



PRESS RELEASE



Planning District Commission

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Town of
Ashland
Counties of
Charles City
Chesterfield
Goochland
Hanover
Henrico
New Kent
Powhatan
City of
Richmond

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RICHMOND REGION OFFICIALS ALLOCATE \$140 MILLION IN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization approves air quality and surface transportation programs

Richmond, VA – On Thursday, elected officials from the Richmond Region’s nine localities united together to fund over \$140 million for transportation projects over the next six years in the Richmond Region (see attached list of projects funded).

The vote by the RAMPO board allocated funds from two regional transportation programs – nearly \$92 million from the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and nearly \$49 million from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

The RSTP and CMAQ programs are federally-funded transportation programs that empower local decision-making, enabling communities to cooperatively determine the future of transportation in their region. Although the federal funds are provided to and administered by the state, the project selection and allocation decisions of how to expend the funds are performed by locally-elected officials coming together as a regional council known as a metropolitan planning organization (MPO).

The Surface Transportation Program provides states and regions with flexible federal funding that may be used for a wide variety of highway and transit projects. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds are automatically suballocated to regional metropolitan planning organizations within the State.

The wide variety of RSTP investments in the Richmond Region support passenger and freight movement along the region’s surface transportation systems. The funds can be used to preserve and improve the conditions and performance on highways, bridges, tunnels, pedestrian facilities, bicycle infrastructure, and transit capital projects.

The program provides federal funding for transportation projects and programs that help improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. The federal government provides CMAQ funds to the Commonwealth of Virginia, a portion of which must be used on projects and programs selected by a regional metropolitan planning organization. Projects must be used in areas that don’t meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards or previously did not meet the standards, but now do.

The RAMPO is the federally-designated forum for regional transportation decision-making, planning, and programming. The organization's board includes elected officials from the Richmond Region's nine local jurisdictions as well as officials from regional, state, and federal transportation agencies. The RAMPO is comprised of the City of Richmond, Town of Ashland, and all or part of the Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, and Powhatan.

The allocation decisions taken by the RAMPO will be submitted to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and included in the forthcoming FY15-FY20 Six-Year Improvement Program.

A list of the projects funded by the RAMPO allocations of RSTP funds (pages 1-3) and CMAQ funds (pages 4-5) is attached to this release.

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