

Transportation Funding

Board Transportation Committee
June 3, 2025

Gregg Steverson, Director
Noelle Dominguez, Coordination and Funding Division Chief
Fairfax County Department of Transportation

Transportation Funding Overview

- Different strategies are used for capital projects and transit operations
- It is rare to find large transportation projects funded by only one source
- Often a combination of local, state, regional, federal and private sources are needed
- Projects must be included in various transportation plans and programs related to those specific funding sources
- Some revenue sources have specific requirements (we discuss this in later slides)





So, You Want to Fund a Transportation Project?

Possible Funding Sources

- Federal: CMAQ/RSTP; CIG (New Starts), Transportation Alternatives, Discretionary (Low/No, INFRA, etc.)
- State: Smart Scale, Revenue Sharing, Merit, Trip
- Regional: NVTA, Commuter Choice
- Local: NVTA 30%, C&I, Bonds, Proffers



Springfield and Monument Garages



Federal Funding Sources

- Capital Investment Grants (CIG) / New Starts
  - Complex statutory framework, with a multi-year, multi-step process
  - Light rail, heavy rail, commuter rail, streetcar, and bus rapid transit projects
  - Richmond Highway BRT
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
  - Annual application cycle
  - Congestion relief, projects improving air quality
  - Richmond Highway BRT, Connector Stores, Connector Buses
- Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)
  - Annual application cycle
  - Broader category of projects eligible to use
  - Richmond Highway Widening, Frontier Drive, Soapstone Connector
- Transportation Alternatives
  - Biennial application cycle
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian facilities, Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS), Boulevards from Divided Highways, Recreational Trails
  - Bush Hill and Shrevewood SRTS Projects, Compton Road Walkway, Mason Neck Trail
- Discretionary Grants (Low- and No-Emission Grants, RAISE, INFRA, MEGA, etc.)
  - Time between cycles can vary, but usually annual
  - Each program has different criteria.
  - New low emission hybrid buses for fleet replacement



Richmond Highway

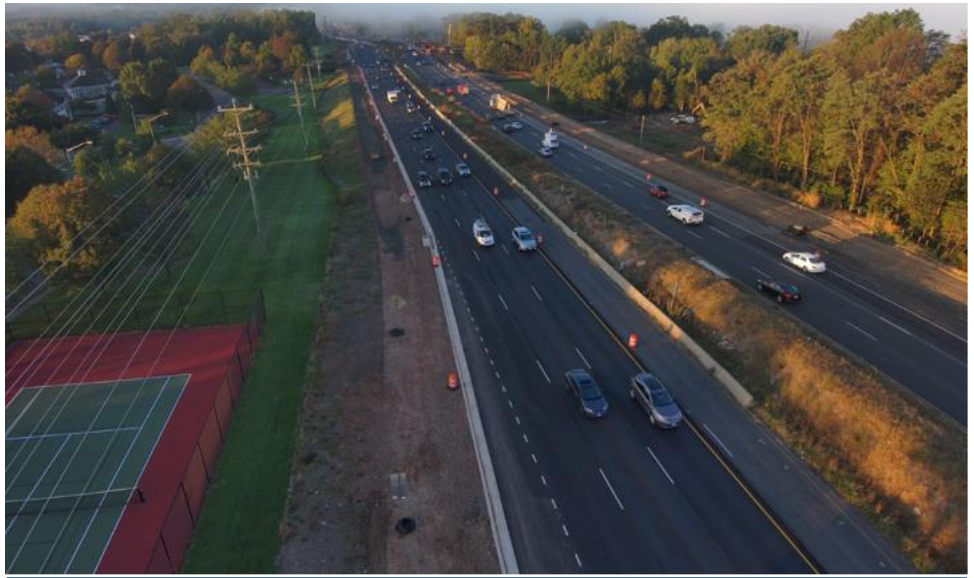


Connector Store

State Funding Sources

All approved by Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)

- Smart Scale
  - Biennial application cycle
  - Evaluated based on congestion mitigation, safety, economic development, accessibility, and environmental quality
  - Route 7 (Tysons to Reston); Braddock Road Phase 1
- Revenue Sharing
  - Biennial application cycle
  - 100% match state funding program; $5M/per year per locality, $10M/project
  - Lincoln Street; Shirley Gate Extension; Fairfax County Parkway
- Merit (Transit Capital and Operating)
  - Annual application cycle
  - Performance-based operations / project-based capital processes
  - Annual transit operating, bus replacements, garage upgrades, shop equipment
- Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)
  - Annual application cycle
  - Zero fare and low-income programs, regional connectivity, transit access / safety
  - Low-fare program, farebox update, Richmond Highway BRT



Route 28

Regional Funding Sources

- NVTA Six Year Program (SYP)
  - Biennial application cycle
  - Evaluation based on congestion mitigation, geographic/ modal balance, leveraging of other funding sources, project readiness, past performance, and public input
  - Required based on greatest congestion reduction relative to cost
  - Locality funding (total long-term) proportional to fees and taxes generated by locality
  - Richmond Highway Widening and BRT, Fairfax County Parkway (Route 29 to Route 123), West Ox Garage Expansion

- Tolls / Concessionaire Agreements: Commuter Choice (I-66 Inside the Beltway, I-95/395)
  - Annual applications (but rotate between I-66 and I-95/395)
  - Projects must be within the toll facility corridor or benefit toll road users
  - Evaluated on person throughput, travel time savings, transportation connections, accessibility and equity, diversion mitigation, cost effectiveness, and applicant preference
  - Connector Routes (396, 697, 698, 699), Bikeshare Expansion

Recent Awards

	Year Awarded	Funding Years	Amount Awarded (in millions)
Federal			
- CMAQ / RSTP	CY 2024	FY 2030	$ 35.3
- Transportation Alternatives	CY 2024	FY 2025-26	$ 5.2
- Discretionary Grants	CY 2023-2024	FY 2023-2024	$ 52.2
State			
- Smart Scale	CY 2023	FY 2028-29	$ 38.5
- Revenue Sharing	CY 2024	FY 2027-28	$ 4.6
- Merit	CY 2024	FY 2025	$ 51.7
- Trip	CY 2024	FY 2025	$ 1.7
Regional			
- NVTA SYP	CY 2024	FY 2028-29	$ 362.8
- I-66 Commuter Choice	CY 2024	FY 2025-26	$ 6.7

Local Funding Sources

- NVTA 30%
  - 30% of the revenues received by NVTA (distributed to member localities on a pro-rata basis)
  - Funding for: road construction, congestion reduction, public transportation, other improvements approved in Authority's long-range plan, or public transportation purposes
  - WMATA Capital Funding, Route 7 Widening, Frontier Drive Extension, Spot Improvements



Herndon Metrorail Station

- Commercial and Industrial Property Tax
  - County can implement rate up to 12.5¢ / $100 valuation of property (currently at maximum)
  - County can utilize funding on:
    - Road construction and associated planning, design, and right-of-way acquisition that adds new capacity, service, or access
    - Public transit construction and associated planning, design, and right-of-way acquisition that adds new capacity, service, or access
    - Other capital costs, or issuance costs/debt service on bonds related to the above
  - Connector Capital and Operations; Soapstone Connector; Loan Repayment for Dulles Rail Phase 2

Other Local Sources Funding Sources

- General Obligation Bonds
  - Backed by the County
  - Funds projects identified in the referendum
  - Metro, roads, pedestrian and bicycle projects
- Developer Contributions / Proffers
  - Developer contributions to specific projects or Road Funds
  - Lincoln Street, Richmond Highway Widening Phase 2, Scotts Run Station
- Special Tax Districts
  - Funds projects in defined geographic area where revenues collected
  - Petition by landowners
  - Dulles Rail Phases I & II, Route 28
- Service Districts
  - Funds projects in defined geographic area where revenues collected
  - Approved by BOS
  - Reston: Fairfax County Parkway/Sunrise Valley Drive (interim), Hunter Mill Road/Sunset Hills Road
  - Tysons: Gosnell Road/Old Courthouse Road, Route 7 - Idylwood Road)



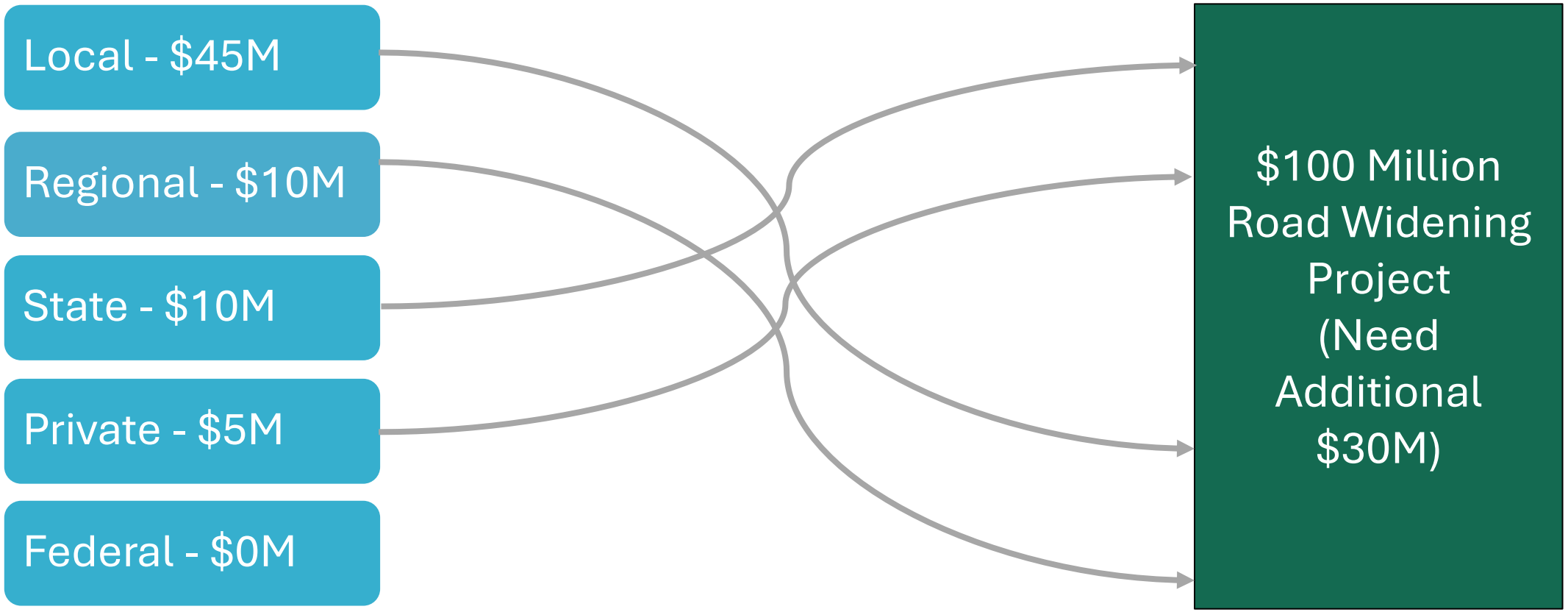
Old Meadow Bridge



Sleepy Hollow Sidewalk

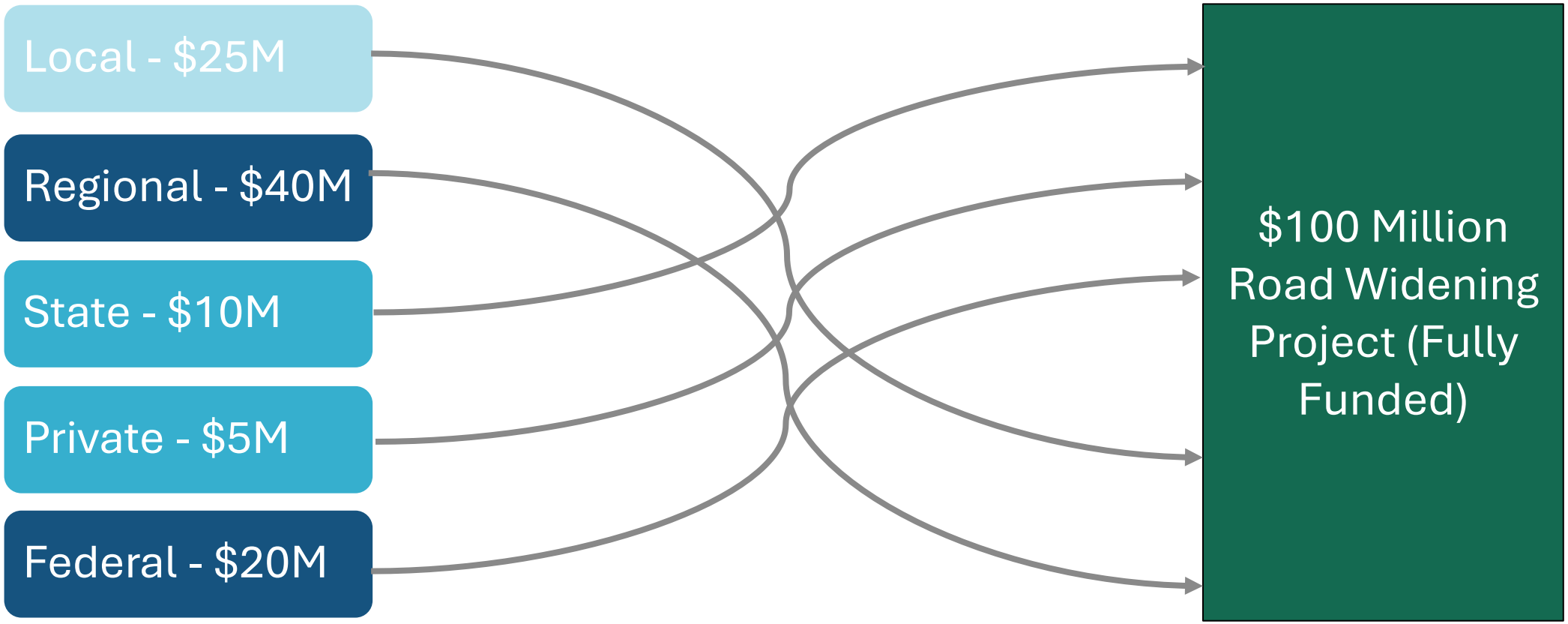
Matching Funding with Projects (Example)

How do we decide which funding works best for which projects, and how much?



Matching Funding with Projects (Example)

What happens if we are able to obtain funding from new funding sources?





Feedback Requested from the Board

- Are there other topics related to project funding and project funding sources you would like for us to tackle at future meetings?



Burke Centre VRE Trail

Gregg.Steverson@fairfaxcounty.gov

Noelle.Dominguez@fairfaxcounty.gov



Jones Branch Connector