

new river valley regional commission
ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM

# New River Valley Regional Commission ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026

The Annual Work Program is the foundation for achieving the objectives and strategies of the New River Valley Regional Commission. The Commission strives to maximize its resources by developing a comprehensive work plan that is based on current needs and priorities of the region.

This FY26 program is a compilation of projects presented by Council members, including managers and administrators, local partners, regional organizations, and staff. The intent is to provide the most benefit from the least direct cost to our local government members. Program tasks are grouped as regional projects, local projects, or finance & administration.

#### **Executive Team**

Kevin Byrd, AICP, Executive Director Elijah Sharp, Deputy Executive Director/Director of Planning & Programs Jessica Barrett, CPA, Director of Finance

#### Administrative & Finance Team

Kelly Patton, Finance Technician II Emily Warren, Finance Technician Julie Phillips, Office Manager

#### Planning & Programs Team

Jennifer Wilsie, AICP, Director of Housing & Community Engagement
Aphi Fancon, AICP, Director of Community Development
Christy Straight, AICP, Director of Infrastructure & Environmental Resources
Chris Owens, Project Manager
Bethany Peters, Regional Planner II/Information Specialist
Leo Priddy, Regional Planner II/Economic Development Planning Specialist
Emma Carroll, Regional Innovations Officer
Kelley Akers, Regional Planner I/Communications Specialist
Will Shelburne, Regional Planner I/Community Designer
Zoe Hunter, Regional Cartographer/GIS Analyst
Mariana Hristova, GISP, PhD, Senior GIS Planner

#### **Community Health Team**

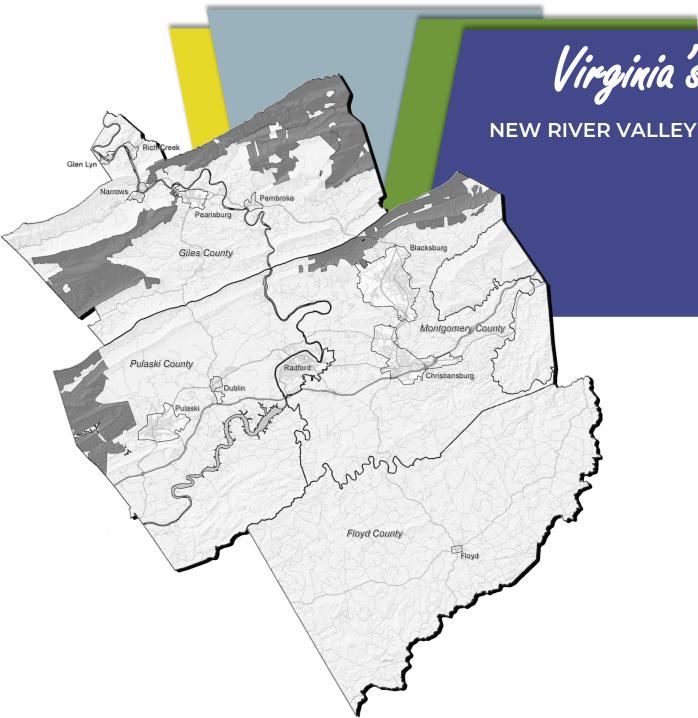
Holly Lesko, Director of Community Health Anna Champion, PhD, Project Manager Kinsey Weaver, Community Accountability Coordinator Erika Slagel-Perry, Education and Training Coordinator

#### Notes:

AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners)

CPA (Certified Public Accountant)

GISP (Geographic Informational Systems Professional)



#### BACKGROUND

In September 1969, the New River Valley Regional Commission was organized by its member jurisdictions - Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski Counties, the City of Radford, and the Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Pulaski. Together they accepted the charge of the general provisions of the Virginia Area Development Act which authorized the creation of the Commission.

The 1995 General Assembly amended and reenacted a Bill entitled the "Regional Cooperation Act." The Act added governmental cooperation to purposes of the Commission. The Commission's overall goals are based in the provisions of the Regional Cooperation Act. The 1997 General Assembly re-codified the Act as 15.2-4200 et al.

#### FY 2025 - 2026 Commission Members

Chair - Mr. Hil Johnson Vice-Chair - Ms. Susan Anderson Treasurer - Mr. Leon Law

Past-Chair - Mr. Michael Maslaney At-Large - Mr. David Horton Ms. Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch Mr. Larry Clevinger

Floyd County: Ms. Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch\*

539 Dobbins Hollow Road

Riner, VA 24149

Mr. Michael Maslanev

PO Box 908

Floyd, VA 24091

Town of Floyd: Mr. Will Griffin\* Floyd, VA 24091

Mr. Richard McCoy\* Giles County:

> 505 Tyler Avenue Pearisburg, VA 24134

Mr. Leon Law

1809 Cascades Drive Pembroke, VA 24136

Town of Rich Creek:

Mr. Perry Martin\* 728 Mountain Lake Rd, Newport VA 24128

Town of Pearisburg: Ms. Amanda Davis\* 617 Hale Street Pearisburg, VA 24134

Vacant

Town of Narrows:

Mr. Tom Spangler\* Narrows, VA 24124

Montgomery County:

Mr. Anthony Grafskyi\* 301 Royal Lane

Blacksburg, VA 24060

Brian S. Wheeler

509 Stonegate Drive Blacksburg, Va 24060 Town of Pembroke: Robert Lawson 519 Circle Drive

Pembroke, VA 24136

Pulaski County:

Mr. Jeffery Reeves\* 5985 Alum Spring Road

Dublin, VA 24084

Mr. Brian Juanarena

8298 Sawgrass Way

Radford, VA 24084

Town of Dublin:

Mr. Wavne Seagle\* 525 Church Street Dublin, VA 24084

City of Radford:

Mr. David Horton\* 106 5th Street Radford, VA 24141

107 Bird St.

Radford, VA 24141

Mr. Jeff Martin

Town of Blacksburg:

Ms. Susan Anderson\* 700 Preston Avenue Blacksburg VA 24060

Mx. Em Shawish 802 Lee Street

Blacksburg, VA 24060

Town of Christiansburg:

Mr. Hil Johnson 140 Brilliant Drive, N. W. Christiansburg, VA 24073 Mr. Tonya Hackett\* 80 Somerset Street

Christiansburg, VA 24073

Town of Pulaski

Mr. Brooks Dawson\* Pulaski, VA 24301

Mr. Larry Clevinger 1128 Well Street

Pulaski, VA 24301

Radford University:

Dr. Angela Joyner PO Box 6901 Radford, VA 24143

Virginia Tech:

Ms. Liza Morris

VA Tech Blacksburg, VA 24061 Mr. Ken Smith

902 Prices Fork Road, Suite 2000 (MC 0455) Blacksburg, VA 24061

New River Community

College:

Dr. Robert Brandon 5251 College Drive Dublin, VA 24084

\* = Elected Official

#### ACRONYM DESCRIPTIONS

AFID Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund

ARC Appalachian Regional Commission

BCT Business Continuity Team

CAMS Central Application Management System
CDBG Community Development Block Grant

CEDS Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

DA Development Area

DEQ Department of Environmental Quality
DGIF Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

DHCD Department of Housing & Community Development

DRPT Department of Rail and Public Transportation

EDA Economic Development Administration

EDD Economic Development District

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

GIS Geographic Information System

GOVA Virginia Initiative for Growth and Opportunity

HOME Housing Opportunities Made Equal

HUD Department of Housing & Urban Development

LDD Local Development Districts
LRTP Long Range Transportation Plan

LWEG Live Work Eat Gather

MPO Metropolitan Planning Organization NRCC New River Community College

NRVDC New River Development Corporation

NRHD New River Health District

NRV New River Valley

NRVRC New River Valley Regional Commission

NRWT New River Water Trail

OAA Opioid Abatement Authority
PDC Planning District Commission

RTCC Regional Transit Coordinating Council

RU Radford University

SERCAP Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project

SVSWMA Southwest Virginia Solid Waste Management Association

SWVA Southwest Virginia

TAC Technical Advisory Committee

VAPDC Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions

VATI Virginia Telecommunication Initiative
VBAF Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund
VCCS Virginia Community College System

VDEM Virginia Department of Emergency Management

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

VDRPT Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation

VFRIFA Virginia's First Regional Industrial Authority
VHDA Virginia Housing Development Authority

VRA Virginia Recycling Association

VT Virginia Tech

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# **Regional Cooperation**

# **Disaster Recovery**

In late September 2024, Category 4 Hurricane Helene made landfall just west of Florida before charting a massive path of destruction through the heart of southeastern United States. As the storm traveled north, the hurricane weakened to a tropical storm that overwhelmed the New River watershed with rainfall. The New River watershed was inundated with overflowing tributaries impacted in the Carolinas. NRV communities experienced flood levels that reached 20 feet in certain areas of their communities. FY26 anticipated recovery activities include:

## ARC Helene Recovery Planning

The Appalachian Regional Commission provided over \$50,000 to support staffing needs of impacted communities across southwest Virginia. The Regional Commission has been working with communities to quantify the impacts and pursue opportunities to address immediate, short-term, and longer-term needs.

## **DHCD Disaster Recovery**

Giles County has received an \$18+ million direct allocation of Disaster Recovery Funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The Commission will be assisting the County with funding implementation, which will focus on a county-wide assessment and the creation of a Disaster Recovery Plan.

# Virginia Disaster Assistance Fund

The Virginia Disaster Assistance Fund (VDAF) is a \$50 million state program providing financial relief to Virginians whose homes, businesses, farms, or community infrastructure were destroyed or heavily damaged by Tropical Storm Helene or the February 2025 storms, and funding mitigation projects to protect against future disasters. Learn more about the program online here: https://nrvrc.org/natural-resources

#### **EPA Debris Removal Plan**

The Regional Commission will partner with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Mount Rogers PDC to offset costs for debris removal, develop a disaster debris plan, and staffing needs required to deliver the program.



**Kevin Byrd, AICP**Deputy Executive Director kbyrd@nrvrc.org



Elijah Sharp
Deputy Executive Director
esharp@nrvrc.org

4,000hrs

# **NRV** Recovery Ecosystem

The NRV Recovery Ecosystem is a Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority funded program to address addiction prevention, treatment and recovery. The five-year program began in FY24 and supports local government and regional partner agencies in addressing underlying causes of and impacts from opioid use disorder. The NRV Recovery Ecosystem is a regional collaboration to leverage partner expertise with local governmental oversight to strategically and holistically address this issue in the region. The FY26 anticipated work plan occur from July 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, activities include:

## **Education & Training**

Supporting the broader logistics of the Resiliency Network, the Program Coordinator will engage with school-based partners to deliver Just Say Know prevention curriculum and continue expanding fentanyl awareness and prevention. The FY26 Work Plan also includes developing outreach materials and trauma sensitive resources to support shelter alternatives for recovery.

# Housing & Transportation Resources

The Community Health team will continue to coordinate and facilitate regular technical and leadership committee meetings. FY26 goals include increasing public transit ridership by 15% and decreasing denied on-demand trips by 25% and supporting the establishment of recovery housing for people successfully completing treatment.

# New River Health District Technical Support

With the completion of the ARPA funded programs last fiscal year, this Commission will provide mapping, outreach and expanded partnership development. FY26 work plan activities include developing strategic mapping and interactive elements for the Road to Wellness website and supporting the integration of Health District services with the mobile outreach efforts across the region.

The NRV Recovery Ecosystem also hopes to launch and support the Giles Day Won Center, Floyd Peer Center, Pulaski County Community Collaboration Center, and the expansion of Instill Mindfullness Peer Respite Center. The Commission will also support regional partners with establishing a non-profit status for the NRV Peer Coalition.



**Holly Lesko** Director of Community Health hlesko@nrvrc.org



Anna Champion, PhD **Project Manager** achampion@nrvrc.org

9,250hrs

# **Broadband Deployment**

The New River Valley Regional Commission continues to administer grant funding to increase the accessibility of broadband throughout the region. FY26 anticipated activities include:

## **Montgomery County**

Since 2021, Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded more than \$40 million to bring fiber to the homes of underserved citizens in Montgomery and Bland Counties. 1,292 connections will be completed by December 2025 and an additional 14,154 connections will be achieved by the end of the fiscal year. GigaBeam and the counties have committed an additional \$38 million to complete the project.

## Pulaski County

The Department of Housing and Community Development awarded Pulaski County more than \$29 million to bring fiber to the homes of 8,822 underserved citizens. All Points and the County have committed an additional \$26 million to complete the project by the end of the 2026 calendar year. Citizen's Telephone Cooperative was also awarded \$540,000 by the Appalachian Regional Commission to install 5-miles of fiber that will support 285 businesses in Pulaski, Montgomery, and Grayson Counties.

# **Giles County**

Over the next three fiscal years, Giles County will partner with the Department of Housing and Community Development and PemTel to construct 125 miles of fiber that will serve nearly 650 homes and nearly a dozen businesses. Areas in and around Pembroke, White Gate, Staffordsville, Poplar Hill, Sugar Run, Wilburn Valley, and Walker Creek will have access to reliable, high-speed services – bridging the digital divide and creating opportunities for economic growth in the County.

# **VATI Digital Opportunities**

The Commission, City of Radford, and Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski Counties were awarded Virginia Broadband Affordability and Adoption Planning Grant funds in September 2024. The funding is being utilized to develop a regional plan that inventories local unmet needs and implementation-ready projects. The plan will be available in early 2026.



# Regional + Local Housing

The New River Valley Regional Commission recognizes the importance of housing and actively works with local and state partners to address housing affordability throughout the region. FY26 anticipated activities include:

## Regional Housing Fund

The Regional Commission received \$2 million in funding from Virginia Housing to foster a regional approach to housing development for low-to-moderate income renters and homeowners. NRV local government partners committed \$1.5 million in additional match funding through FY29. The Commission is using this funding to pilot the creation of a regional Housing Trust Fund (HTF). Partners will include NRV local government staff, anchor health institutions, universities, and other major employers. To date, \$1.8 million of below market interest loan funding has been awarded to support the development of more than 100 housing units.

# **HOME Program**

The New River Valley became a HOME Consortium in 2007 and is supported by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Funds are directed towards low-to-moderate income households for activities such as homeowner rehabilitation, new construction of single family or multi-family homes, acquisition of property, demolition of substandard housing, architectural fees, feasibility studies, homebuyer's counseling, and other finance-related costs.

# Floyd County

The County successfully wrapped up a scatter-site housing rehab project last fiscal year. The program was among the first of its kind statewide and local partners were successful in pursuing a second round of funding, beginning this fiscal year. The initial phase included a \$1.08 million award from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Local partners were able to leverage an additional \$231,140, rehabilitate six homes, and rebuild three homes.

# Regional + Local Housing Study Update

Later this fiscal year, the Regional Commission plans to initiate the update process for the regional housing study. The process will include refreshing housing market analysis, training, and strategy development. The anticipated project timeline will be April 1, 2026 through March 30, 2028



Jennifer Wilsie, AICP
Director of Housing and
Community Engagement
jwilsie@nrvrc.org



Bethany Peters Information Specialist/ Regional Planner II bpeters@nrvrc.org

1,000hrs

# Passenger Rail

The New River Valley Regional Commission collaborates with regional partners to provide technical assistance and staffing resources to support the expansion of passenger rail service to the region. FY26 anticipated activities include:

# NRV Passenger Rail Station Authority

The Authority serves as the responsible entity for owning, operating, and maintaining the NRV station. Responsibilities



NRV PRSA of the Authority include, but are not limited to:
1) delivering administrative and finance staff support to the New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority; and 2) serving as the administrative point of contact for the Authority and will help coordinate local initiatives with state offices such as the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit.

## ARC Station A/E Planning Grant

The New River Valley Passenger Rail Service Authority (NRVRSA) received \$318,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds for the NRV Passenger Rail Station in Christiansburg Virginia. NRVPRSA, in conjunction with the Virginia Passenger Rail Service Authority (VPRSA), have been striving to meet the 2028 goal to have passenger rail service in the New River Valley. This ARC Planning Grant will help the NRVPRSA to propel the project into the next phase by providing all the construction documents needed to construct a passenger rail station. These planning grant funds will be used to procure Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Services for the Environmental Review and Design to include cost estimates, surveying and permits.



**Kevin Byrd, AICP**Deputy Executive Director
kbyrd@nrvrc.org



Chris Owens
Project Manager
cowens@nrvrc.org



# **New River Water Trail Expansion**

The New River Valley Regional Commission has been assisting community partners with water trail enhancement projects since 2012. What is now 37-miles may soon expand into West Virginia and North Carolina. FY26 anticipated activities include:

#### **Watershed Roundtable**

The New River Watershed Roundtable continued to serve as a convenor of water quality interests across the region. At quarterly meetings, partners gathered to learn about regional watershed projects, discuss water quality, and elevate ideas for collaboration. Commission staff also supported and participated in the annual ReNew the New cleanup in September 2025. The group is supported by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, who provide approximately \$10,000 to support staffing needs.

# **Boat Access Facility and Trail Signage**

The Appalachian Regional Commission awarded the Regional Commission \$1.5 million to construct four new public boat access facilities. Local partners in the City of Radford, and Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski Counties are providing an additional \$1.8 million in local match. The project is also supported by the Department of Conservation and Recreation through its Recreational Trails Program. DCR is providing an additional \$60,000 to install trail kiosk signage and up to 20 wayfinding signs along the water trail. Montgomery County will be advertising for construction in the Fall of 2025. Giles and Pulaski Counties will also begin A/E soon and ready to advertise in Spring/Summer of 2026.

#### New River Action Plan (NC, VA, WV)

The Appalachian Regional Commission awarded \$500,000 to partners at the New River Conservancy, through a collaborative application process that was supported by the Commission. Partners in Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia are leveraging more than \$150,000 in additional project match. The Comprehensive New River Action Plan aims to significantly advance regional outdoor economies by creating a multi-state water trail that stretches over 200 miles. Community engagement and outreach will be collaboratively conducted by partners from multiple states to explore factors that enrich the experience of the New River for communities of Appalachia, as well as to leverage the natural assets of multiple regional geographies. The project kicked-off in early 2025 and is anticipated to be completed by early 2027.



**Elijah Sharp**Deputy Executive Director
esharp@nrvrc.org



Will Shelburne
Community Designer/
Regional Planner I
wshelburne@nrvrc.org

# Regional Water Supply & Quality

The New River Valley Regional Commission is partnering with the Virginia Department of Conservation to improve water resource management. FY26 anticipated activities include:

## **Water Supply Plan Update**

According to Virginia Water Supply Planning Regulation (9VAC25-780), localities within each Regional Planning Area (RPA) must submit a single, jointly prepared Regional Water Supply Plan to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by October 9, 2029. The New River RPA includes the Counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, City of Radford and the Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Dublin, Floyd, Pearisburg, Pembroke, Pulaski, Narrows, and Rich Creek. The NRVRC is responsible for coordinating the development of the Plan.

While Part 1 of the project is anticipated to wrap up in October, the Commission anticipates DEQ supporting a second phase of work later this year. Part 1 and 2 should be complete by the end of the fiscal year.

#### **Crab Creek Beautification Phase II**

Phase 1 of the beautification project was received very well by town residents and the surrounding community. A total of 13 Best Management Practices (BMPs) were installed and registered in the State Clearinghouse. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality provided nearly \$90,000 which leveraged about \$69,000 in private investment. The Commission received more applications than the initial round could fund, so a phase was developed with DEQ.

The results of the 2015 stressor analysis of Crab Creek indicated that sediment is the Most Probable Stressor and therefore implementing BMPs that address reducing stormwater runoff was a priority. Phase 2 of the Crab Creek Implementation Plan calls for additional BMP installations that include increasing tree canopy to reduce runoff, removal of impervious surfaces, rainwater harvesting and conservation landscaping in the Town of Christiansburg and are included in this proposal as BMPs available to the community through this project.



**Aphi Fancon, AICP**Director of Community
Development
afancon@nrvrc.org



Will Shelburne Community Designer/ Regional Planner I wshelburne@nrvrc.org

# **Transportation**

# Planning & Project Readiness

The Regional Commission provides transportation planning assistance across the region. Through a partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation, the regional commission manages an annual Rural Work Program that is guided by multijurisdictional input.

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (NRVMPO) is a transportation policymaking organization serving the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, the City of Radford, and parts of Montgomery and Pulaski counties. The MPO provides the information, tools, and public input necessary to improve the performance of the transportation system of the region. FY26 anticipated activities include:

# MPO 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Long-Range Transportation Plan is the New River Valley's fiscally constrained multimodal plan, which identifies major roadway, transit, non-motorized system improvements, and travel demand management projects. The MPO planning area includes both the urbanized area, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, and the area that is expected to be urbanized within a 20-year forecast period.

Public meetings are currently underway and will wrap up in early October 2025. The final plan will be available before the end of the calendar year. To learn more about the project and to also share your input, please visit: https://engagenrv.org/mpo-2050

# Valley to Valley Study

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization is partnering with the Regional Commission to conduct a study to help identify the best route to connect the Roanoke River Greenway in Roanoke County to the New River Trail in Pulaski County, while also tying in other key recreational assets in the New River Valley, such as the Huckleberry Trail. The goal is to find a route that reflects community priorities and can be built in stages--starting with sections that are ready for near-term construction and eventually creating a larger, connected trail network.

A community survey recently launched in August 2025 and will remain open until the Fall of 2025. To learn more about the project and to also share your input, please visit: https://connectnrv.mysocialpinpoint.com/valley-to-valley



Elijah Sharp
Deputy Executive Director
esharp@nrvrc.org



Anna Champion, PhD Project Manager achampion@nrvrc.org

1,150hrs

# **Public Transportation Systems**

The New River Valley Regional Commission has partnered with the Metropolitan Planning Organization over the last 15 years to improve collaboration amongst the region's public transportation providers. Work is strongly supported by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. FY26 anticipated activities include:

## **Bus Stop Safety & Accessibility Studies**

The New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization is partnering with the Regional Commission to update Bus Stop Safety and Accessibility Studies for Blacksburg Transit, Radford Transit, and Pulaski Area Transit. The purpose of this project is to utilize a data-driven prioritization tool to guide the efficient allocation of resources for bus stop improvements within the NRV's service areas.

The process will be led by Working Committees composed of representatives from each transit service provider, local government and higher education partners, and the MPO. Prioritization criteria will be individually tailored for each transit service provider and used to evaluate and rank up to a maximum of 120 total bus stop locations. Conceptual planning visualizations and preliminary cost estimates will be developed for up to ten "high priority" bus stops for each service. Work will begin in early 2026 and be completed by September 2027.

# Regional Transit Study Update

The NRVMPO and Regional Commission will also collaborating to update the original 2016 strategies that investigated potential enhancements at overlapping service and high-volume bus stop locations. Specifically, the updated study recommendations will identify methods to improve the design of physical safety and convenience features and increase accessibility to information about alternative transportation systems/services in the region. recommendations will outline potential partnerships, investments, and changes that elevate the presence and encourage increased use of public transit.

Work will begin in March 2026 and conclude in September 2027.



Christy Straight, AICP
Director of Infrastructure and
Environmental Resources
cstraight@nrvrc.org



Kinsey Weaver
Community Accountability
Coordinator
kweaver@nrvrc.org

1,150hrs

# **Mobility Access**

Public and employment mobility has been an area of focus for the Virginia Department of Transportation since 2005. The Regional Commission collaborated with VDOT to complete the initial study phase and second phase in 2009. FY26 anticipated activities include:

## Mobility Management Guidebook

In 2009, the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) awarded the Regional Commission a Mobility Management grant under DRPT's New Freedom program. The grant allowed the Regional Commission to gather extensive data on existing transit providers in the New River Valley for the purpose of creating a working resource manual.

The manual served as a comprehensive transit guide for citizens and mobility managers in the region, providing important contact information, delineating service areas, identifying existing routes and route schedules, and answering frequently asked questions about service. The manual was later updated by the Ner River Valley Agency on Aging in 2022.

The next iteration of the resource guide will begin in April 2026 and be completed by December 2027. The guidebook will continue to provide detailed information to encourage travel independence.

## **Employment Mobility Study Update**

This New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization is partnering with the Regional Commission to re-evaluate existing commuter patterns, barriers to transportation, and explore potential solutions. Work is anticipated to begin in April 2026 and be completed by December 2027.

Task included in the upcoming work program include initial project branding, developing community outreach materials, and documenting what's been achieved since the last plan update.



Emma Carroll Regional Innovations Officer ecarroll@nrvrc.org



Kelley Akers
Graphic Designer/
Community Engagement
Specialist
kakers@nrvrc.org

# **NRV Programs**

The New River Valley Regional Commission has collaborated with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Department of Transportation to administer regional programs and provide local technical assistance. FY26 anticipated activities include:

#### **RIDE Solutions**

RIDE Solutions is a multi-regional program to provide ridesharing matching and information on alternative transportation modes to the commuters in the New River Valley. The Commission partners in execution of the program at the multi-region level with the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, and the West Piedmont PDC. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of single-occupant-vehicle commuter trips by shifting SOV trips to carpool, vanpool, transit, and bicycle commuting. The NRV program focuses on reaching commuters, particularly through their employers and at community events, and on employers to provide information and technical assistance to invest in more sustainable and affordable transportation decision-making.

# **VDOT Rural Work Program**

The Virginia Department of Transportation allocates part of its federal State Planning and Research (SPR) funding for the Regional Commission to provide planning assistance for non-urbanized areas within the Commonwealth. The Regional Commission is responsible for partnering with member local governments to develop and execute an annual scope of activities that address transportation related issues that are specific to the region. The partnership also requires the Regional Commission to actively take part in statewide and federal transportation planning and training opportunities.

The program allows the Regional Commission to offer local technical assistance and also maintain important regional plans, including the regional Bike, Ped, Paddle Plan and the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan. The Regional Commission coordinates with annual meetings the District Commonwealth **Transportation** Board's Salem Representative and actively participates several transportation related working committees.



Christy Straight, AICP
Director of Infrastructure and
Environmental Resources
cstraight@nrvrc.org



**Elijah Sharp**Deputy Executive Director
esharp@nrvrc.org

1,650hrs

# **Economic Development**

# **Regional Economic Strategy**

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides resources to support a variety of tasks related to the functions of the Regional Commission as an Economic Development District (EDD). FY26 anticipated activities include:

## **EDA Work Program**

As the regional EDD, the Regional Commission receives support to perform the annual update to the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) planning document that aligns with EDA-supported grant funding programs. In addition, the EDA provides support for NRVRC staff to undertake a variety of regional economic development planning and implementation projects, including: administration of the New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund, entrepreneurship support, data collection and analysis, and regional economic development activities, workforce development, and related fields.

## Go Virginia Site Planning

GO Virginia Region 2 has awarded the New River Valley a Site Advancement Strategy grant, matched by regional contributions, to strengthen the competitiveness of industrial sites across the region. The project will engage NRV leadership to evaluate infrastructure gaps, environmental constraints, and development needs.

The project aims to position sites for higher readiness levels under the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP). This work will help business expansion opportunities, attract employers, and foster long-term job growth.

# Market Study & Conceptual A/E

The Town of Floyd was recently awarded a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant to support redevelopment of a vacant industrial property into a mixed-use, mixed-income project. Administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), this grant will allow the Town to evaluate housing and commercial demand, engage the community in visioning, and prepare Preliminary Engineering/Architectural Reports. Outcomes will position the Town for future implementation funding and redevelopment, transforming a vacant property into a catalyst for growth on Floyd's west side.



# Regional Innovations - Tech Hub

In 2023, the New River Valley and Danville regions were awarded a U.S. EDA Tech Hub Strategic Development grant to identify strategies and projects that bolster additive manufacturing and advanced materials technologies. Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials (AM²) Tech Hub program activities, including hosting the first annual AM2 Hub Conference, continue into 2025 with strong support from private industry, local government, and higher education. The Tech Hub leadership team also plans to submit two grant proposals in FY26 to implement projects identified during the strategic development process. FY26 anticipated activities include:

#### **Host AM2 Hub Conference**

In September 2025, the Regional Commission partnered with the Virginia Tech Center for Economic & Community Engagement to connect industry leaders who are leveraging additive manufacturing and advanced materials to transform how they design, create, and innovate. Participants were able to hear firsthand how these technologies are creating real-world impact—and where they think opportunity is headed next.

In addition, attendees explored the real challenges facing manufacturers today—from tech adoption to workforce gaps—and gained practical insights through expert 1-on-1 sessions and collaborative peer breakouts. The conference concluded with a behind the scenes of innovation and tour Virginia Tech's innovative labs.

# 10-Year Roadmap

Regional entities are making transformative advancements in additive manufacturing (AM) with revolutionary applications of ne polymers and composites, metals, ceramics, and even concrete. The NRV is globally competitive in large AM systems (e.g., capable of manufacturing parts larger than six cubic feet) that meet the needs of those in heavier industries. The Roadmap will identify how to expand and deploy large-scale additive manufacturing and material sciences technology that will propel the region to economic success.



Emma Carroll Regional Innovations Officer ecarroll@nrvrc.org



**Kevin Byrd, AICP**Deputy Executive Director
kbyrd@nrvrc.org

1,500hrs

# **Community Development**

# **Local Planning Assistance**

The New River Valley Regional Commission is partnering with several communities on local planning projects that are geared towards improving policy and increasing construction readiness. FY26 anticipated activities include:

#### **Town of Dublin**

The Town of Dublin was awarded a \$1 million U.S. Environmental Protection Brownfields Agency (EPA) to advance Multipurpose Grant both environmental assessments and cleanup activities, along with reuse planning and community engagement activities. Unlike typical singlepurpose EPA grants, this flexible award allows the Town to move from site investigation directly into remediation and redevelopment planning.

This five-year project, running through June 2029, will help Dublin address environmental hazards, reduce blight, and prepare properties for new investment. The effort will strengthen redevelopment opportunities and support long-term economic growth by making underutilized sites viable for housing, business, and community uses.

# **Town of Christiansburg**

The Town of Christiansburg is nearing the completion of their Comprehensive Plan update effort. The plan will capture the community's vision for the Town, and guide the growth, development, investments, and services to enhance quality of life. The Town will evaluate current issues and opportunities, discuss solutions, and select options to address the issues. Changes to the comprehensive plan will also be made to comply with new State regulations. The final plan is anticipated to be available in the Spring of 2026.

The Regional Commission is also assisting the Town with its ARC downtown implementation grant, to further develop a community gathering space. In addition, the Commission may also work with the Town to support planning and community engagement activities related to its recent Safe Streets & Roads for All project.





Aphi Fancon, AICP
Director of Community
Development
afancon@nrvrc.org



Leo Priddy
Economic Development
Planning Specialist II
Ipriddy@nrvrc.org

#### **Town of Narrows**

The Town of Narrows is updating its zoning ordinance. The key goals are enhancing the Town's unique character, improving economic vitality and maximizing the business and commercial potential. This update aims to implement the recently adopted comprehensive plan, remove outdated uses, and add new ones to meet changing community needs. Additionally, the update seeks to reduce complexity, make the ordinance easier to use, and minimize the need for interpretations and ensure compliance with new Supreme Court rulings.

The Commission is also completing environmental review reports and managing grant funding for the Town's Urgent Need Emergency Generator project, and trailhead improvements for Mill Creek Trails. The generator project is funded through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Disaster Recovery Program and the trail enhancements are being funded by the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Recreational Trails Program.

## **Town of Pearisburg**

The Regional Commission will be collaborating with the Town of Pearisburg to update its Comprehensive Plan, starting in October 2025. Work plan activities for this fiscal year will include checking in on the anticipated scope of work with the new Town Manager, developing a project branding and communication plan, and refreshing population and demographic data. The initial community survey and public engagement site should also be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

#### Town of Pulaski

The Regional Commission is partnering with the Town of Pulaski and the Calfee Community & Cultural Center to administer two projects. Funded through the Appalachian Regional Commission and National Park Service, this project is the second phase of construction to convert the former Calfee Elementary School in the Town of Pulaski into a childcare facility, commercial kitchen, and cultural museum.

The Commission is also providing general technical support to Town staff with local ordinances and planning initiatives. Commission staff will prepare content, conceptual visualizations, develop and support community engagement activities, and other general technical assistance as needed.



**Aphi Fancon, AICP**Director of Community
Development
afancon@nrvrc.org



Emma Carroll
Regional Innovations Officer
ecarroll@nrvrc.org

1,500hrs

# **Town of Floyd**

The Town of Floyd is amending sections of their zoning ordinance and code of ordinance and Regional Commission staff will provide support to prepare content, illustrations, prepare permits and provide other general technical assistance as needed. The scope also includes on-call technical assistance across a variety of implementation supporting activities.

## Town of Wytheville

The Town of Wytheville is developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This initiative includes two key components: a town-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan and a site-specific master plan for the Crystal Springs Recreation Area. NRVRC and Mount Rogers Planning District staff will collaborate with Town staff to define goals, policies for community's park system, recreational facilities, and program development for the next five to ten years.

NRVRC staff will also work with a local working group to identify existing characteristics of the Crystal Springs Recreation Area property, engage the local community, build consensus around potential improvements, develop detailed renderings and overall conceptual site plan and identify strategies for implementation.

# Floyd County

Floyd County continues to make progress on its Comprehensive Plan update. This long-range plan outlines the community's vision for the future, directs physical development, guides decision-making, and prioritizes programs to meet community needs. The anticipated scope of the project includes updating individual sections of the plan; engaging the public to guide planning outcomes; and developing a final product that allows local partners to establish priorities and track their progress.

Regional Commission staff is also exploring funding scenarios to update a housing market assessment and community engagement strategy.



**Aphi Fancon, AICP**Director of Community
Development
afancon@nrvrc.org



Will Shelburne Community Designer/ Regional Planner I wshelburne@nrvrc.org

1,000 hrs

## **Giles County**

Giles County is updating their Comprehensive Plan. The plan will capture the County's vision for the future, and guide decision-making about growth, development, investments, and services. The Regional Commission will conduct data collection and analysis, facilitate a review of the County's goals, objectives, policies, and strategies, and create a publication-quality draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan.

The Regional Commission is also assisting the County with grant writing to expand public water and sewer infrastructure. A second application was successfully submitted for the Cross Avenue community, located just outside of Pearisburg. The County also submitted an application that would extend sanitary sewer services to Mountain Lake Lodge.

## **City of Radford**

The City of Radford is rewriting its zoning ordinance that was developed in 1993. While there have been periodic revisions, the zoning rewrite will allow the City to expand allowable uses in various zoning districts. In addition, amendments will update the local ordinance to keep in pace with new types of uses and establish performance standards for some uses for development and redevelopment considerations. Illustrations will also be provided to better communicate the requirements of the ordinance and make it easier to understand.

The Commission is also supporting the City with its East Main Downtown project that was awarded \$700,000 in 2022 by the Appalachian Regional Commission.



**Elijah Sharp**Deputy Executive Director
esharp@nrvrc.org



Bethany Peters
Information Specialist/
Regional Planner II
bpeters@nrvrc.org

# Finance & Administrative Support

# **Workforce Development**

The Regional Commission provides financial support to the Workforce Development Board by maintaining an accounting of revenue and expenditures for all Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and other funds allocated to the local workforce area. Responsible for fund receipt, disbursement, reconciliation and reporting. Provide payroll and benefit administration services to Workforce Development Board staff. FY26 anticipated activities include:

# **Workforce Supplemental Contracts**

Provide financial support to the Workforce Development Board for additional grant-funded projects, including, but not limited to: YouthBuild, WORC, Build Your Career, and Filling the Trades. Maintain an accounting of revenue and expenditures for grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor. Responsible for fund receipt, disbursement, reconciliation and reporting. Provide payroll and benefit administration services to Workforce Development Board staff funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds.

The Workforce Development Board requires financial oversight on each of the four grant-funded projects. Typical work plan activities include monthly accounts payable, payroll processing and benefits administration, and monthly expense reports.



Jessica Barrett, CPA
Director of Finance
jbarrett@nrvrc.org



Kelly Patton
Finance Technician II
kpatton@nrvrc.org

2,000hrs

# **Partner Organization Support**

The Regional Commission provides financial and administrative support for multiple organizations. FY26 anticipated activities include:

## Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority

Virginia's First is the regional industrial facility authority formed to cooperatively develop economic projects with regional impact. The Commission provides administrative and finance support to the authority at the direction of a part-time executive director. The project's activity includes quarterly financial reporting, accounts payable and receivable, annual meeting support, document management, coordinating and/or responding to information requests from the public and authority member representatives, and other tasks as directed by the executive director and board members. These additional tasks may include grant preparation, prospect site visit support, and coordination of miscellaneous site activities.

# **Local Organization Support**

Provide financial support to the Virginia Recycling Association, Southwest Virginia Solid Waste Management Association, and Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions by maintaining QuickBooks accounts, preparing financial statements for the Association Treasurers monthly, collecting membership dues annually, depositing all funds received into Association's bank account, and reconciling and transferring all funds received by the PayPal account into the Association's checking account.

Provide Administrative support to each of the three Associations by maintaining membership database in excel, collecting membership renewals and quarterly meeting/conference registration, attending monthly board meetings and planning and attending quarterly meetings and annual conferences, issuing certificates to members for Continuing Education credits, routine WordPress site updates, and sending communications to members.



