

Goals and Objectives

The Division of Public Transit has developed the following goals and objectives to assist the Division in administering all federal and state public transit programs in a safe, efficient, and effective manner.

Promote quality transportation services and systems.

- Continued operating and capital support to 11 rural public transit operators on an annual basis.
- Procure transit vehicles and shop and miscellaneous equipment for the State's public transportation systems as funding allows.
- Captured additional federal funds beyond formula allocations, if available.
- Encouraged the coordination of transportation services that will simplify access, reduce duplication and improve the cost effectiveness of transportation services in the state.

Maintain an excellent record of transit safety.

- Review vehicle specifications on an annual basis to incorporate the latest safety modifications.
- Annually recognize safe transit drivers through the Transit Excellence Program and provide training to transit employees in areas such as defensive driving, railroad crossing safety, fatigue awareness, emergency procedures, and preventative maintenance.
- Continue the development of the State Safety Oversight Program which requires the state to provide safety oversight of the Morgantown Personal Rapid Transit (MPRT) system which is operated by West Virginia University.
- Issue a twice yearly safety newsletter aimed at transportation drivers.

Promote excellence in management of the State's transit systems.

- Conduct on-site reviews of transit systems and provide follow-up technical assistance to ensure compliance with federal requirements and promote the operation of efficient and effective transportation services.
- Provide management training opportunities and access to other training for public transportation personnel such as supervisory training, defensive driving, mechanics training, and many other topics.
- Update of computerized pre-trip inspection systems for the State's rural transit program.
- Provide driver training in the safe and proper way to transport seniors and disabled passengers, emergency evacuation, sensitivity training and other driver/passenger techniques.

Accomplishments

Under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation, or FAST Act, the Division will receive the following grants: Section 5305 Statewide Transportation Planning Program; Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities; Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas; Section 5329 State Safety Oversight; Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities. Each year these grants provide approximately \$14,000,000 in federal funding for public transit in West Virginia.

With the above-mentioned funding, the Division completed several major projects towards the betterment of public transit in West Virginia in FY2018:

- Purchased 31 ADA compliant vans and 14 non-compliant vans for private non-profit agencies.
- Purchased and delivered transit vehicles to the following public transportation systems:
 - Bluefield Area Transit in Bluefield
 - Buckwheat Express in Kingwood
 - Central West Virginia Transit Authority (CENTRA) in Clarksburg
 - Country Roads Transit in Elkins
 - Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority (EPTA) in Martinsburg
 - Fairmont-Marion County Transit Authority in Fairmont
 - Here & There Transit in Philippi
 - Little Kanawha Transit Authority in Grantsville
 - Mountain Transit Authority (MTA) in Summersville
 - Potomac Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA) in Petersburg
 - TriRiver Transit Authority in Hamlin
- Approximately 400 individuals were trained in a variety of safety topics and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Conducted 15 on-site reviews of Section 5310 and/or 5311 recipients during FY2018 to ensure compliance with program requirements.
- Received FTA certification of the State Safety Oversight program providing safety oversight on the WVU PRT.
- Initiated a planning project in the eleven Planning and Development Regions and the KYOVA TMA for the update of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plans.
- Retained an architectural/engineering consultant to develop plans and environmental documents for the Bluefield Area Transit transfer station in Bluefield.
- Continued I-RIDE 79 Intercity Bus Service between Morgantown and Charleston under the Section 5311(f) program.

- Completed a Transit Asset Management Program/Plan to FTA standards.
- Developed an RFQ for a consultant to provide technical assistance for development of a new generation of small urban area transit provider safety plans based on the Safety Management System safety methodology.
- Began a partnership with the National Transit Institute to bring a new class on Mobility Management to West Virginia with an expected national audience.
- Worked with the Division of Highways and Department of Environmental Protection to secure a portion of West Virginia's share of the Volkswagen Settlement fund for transit vehicle replacement.
- Received a national FTA grant award from the Section 5339b Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary program for service vehicles utilized by rural transit providers.