



Director's Update



New Year, New Leadership

Governor Glenn Youngkin appointed Tiffany Robinson as the new DRPT Director on November 12, 2024. Tiffany brings nearly 15 years of distinguished experience in state and local government, with a proven track record of leadership in strategic policy development, public administration, and community-focused initiatives.

Transitioning from her most recent role as Deputy Chief of Staff in the Governor's Office, Tiffany has been a dedicated partner to the transportation team since September 2023. In addition to transportation, her portfolio in the Governor's Office covered a diverse portfolio including labor, gaming, health and human services, and agriculture.

Prior to her tenure in Virginia, Tiffany served as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, where she managed a workforce of over 1,800 employees and an operating budget of \$1.7 billion during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her career also features impactful roles as a Deputy Chief of Staff in the Maryland Governor's Office and as Assistant Secretary in Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development. Her contributions to housing, community development, and regional transit-oriented projects reflect her deep-rooted dedication to public service and economic development.



A graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a bachelor's degree in political science, she also earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore School of Law.



In December, Director Robinson announced that DRPT's Chief of Administration, Jennifer Mayton, has been promoted to Deputy Director.

Jennifer continues her executive leadership over IT, HR, Purchasing, and Facilities Management, and she will also take on additional responsibilities as Tiffany's partner in guiding DRPT.

Jennifer brings a wealth of experience to her new role. She previously served as the Director and Deputy Director for the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity, where she provided executive leadership and managed the agency's strategic plan and performance goals. Before that, Jennifer was the Operations Director for Community Health Services at the Virginia Department of Health, overseeing operations for 118 local health departments across the Commonwealth. She also served as the Director of Administration for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, leading the administration division and contributing to the development of the agency's strategic plan.

Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and an Executive Master of Business Administration, both from Virginia Commonwealth University. Among her numerous accolades, Jennifer is a recipient of the Governor's SWaM Champion Award and a graduate of the Virginia Executive Institute and the Leadership Metro Richmond Class of 2020. She also holds Virginia Contracting Officer (VCO) and Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) certifications and is an active member of the Association of Government Accountants and the Commonwealth Management Association.

FRA Grant Award Announcement: Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program Awards for FY 23-24



On January 10, the Federal Railroad Administration announced awards for eight Virginia Rail Crossing Elimination grants. DRPT provided technical assistance and funding for five of these projects:

Portlock Road Grade Separation (Chesapeake): Project Planning and Development, including activities to support grade crossing-related improvements on Norfolk Southern-owned infrastructure and Amtrak's DC-Norfolk route in Chesapeake.

Broad Rock Boulevard Grade Separation Study and Development (Richmond): Project Planning and Development, including activities to support grade crossing-related improvements on CSX-owned infrastructure in Richmond, Virginia.

Suffolk Downtown Grade Crossing Study (Suffolk): Project Planning and Development, including activities to grade-separate Washington Street from the Norfolk Southern rail line and implement closures or improvements at an additional six at-grade crossings.

Hungary Road Grade Separation Project (Henrico County): Project Development, including activities to grade-separate Hungary Road from CSX's rail line in Henrico County, Virginia. The project will complete preliminary engineering and a NEPA reevaluation for an overpass that would eliminate the existing at-grade crossing.

Ashland At-Grade Crossing Study (Ashland): Project Planning, including activities to conduct a feasibility analysis studying combinations of potential crossing improvements, grade separations, and tunneling for seven separate railroad crossing locations within the Town of Ashland, Virginia.

DRPT identified these projects through a prioritization process developed in cooperation with VDOT's Section 130 program administrators, by working with localities to bring them to the table, and by providing technical assistance.

Additional projects in Harrisonburg, Spotsylvania County, and Giles County received funding.

Annual Report

Want to learn more about DRPT's programs and initiatives? Check out our 2024 annual report!

[2024 Annual Report](#)

Data Stories

Love data and the stories they tell? Sign up for our monthly "Data Stories" where we do a deep dive on all the data DRPT collects.

[Data Stories Sign Up](#)

Virginia Breeze 2024 Ridership



DRPT's Virginia Breeze Bus Lines reached an impressive milestone in 2024 by transporting nearly 65,000 passengers across its four routes. This is the Virginia Breeze's best year in its seven-year history and represents a 9.2% increase from 2023, highlighting the growing demand for sustainable, affordable, and reliable travel options that connect communities across the Commonwealth.

The service's four routes that operate daily in both directions demonstrated strong ridership growth, showcasing its appeal to travelers across the state:

- Valley Flyer (Blacksburg-Washington): 32,278 riders (+6.78%)
- Piedmont Express (Danville-Washington): 6,942 riders (+4%)
- Capital Connector (Martinsville-Richmond-Washington): 7,786 riders (+13%)
- Highlands Rhythm (Bristol-Washington): 17,716 riders (+14%)

The record-breaking ridership in 2024 reflects the trust Virginians place in reliable and convenient travel options. Virginia Breeze Bus Lines plays a vital role in connecting people to opportunities, whether for work, education, or visiting loved ones. DRPT is proud to support this service and remains committed to enhancing mobility throughout the Commonwealth.

[Buy Tickets!](#)

[Rail Industrial Access](#)

[ConnectingVA](#)



Did you know that under the Youngkin Administration, the Commonwealth Transportation Board has approved 15 Rail Industrial Access projects that remove trucks from Virginia's highways and promote economic development?

[Learn More!](#)

Interested in learning more about commuter benefits, van pools, and biking? These programs can save you money, reduce stress, and make your daily commute more sustainable. Check out the ConnectingVA website to learn more!

[Learn More!](#)

DRPT Quarterly Highlights

From Emporia to Arlington and everywhere in between, it has been an exciting and eventful quarter at DRPT! Our team has been hard at work celebrating ribbon cuttings for new projects, unveiling newly purchased buses, and participating in legislative forums to promote public transportation initiatives. In addition to these milestones, we've attended countless other events across the state, connecting with communities and highlighting the importance of reliable and sustainable transit. It's been a busy few months, and we're proud of the progress made in enhancing transportation options for all Virginians!







In the News

Tiffany Robinson named Director of Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Augusta Free Press

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Names New Director

Metro Magazine

Va. Appoints New DRPT Director

Virginia Business

STV Celebrates Completion of Quantico Station Expansion

Metro Magazine

Arlington Transit's Green Valley operations center ready for debut

ARLnow

Sims announces investments in Virginia

Recycling Today

Danville included in bus route connecting North Carolina to Virginia

WDBJ-TV

DRPT *Connects*

DRPT's mission is to connect and improve the quality of life for all Virginians with innovative transportation solutions. We are the Commonwealth's advocate for promoting transportation options to the general public, businesses, and community decision makers. Our vision is a connected Commonwealth with an integrated multimodal network that serves every person, every business, and every need.

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