

Commonwealth Regional Council





COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth Regional Council are partnering to evaluate the rural transportation system in the region and to recommend a range of transportation improvements that best satisfy existing and future transportation needs. This partnership will result in a regional plan that identifies needs based upon goals and objectives established by the region. Improving the transportation system remains vital to improving the quality of life and continued economic growth and prosperity in Virginia. Providing for the effective, safe and efficient movement of people and goods is a basic goal of all transportation programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2035 STATE HIGHWAY PLAN

Once completed, the regional transportation plan will be incorporated into Virginia's 2035 State Highway Plan. The statewide highway plan is developed by (VDOT) to identify needs and recommend solutions for the Commonwealth's Interstate and primary highway systems. The regional transportation plans serve as the building blocks for the State Highway Plan and are being developed in cooperation with planning district commissions throughout the Commonwealth. The plans will complement the transportation plans that currently exist for metropolitan areas of Virginia.

MOVING FORWARD

The Commonwealth Regional Transportation Plan and the 2035 State Highway Plan will be key tools for identifying and understanding the magnitude of Virginia's transportation needs and establish a foundation for making critical funding decisions for future highway projects.

These plans will provide real and tangible solutions to issues such as safety, capacity, and geometric deficiencies and will serve as key resources to determine future projects for implementation. The plans will address important regional issues such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit operations, intermodal connectors and park and ride lots, all significant or important premier elements in creating a comprehensive transportation network for the future.

Once completed, the 2035 State Highway Plan will serve as a key component to VTrans2035, Virginia's State-wide Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan. VTrans2035 will rely heavily on the findings of the State Highway Plan to ensure other modes of travel, including rail, transit, aviation and shipping seamlessly blend into the highway network to form one single, integrated network.



REGIONAL COUNCIL

Organized in 2005, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is one of 21 Planning District Commissions (PDCs) in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which bring together elected officials and citizens to identify needs and potential solutions for a variety of public policy and infrastructure projects in their communities, including transportation initiatives.

Specifically, the Council represents more than 81,000 citizens in Virginia's "Heartland region," which encompasses the following areas: the counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward, Nottoway County, Town of Blackstone; and the Town of Farmville.

The region's primary industry is manufacturing, with total employment being approximately 1.5 times greater than the Virginia and national averages. In addition, the education sector provides the largest number of jobs in the region, with both Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College located within the Council's area. The region also has a strong agricultural heritage.

Although there are no interstates in the region, a number of primary corridors provide direct access to four highway systems: I-95, I-85, I-81, and I-64. These routes include Route 60 and four-lane Route 460, providing east-west transportation, and Route 15 and Route 360, providing north-south transportation.

As a regional planning agency, the Council assists local units of government in planning new programs and projects, securing grants and loan funding for implementation of those programs and projects, and managing some of the programs and projects. The group also provides support for economic development projects, including the marketing of Virginia's Heartland.

Mission

The purpose of the Commonwealth Regional Council is to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing, on a regional basis, problems of greater than local significance. In addition to its regional planning activities, the Council also markets the region for economic development, assists companies looking to locate or expand their businesses in the region, and promotes recreational, cultural, and historical tourism in the region.

Leadership

Mr. Gary Walker, Chairman

Mr. William G. Fore, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Mr. Gary Walker, Treasurer

Mr. Ellsworth J. Bennett, Secretary



CONTACT LIST

Providing the most current information to the media and the public is very important to VDOT. To get additional information and have your questions answered regarding this important planning process please address your questions or comments to the key team members listed below.

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Please visit the VDOT website to find additional information regarding this and other important transportation initiatives in your area.

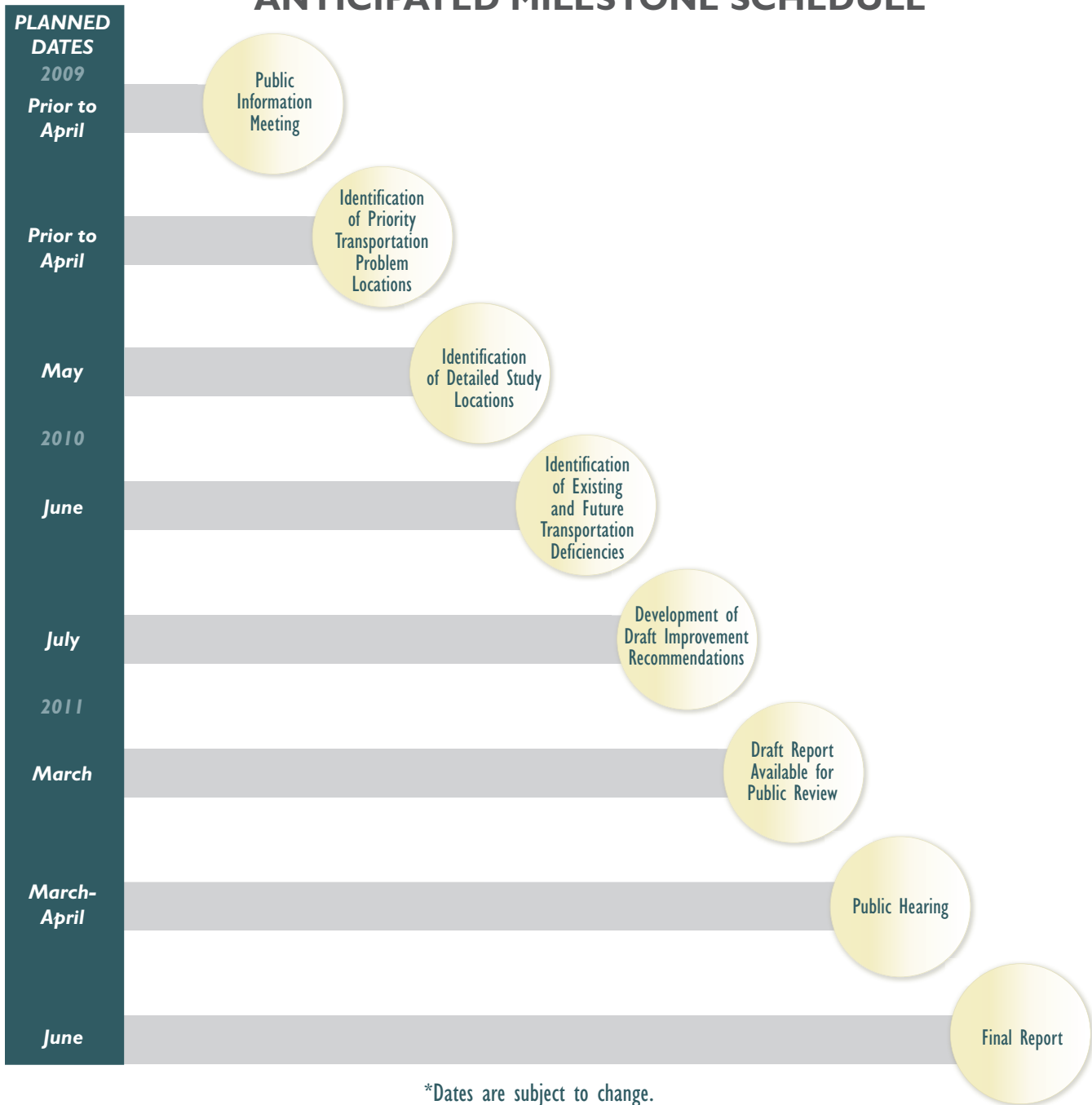
www.virginiadot.org

Commonwealth Regional Council Planning District Commission

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ANTICIPATED MILESTONE SCHEDULE



*Dates are subject to change.