

Performance Review: Division of Public Transit

Agency Purposes: The Division of Public Transit (DPT) is responsible for administering all federal and state programs relating to public transportation.

PERD's Objectives:

The objectives of this review are: (1) to determine if the DPT is managing publicly funded transportation resources in a cost-effective manner through the Transportation Asset Management Program; (2) to determine if the DPT is endeavoring to achieve an increased ridership with available resources as required by *W. Va. Code* §17-16C-3(c); and, (3) determine if all providers within the elderly and disabled public transit grant program (5310) receive the appropriate type of license plates and vehicle registration regardless of their status as a political subdivision of the State of West Virginia.

Key Recommendations:

The DPT should create policies and procedures to ensure that data submitted by subrecipients to its transportation asset management database are valid and accurate.

The DPT develop a long-range plan for increasing and expanding transit services across West Virginia based on the unmet needs as well as the goals and strategies from the regional Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan.

What Did PERD Find?

- The DPT has not assessed its Automated Vehicle Information System (AVIS) to determine if the system's controls are adequate to protect the validity and accuracy of the data in the system. Furthermore, the agency has not documented its policies and procedures for AVIS.
- Currently, 17 counties do not have access to regular public transit services, and ridership has decreased in the counties where services are available since the beginning of the pandemic (See Figure 2).
- *West Virginia Code* tasks the DPT with expanding ridership but the agency does not have a formal plan or goals related to service expansion. While there is no legal requirement for the agency to have a plan or goals, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has acknowledged the need for such a plan in its statewide long-range transportation plan.
- Urban and rural transit providers qualify for tax exempt public transit license plates which they maintain for the life of the vehicles. However, providers within the elderly and disabled program are required to qualify for local government plates, based on their association with either a city or county government to qualify for tax exempt plates.

