



Agenda
April 22, 2021
6:00 p.m.— Hybrid Meeting via Zoom/In-person

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ELECTRONIC MEETING PARTICIPATION – Commission Action (attached)**
- III. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes for March
 - B. **Approval of Treasurer’s Reports for March**
- IV. **COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**
 - A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
 - None
 - B. Regular Project Review
 - None
 - C. Environmental Project Review
 - None
- V. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**
- VI. **CHAIR’S REPORT**
- VII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**
- VIII. **REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**
- IX. **OLD BUSINESS**
- X. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **FY22 VDOT Rural Transportation Work Program**
 - Presentation: Elijah Sharp, Deputy Executive Director
 - Commission Action
 - B. **Engage NRV, an online public engagement tool for projects**
 - Presentation: Christy Straight, Senior Planner
 - Commission Discussion
 - C. **FY21 Budget Amendment**
 - Commission Action
 - D. **Appointment of FY22 Nominating Committee**
 - Board Chair Appointment
 - E. **Next meeting May 27, 2021**

All meeting materials posted on the Commission website www.nrvrc.org

The New River Valley Regional Commission provides area wide planning for the physical, social, and economic elements of the district; encourages and assists local governments in planning for their future; provides a means of coordinating federal, state, and local efforts to resolve area problems; provides a forum for review of mutual concerns; and implements services upon request of member local governments.



6580 Valley Center Drive | Suite 124 | Radford, VA 24141 | 540-639-9313

N R V R C . O R G

MEMORANDUM

To: NRVRC Board Members

From: Kevin R. Byrd, Executive Director

Date: April 15, 2021

Re: Participation in NRVRC meetings through Electronic Communication Means Policy

When the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with section 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia, it may become necessary for the NRV Regional Commission to meet by electronic means as outlined in Section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia as amended. In such cases, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The NRV Regional Commission will give notice to the public or common interest community association members using the best available method given the nature of the emergency, which notice shall be given contemporaneously with the notice provided to members of the NRV Regional Commission.
2. The NRV Regional Commission will make arrangements for public access or common interest community association members access to such meeting through electronic means including, to the extent practicable, videoconferencing technology. If the means of communication allows, provide the public or common interest community association members with an opportunity to comment
3. The NRV Regional Commission will otherwise comply with the provisions of § 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia. The nature of the emergency, the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means, and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held shall be stated in the minutes of the NRV Regional Commission meeting.

Strengthening the Region through Collaboration

Counties

Floyd | Giles
Montgomery | Pulaski
City
Radford

Towns

Blacksburg | Christiansburg
Floyd | Narrows | Pearisburg
Pembroke | Pulaski
Rich Creek

Higher Education

Virginia Tech
Radford University
New River Community College



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MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Commission Board Members
From: Elijah Sharp, Deputy Executive Director
Date: April 16, 2021
Re: FY22 Transportation Planning Work Program

The Virginia Department of Transportation allocates State Planning and Research (SPR) funding to provide annual transportation planning assistance for non-urbanized areas within the Commonwealth. SPR funds are appropriated under 23 US Code 307 (c), requiring an 80% federal and 20% local match.

The FY22 Regional Commission Rural Transportation Work Program will have a total project budget of \$72,500. Key program deliverables will include:

- Valley to Valley Trail Study: connecting the New River Trail to the Roanoke Greenway System
- Regional Bike, Ped, Paddle Plan: updating the 2011 Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan
- Southern Pulaski County Secondary Roads Study
- Coordinating and hosting the Multi-Regions Bike/Ped Social
- Coordinating local meetings with our Commonwealth Transportation Board Representative
- Trail Counter Program

The NRV Rural Transportation Technical Advisory Committee reviewed and contributed to the program via email during the month of April 2020. If you have questions about the work program, please contact me at esharp@nrvrc.org or call (540) 639-9313.

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NRVRC
new river valley regional commission

FY22 Transportation Planning Work Program

April 22, 2021

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Introduction

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) allocates part of the State Planning and Research (SPR) funding to provide annual transportation planning assistance for non-urbanized areas within the Commonwealth. The Rural Transportation Planning (RTP) Program was created to aid the State in fulfilling the requirements of the State Planning Process to address the transportation needs of non-metropolitan areas. Funds appropriated under 23 U.S.C. 505 (SPR funds) are used in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia for transportation planning as required by Section 135, Title 23, U.S. Code. These Federal funds provide 80 percent funding and require a 20 percent local match.

In FY-2022 each planning district commission / regional commission that has rural area will receive \$58,000 from VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program. The corresponding planning district commission / regional commission will provide a local match of \$14,500 to conduct rural transportation planning activities. This resource may be supplemented with additional planning funds. The arrangement of all such funds involves the development of a scope of work, approval and other coordination in the Transportation & Mobility Planning Division's (TMPD) administrative work programs.

The scope of work shall include specific activities as requested by VDOT and/or the Federal Highway Administration. The scope of work may also include activities or studies addressing other transportation planning related issues that may be of specific interest to the region. The criteria for the determination of eligibility of studies for inclusion as part of this work program are based upon 23 U.S.C. 505, State Planning and Research.

Use of these funds by the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC) is identified in and guided by an annual scope of work, also referred to as a work program. The work program details the transportation planning activities to be carried out by the NRVRC under the Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program in the upcoming fiscal year.

Local government staff and the Commission's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) representatives participate in the development of the work program, which must be approved/endorsed by the Commission. For FY-2022 the Commission proposes to utilize the SPR funds to undertake activities in the two general areas: Program Administration and Program Activities.

Program Administration

Objective and Background: The purpose of this work element is to cover the administrative and general costs associated with the project.

Work Elements: This includes the financial management and quarterly reporting, office supplies, meeting materials, and other general program costs. Activities include:

- Provide fiscal accountability of State Planning and Research (SPR) fund expenditures through regular quarterly reporting to VDOT.
- Provide adequate and appropriate public notice of meetings.
- Maintain contact with a regional network of local government officials, region-wide agencies and organizations, neighboring PDCs, VDOT representatives, and other applicable federal, state and local agencies concerning transportation issues.

Products: Quarterly financial reporting, mailings/notices, and preparation of quarterly activity reports.

Regional Transportation Planning Program Administration Budget:

SPR Funds	(80%)	\$4,000.00
RC Funds	(20%)	\$1,000.00
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Activities:		\$5,000.00

Program Activities

Objective and Background: Address regional transportation issues identified by the Transportation Committees and the Regional Commission. Individual projects and work elements are described below:

Work Elements:

- (a) **(\$2,500) Regional Transportation Leadership** - The purpose of this work element is to facilitate regional participation and consensus building on transportation-related issues through a continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated planning process.

Task 1: Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

Products: The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is the foundation of the Commission's transportation planning program. TAC is composed of administrators and professional staff from local governments and institutions/agencies within the New River Valley Regional Commission service area. TAC serves as an advisory body to the Commission on transportation issues.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Provide staff assistance for meetings (Spring and Summer)
- Prepare meeting agendas and presentation materials
- Coordinate a multi-regions alternative transportation social (Summer)
- Maintain a website to post relevant transportation related information
- Review and provide input for regional and statewide planning efforts

Task 2: Regional Transit Coordinating Council

Products: The council meets to discuss public transportation in the region and serves as a coordinating entity to support local governments, partnering stakeholders, and service providers. The council is comprised of all the region's public transportation partners and provides a strong multi-jurisdiction/multi-system forum for transit.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Provide staff assistance for an annual meeting (Fall)
- Co-Chair Roundtable discussion with MPO Staff
- Prepare meeting agendas and presentation materials
- Discuss existing transit services and TDPs
- Identify potential common interests
- Develop strategies and recommendations
- Identify funding sources

- (b) **(\$35,000) Regional Technical Assistance** - Activities typically include assistance in the areas of: highway safety/congestion, bicycle/pedestrian improvements, access management, public transportation, freight movement, hazard mitigation, infrastructure evaluations, stormwater management, recreation, or transportation as it relates to other elements such as: housing, economic development, and energy.

Task 1: Regional Bike, Ped, Paddle Plan Update

Products: Update the 2011 Bikeway, Walkway, Blueway Plan.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Collect remaining GIS shapefile data from local partners
- Facilitate 1-on-1 meetings with each community to update content
- Create a new publication quality plan (online and hardcopy)
- Obtain resolutions from participating local governments

Task 2: Southern Pulaski County Secondary Roads Study

Products: Partner with VDOT and staff at Pulaski County to identify safety improvements and segment deficiencies, south of Claytor Lake/New River.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Data collection and analysis
- Site visits and photo documentation
- Create a publication quality report (available electronically)
- Present findings to District and Residency staff

Task 3: NRV Cycling Guide & Trail Counter Program

Products: Maintain supporting program websites.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Update cycling routes, route descriptions, cue sheets, and 3D mapping
- Purchase new trail counting equipment
- Install trail counters, retrieve data, and prepare trail usage reports

- (c) **(\$15,000) Project Implementation, Grant-Writing Assistance & Professional Development**

Products: Assist local applicants to prepare transportation related grant funding applications. Additional assistance will be offered depending on staff availability.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Schedule a meeting with CTB representative(s) prior to grant deadlines
- Develop supporting docs for up to three transportation grant applications
- Submit Commission projects through the SMART Portal
- Attend Conferences/Professional Development

(d) (\$15,000) Statewide Projects and Core Program Requirements

Products: The purpose of this work element is to provide assistance to the Virginia Department of Transportation for statewide planning on behalf of the New River Valley. Furthermore, provide local technical assistance required to fulfill statewide planning and policy efforts.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Participate in VTrans webinars and SMART Scale regional meetings.
- Participate in meetings with VDOT staff regarding Title VI and Environmental Justice compliance.
- Participate in the Fall Transportation meeting and provide display to serve as outreach to the region’s citizens.
- Participate in any additional outreach meetings that may arise and provide/review data as requested by VDOT throughout the fiscal year.
- Participate with the MPOs and VDOT on meeting performance measure goals.
- Provide VDOT’s Transportation Mobility and Planning Division – Central Office and DRPT with an annual Ride Solutions reports and updated TDM Plans when submitted to DRPT.
- Help identify high-growth areas (UDAs, future growth areas). VDOT will continue developing arterial management plans, which take into consideration future growth. Our first priority though will be to develop recommendations to address current safety and congestion issues.
- Assist in the development of project pipeline studies (recommendation development, public involvement).
- Update Commission webpage with current transportation studies and other pertinent transportation related information.

New River Valley Regional Projects Budget:

SPR Funds	(80%)	\$54,000.00
RC Funds	(20%)	\$13,500.00
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Activities:		\$67,500.00

**Budget Summary
FY 2022 Work Program**

Tasks	VDOT (SPR) 80%	RC (Match) 20%	Total 100%
<u>Program Administration</u>			
a) Financial management, reporting, & general program costs	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Administration	<i>\$4,000</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$5,000</i>
<u>Program Activities</u>			
a) Regional Transportation Leadership	\$2,000	\$500	\$2,500
b) Regional Technical Assistance	\$28,000	\$7,000	\$35,000
c) Project Implementation, Grant-Writing, Professional Dev.	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$15,000
d) Statewide Projects and Core Program Requirements	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$15,000
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Activities	<i>\$54,000</i>	<i>\$13,500</i>	<i>\$67,500</i>
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Administration and Program Activities	\$58,000	\$14,500	\$72,500

***New River Valley
Regional Commission***

April 22, 2021

Resolution of support for FY 2022 Transportation Planning Work Program

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Regional Commission is eligible to receive State Planning and Research (SPR) funds through the Virginia Department of Transportation's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2022 Transportation Planning Work Program represents the interests of the New River Valley region; and

WHEREAS, the New River Valley Regional Commission has reviewed the Transportation Planning Work Program and agrees with the projected work elements for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the New River Valley Regional Commission that this Commission adopts and supports the FY 2022 Transportation Planning Work Program - Rural Planning Organization Staff Budget.

Adopted this 22nd day of April 2021

Michael Maslaney, Chair



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MEMORANDUM

To: NRVRC Board Members
From: Christy Straight, Senior Planner
Date: April 14, 2021
Re: Launch of Online Public Engagement at EngageNRV.org

At the April Commission meeting, the board will hear a presentation on the Commission’s new virtual community engagement platform, Engage NRV. This past year has presented challenges to engaging with the public on projects that aid and advance the region. With social and physical distancing in mind, the Commission has developed an accelerated online collaboration tool allowing communities to interact with projects that mean the most to them. The platform offers more than simple surveys and comment submission forms. Through the variety of feedback and dialogue tools available for each project, we can invite diverse community voices to the decision-making process and add value to the services provided to member governments.

Regional and local projects with a public involvement component will have their own page on the platform. The Town of Pulaski’s comprehensive plan update and planning for Radford’s eastern downtown revitalization will be the first projects to take advantage of this collaboration tool. The platform will become more powerful with more users over time. To kickstart this process, the Commission is sponsoring a “Smile with Your Eyes” photo contest to encourage users to register and post a masked selfie; votes from other users will determine the winner of a gift card to a local business of their choice.

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