

\$3M in US funding slated for new transfer facility in York County



U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine announced the inclusion of several key Virginia priorities in the Senate's draft funding bills for the upcoming fiscal year, including a new Williamsburg Area Transit Authority transfer center in York County. File

BY SIAN WILKERSON STAFF WRITER

YORK — A new Williamsburg Area Transit Authority transfer facility is one step closer to coming to York County.

On Friday, U.S. Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine announced the inclusion of several key Virginia priorities in the Senate's draft funding bills for the upcoming fiscal year. Among the funding secured by the senators includes \$3 million for the new facility, which will serve as a connection for four bus routes.

The funding bills will still need to pass through the House of Representatives to become official.

The facility will include planned parking, a customer service area and real-time transit information displays, according to a news release.

"The Williamsburg Area Transit Authority ... has helped connect Virginians, visitors, and students in the Williamsburg region for years," the senators jointly said in an email. "We're proud to have secured funding in this draft bill for WATA to build a new transfer facility in York County, (which) will help expand and improve WATA's services, boost the regional economy, and ensure riders have access to reliable transportation." The new facility will be located on Old Mooretown Road next to the YMCA, said Ben Goodill, director of planning and administration for WATA.

The Senate's draft government spending legislation for fiscal year 2024 includes more than \$111 million for specific community projects throughout Virginia, including the new WATA facility. As part of the appropriations process, members of Congress worked with communities they represent to request funding for local community projects.

Other projects in the Historic Triangle area include the replacement of aging drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in James City County, which will receive \$2.49 million, as well as the replacement of a 60-year-old water main in Williamsburg, which will receive \$1.44 million, provided the bills pass.

Additionally, the bills earmark \$500,000 for William & Mary to support students in gaining experience with the federal government and military agencies through paid internships.

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Share the Road: Buses Roll on Monday as School Year Begins



School is back in session Monday (8/28) with buses making frequent stops on County roads as they transport students to and from school. Please stop for flashing red bus lights when legally required, watch out for children crossing streets, slow down when yellow school zone lights are flashing, and be aware that more vehicles will be on the road as parents and teenage drivers travel to school. For more

information about School Bus Safety, visit the [DMV website](#). Back to school tips are available from the [School Division](#).

Variety of Fall Events Planned in Historic Yorktown

Pull out your calendar and save the dates for upcoming fall concerts, markets, and more! An [assortment of entertaining activities](#) are on tap September through November—from outdoor concerts and festivals by the river, to oyster roasts and Thanksgiving celebrations. Bring your friends and family for fall fun in Yorktown!

Enjoy Live Music at Yorktown Market Days

Acoustical guitarist Ron Fetner performs tomorrow (8/26) from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the performance stage at Riverwalk Landing. Also, the Fifes and Drums of York Town entertain visitors at 10 a.m. Listen to the tunes as you shop for fresh produce, meats, wines, flowers and plants, candles, and handmade artwork. Local farmers, bakers, and artists will be set up on the green across from the performance stage. Visit Yorktown has a [full list](#) of vendors appearing at this week's market.



Submit Your Photos in 2024 Beautiful York County Calendar Contest

Amateur photographers are invited to submit photos depicting sustainability efforts in York

County for a chance to appear in the 2024 calendar. Examples include photos of residents planting native plants and trees, reducing waste and plastic pollution, and recycling efforts. Photos are judged by the York County Beautification Committee with thirteen winners each receiving \$100 along with having their photo in print!

The [submission form](#) is now available. Please include the location where the photo was taken and a description of the sustainability action being shown. Good luck!



Harwoods Mill Dam Improvements Underway

Drivers along Route 17 in Grafton may see construction work at the Harwoods Mill Reservoir. In order to comply with Virginia Dam Safety requirements, the height of the dam is being increased 2 ½ feet, the lake drain is being upgraded, and enhancements are being made to the spillway and rip-rap protection. The work will be completed over the next 2 ½ years. The project is not expected to impact travel on Route 17. Newport News has posted project information [here](#).

Additional Notes for the Week... The **2024 jury selection postcards** have been mailed. Recipients are asked to follow instructions for completing the questionnaire, which is required within 10 days of receipt. More information is available [online](#). The **Commissioner's & Cans Food Drive** continues through Thursday (8/31). Please bring dry and canned food donations to the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office (120 Alexander Hamilton Blvd.). A list of most needed items is available on the [website](#). The fall issue of *Citizens New Quarterly* will be available online early next week! Keep watching the County's home page for a link to the newsletter filled with event news, special programs, and project updates.



The advertisement features a light blue background with hand-drawn clouds, a sun, and a stylized American flag. The text is centered and includes the following information:

York County
Head Start

2023-2024 School Year

Open to Eligible Children Ages 3 or 4
Including those with Disabilities

Apply Online
www.yorkcounty.gov/headstart
(757) 890-3888

Two small inset photos show children in a classroom setting: one group of children with their hands raised, and another child writing at a desk.

Citizen News Weekly is compiled and published by York County Public Affairs each Friday to share news and events with our citizens and neighbors. This weekly newsletter is placed on our [website](#) and delivered directly to your inbox. Questions? Contact Gail Whittaker, Public Information Officer: 757-890-3310 or whittgl@yorkcounty.gov.