



Meeting Date: April 14, 2026
Item Title: FY2026 Regional Public Transportation Plan

BACKGROUND

In the Spring of 2020, the Virginia General Assembly passed House Bill 1541, which created the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) and enacted dedicated sales and fuel taxes to support transportation improvements within the Greater Richmond Region (Planning District 15). The legislation includes a provision that 15% of the new revenues for the CVTA should go toward public transportation through GRTC. The legislation directs GRTC to develop a plan, in collaboration with the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO), for regional public transportation within Planning District 15.

“The GRTC shall develop a plan for regional public transportation within Planning District 15 in collaboration with the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization in conformance with the guidelines required by §33.2-286”

The plan is an annual requirement, identifying how GRTC plans to spend CVTA funds in the upcoming fiscal year. Like previous years, the FY2026 plan addresses the following priorities.

- Ensure the stability and maintenance of transit operations.
- Prioritize capital requirements to maintain assets in good repair and provide targeted rider and business efficiencies and improvements.
- Advance planning studies for operational and capital mobility priorities and needs in the RVA region.
- Prepare for service updates in FY2026.

In FY2025, GRTC focused on expansion efforts and service level increases. Table 1 below summarizes the FY2025 service priorities.

Table 1: FY2025 Service Priorities

FY2025 Service Priorities		
Route/Service	Change	Funding Source
Route 1	Extended 7 miles to service Reynolds Community College, and Virginia Center Commons	Demo Grant - DRPT
Route 1A	Extended 8 miles to Walmart Way in Jan 2024, minor reroute to better accommodate Johnston-Willis Hospital	Demo Grant - DRPT
Routes 7A and 7B	Frequency increase to create a 15-minute trunk service along Nine Mile Road	I-64 Funds
Sandston Microtransit	New Service launched July 2024	TRIP - DRPT

For FY2026, GRTC coordinated with PlanRVA and its regional partners to develop the annual Regional Public Transportation Plan. Efforts to prioritize microtransit zones and maintenance of fixed route service levels will continue in FY2026. GRTC aims to prioritize performance monitoring of the entire network following the extensive changes completed in FY2025 and years prior. Table 2 below shows a list of service priorities for FY2026.

Table 2: FY2026 Service Priorities

FY2026 Service Priorities		
Route/Service	Change	Funding Source
Route 56	Eliminated – Replaced with microtransit	-
Route 86	Eliminated – Replaced with microtransit	-
Route 88	Eliminated – Replaced with microtransit	-
Broad Rock-Cherry Gardens Microtransit	New Service	TRIP - DRPT
North Chesterfield East Microtransit	New Service	TRIP - DRPT
Sandston Microtransit	Expansion	Demo Grant - DRPT

GRTC's proposed FY2026 operational expenses are \$112M, and its proposed capital plan expenses are \$60M. The FY2026 planning studies are for 2% match for capital grants, and the allocation of \$250,000 is to match federal grants related to the transit-oriented development at the future permanent transfer station. The operational and capital costs will be funded through revenues from Federal, State, Local, and Self-Generated sources. Table 3 below summarizes the GRTC FY2026 funding request from the CVTA.

Table 3: FY2026 GRTC Funding Request

FY2026 Budget Needs	
Category	Total
Maintenance of Transit Operations	\$28.6M
Planning Studies	\$250k
Capital Matches	\$1.2M

FY2026 CVTA TRANSIT FUNDING

GRTC continues the practice of utilizing funds accrued in the prior year for the next fiscal year's operations. The estimated total CVTA transit funding to be accrued by June 30, 2025, is \$33.9M. Of that total, GRTC will spend \$30.050M on the FY2026 budget expenses. GRTC recommends restricting the difference in funds of \$3.85M to be placed in a restricted reserve for future use. The projected total CVTA transit funds GRTC would receive in FY2026 are \$35M, of which the entirety would be placed into the reserve for FY2027 use.

RECOMMENDATION

GRTC recommends that the CVTA support the decision to restrict \$3.85M of the FY2026 funds to a reserve for future use, approve the GRTC FY2026 Regional Public Transportation Plan, and progress it forward to the CVTA for approval.