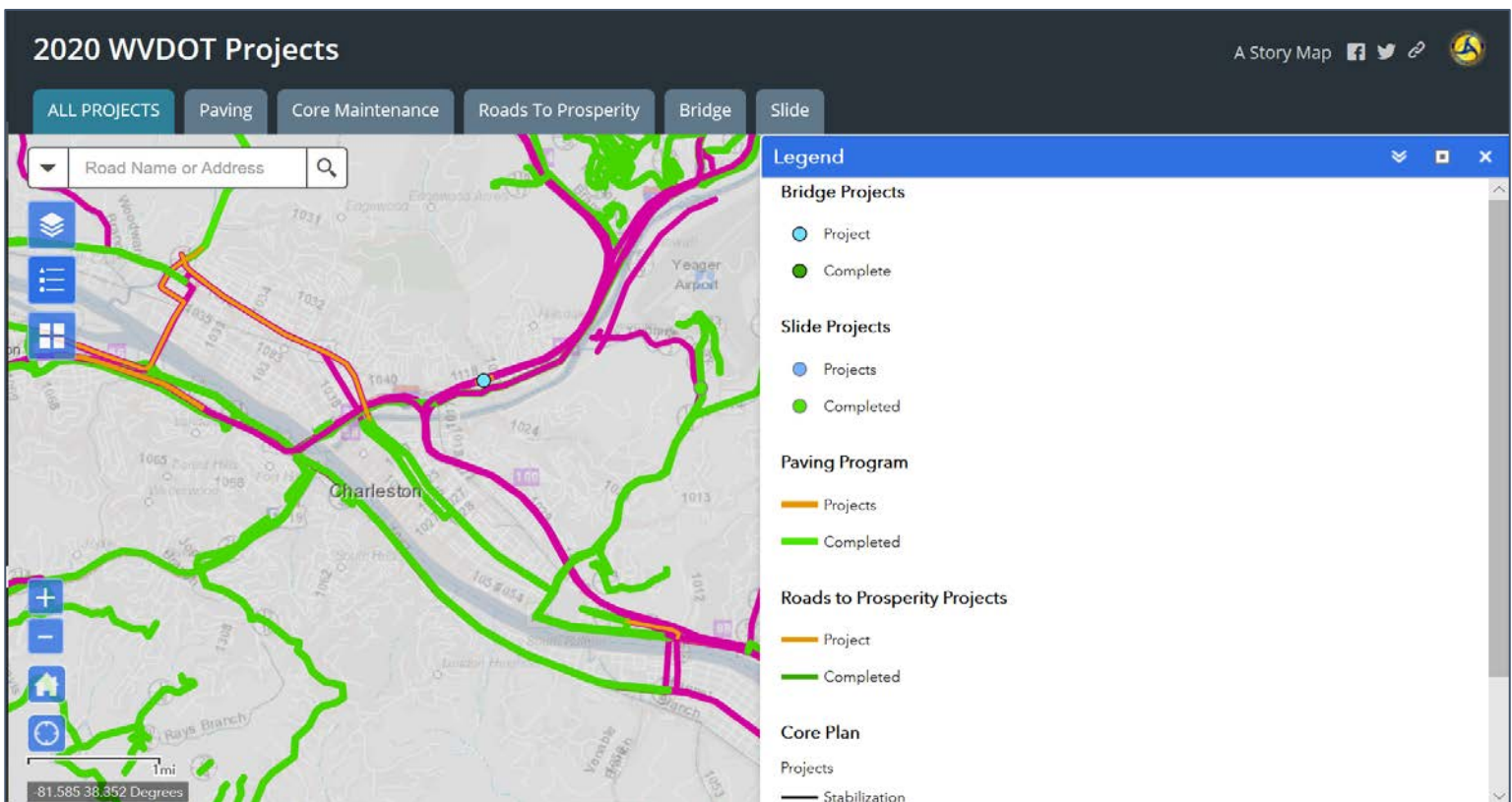
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Transparency with and accountability to the public are vital to West Virginia Department of Transportation as the Department continues to make fundamental changes to the way it works so that the whole system is more efficient, tax dollars are stretched further, and infrastructure continues to get better (not worse) over time.

Dedication to transparency is apparent through WVDOT's [interactive roadwork map](#), which displays projects that are currently underway, ones that are about to be started, and ones that have already been completed. The map's data, including the status of each project, is updated every two weeks as roadwork continues. Through social media, press events and other means of reaching out, WVDOT lets citizens learn more about the agencies responsibilities and how they fulfill them. As an example of this commitment to communications and transparency, WVDOT recently started a new podcast providing a direct link for the leadership team and others within the WVDOT to share information.



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On October 7, 2017, 73 percent of West Virginians that went to the polls voted for the Roads to Prosperity program. WVDOT and its partners are now delivering the largest infrastructure program West Virginia has ever experienced. As of October 2020, the following accomplishments have been realized across the program:

For the full program

\$2.97 billion total funding

48,000 jobs supported

In the first three years of Roads to Prosperity

811 completed projects

\$482.9 million in total investment

1,543 improved miles across all 55 counties

Work Zone Safety:

In the past 5 years, work zones resulted in 4,400 deaths (85 percent of which were the driver or passenger) and 200,000 injuries.

As part of the Roads to Prosperity program and other ongoing construction and maintenance investments across the highway system, WVDOT is leading an extensive awareness and education program focused on reminding drivers on how to drive safe through work zones. This approach focuses on highlighting how work zones are extremely important, not just for the workers that build, repair and maintain the roads, but also for the motorists that drive through the complex array of signs, barrels, and lane changes.



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Partnerships

WVDOT guides statewide and regional transportation planning efforts, working in close partnership with Federal, regional, local agencies, and private and non-profit organizations to help identify transportation system needs and to help develop transportation plans to address those needs in the most cost-effective manner. WVDOT, rather than county or local governments, has ownership and responsibility for over 90 percent of the roadways within the state. It is important that WVDOT coordinates its transportation priorities and associated multi-modal improvements that can realistically be funded and successfully implemented with its identified partners.

Federal Agencies

WVDOT partners with the US Department of Transportation on several planning activities during the Federal and Statewide annual planning cycles, including the setting of performance targets and measurement of performance goals. While the Division of Highways (DOH) and Division of Public Transit (DPT) interaction is with FHWA and FTA, other WVDOT agencies such as the Aeronautics Commission, Division of Motor Vehicles, and State Rail Authority interact with multiple other USDOT agencies including the Federal Rail Administration (FRA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA), and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) among others.

An important partnership outside of the formal federal agencies is the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). ARC is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. It was established by an act of Congress in 1965 and focuses on Appalachia's economic future by providing grants, publishing research, and sponsoring learning experiences. In partnership with the West Virginia Development Office, in fiscal year 2019, ARC supported 47 projects in West Virginia totaling over \$22.5 million. These investments have been matched by \$36.3 million and are attracting an additional \$17 million in leveraged private investments in West Virginia.



Another critical federal partnership is with the US military and the West Virginia National Guard. There are two military bases in West Virginia that are also National Guard facilities. The 167th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard is stationed in West Virginia at Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base in Martinsburg. WVDOT coordinates with the military facilities on transportation access and security issues.

State Agencies

WVDOT coordinates with multiple other state agencies on issues ranging from safety and security, environmental management, preservation, licensing, economic development, elder transportation options, to tourism. Within the WVDOT, the WVDOH partners with the Governor's Highway Safety Office, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health and Human Resources on the development and implementation of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and other safety programs.



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There are multiple partnerships between WVDOH and the Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). WVDOT consults with WVDEP’s division of air quality on the development of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) which sets statewide emission goals. West Virginia’s Operation Wildflower beautification program is a joint effort between the WVDEP and WVDOH. It includes more than 250 acres of wildflowers grown along West Virginia’s roadways.



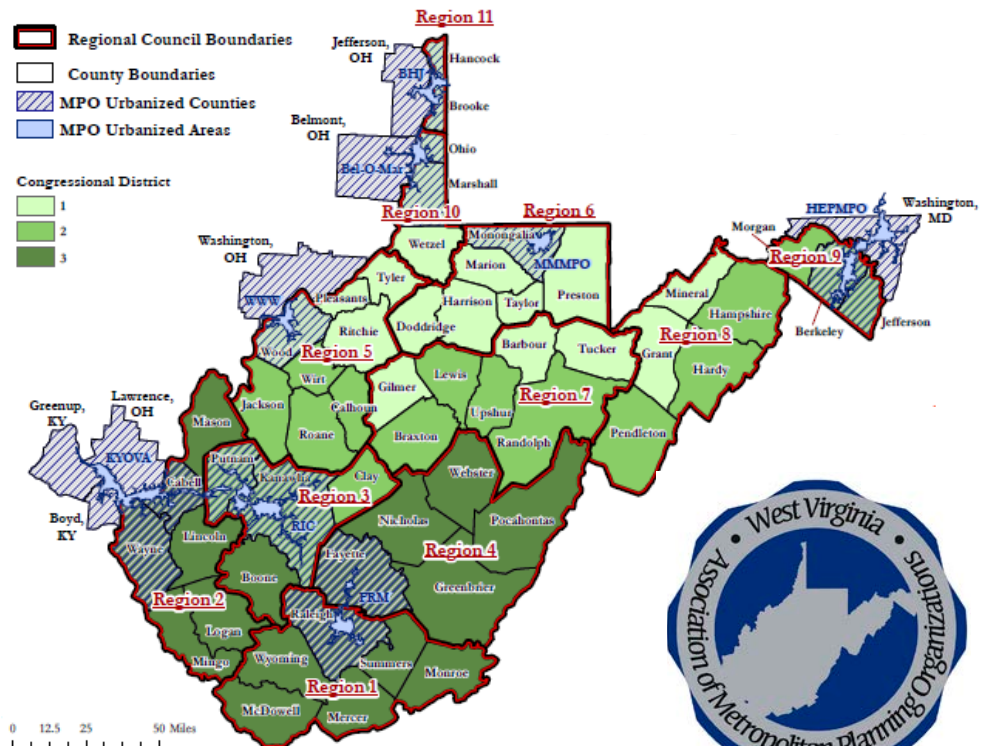
An important partnership for visitors is between the West Virginia Department of Commerce’s West Virginia Tourism Office and WVDOT, as the Tourism Office operates the West Virginia Welcome Centers.

Regional Agencies - Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Councils

The WVDOT works in close partnership with the State’s eight MPOs to identify transportation system needs in urbanized areas of West Virginia and to develop required long-range plans to address these needs. WVDOH Planning Division supports the MPOs in the development of their Federally-required work products, particularly the development of their transportation improvement programs (TIPs) and Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWPs). WVDOH’s Planning Division and WVDPT support a variety of annual MPO activities, including the development of a transportation improvement program (TIP), public involvement and stakeholder outreach, and the evaluation of transportation alternatives.

There are 11 Regional Planning and Development Councils (RP&DC) in West Virginia, three of which are non-metropolitan areas. West Virginia law stipulates that the 11 RP&DC’s cover 100 percent of the state. Therefore, all non-metropolitan local officials with responsibility for transportation are currently members of a RP&DC.

The RP&DCs focus on expansion and improvement of water and sewer facilities, infrastructure, transportation, employment, industry, small business development, housing, health care, education, and recreation. WVDOT consults with non-metropolitan RP&DCs on pertinent transportation policy, projects and/or programming, including major statewide transportation programs such as the STIP and Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan.



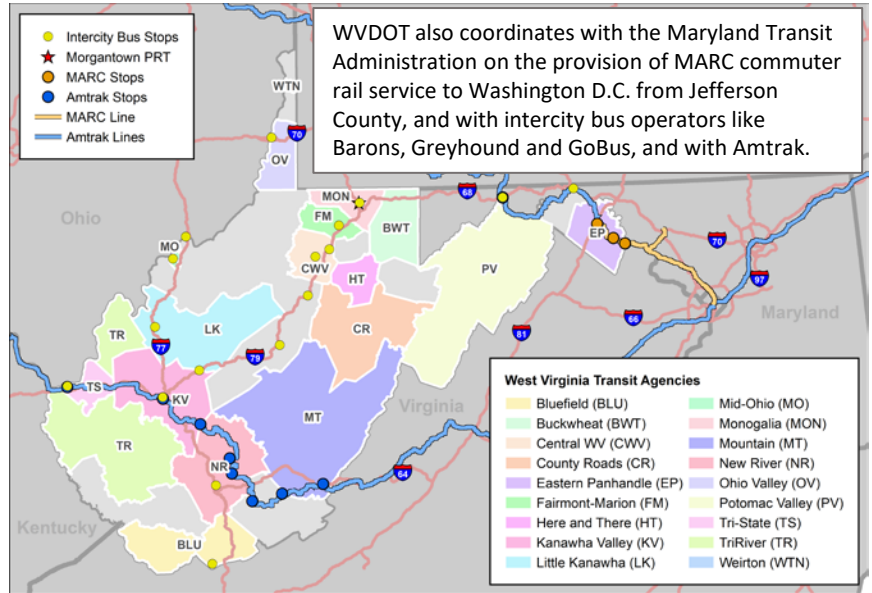
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Public Transit Providers

The Division of Public Transit (WVDPT) works with West Virginia's 18 public transit providers in addition to local mobility service providers throughout the transportation planning and programming process. WVDPT is the state administering agency for all federal and state programs relating to public transportation. Annually, DPT provides \$13 million in federal funding to subsidize small urban and rural transit providers and \$1.9 million in state funds. Federal rules require WVDOT to coordinate with public transportation providers when conducting transportation planning activities in an urbanized area not represented by an MPO and require MPOs to coordinate with "relevant" public transportation providers.



Neighboring States

WVDOT coordination with its neighbors occurs across different types of activities, including:

- Cross-State Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) enable MPO planning activities to occur across state lines, requiring coordination across State DOTs.
- Project-specific planning, engineering, and construction activities occur with neighboring State DOTs on a variety of critical projects. For example, WVDOT and the Ohio DOT are coordinating on a series of new bridges that will cross the Ohio River including the Ohio River Crossing Bridge which connects Wellsburg, WV and Brilliant, OH.



Private Partners

WVDOT partners with private organizations to enhance the state's transportation system. As part of WVDOT's Innovative Project Delivery program, WVDOT uses Public-Private Partnerships (P3s) to share the risks and rewards of designing, constructing, financing, operating, and/or maintaining publicly-owned assets for projects to be completed earlier, on budget, and at an enhanced value-for-money to the public owner. Another example of the WVDOT working with private organizations is the WV Aeronautics Commission coordinating with private, air cargo, commercial, and passenger operators to understand air operations issues and find ways to increase those operations in the state. The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce is an important partner and voice for businesses in the state. Understanding business concerns is an important factor to when developing transportation plans and implementing transportation solutions.