

Rappahannock- Rapidan Regional Commission





RAPPAHANNOCK-RAPIDAN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission 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. Local benefits include: identification of transportation deficiencies and recommendations of remedies, assist with comprehensive plan updates, traffic impact studies-Ch.527, programming of transportation improvements, effects of land use and development. 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 districts commissions throughout the Commonwealth. The plans will complement the transportation plans that currently exist for metropolitan areas of Virginia.

MOVING FORWARD

The Rappahannock-Rapidan 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 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.



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REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (R-RRC) serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock, and the towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville, Madison, Orange, Remington, Warrenton, and Washington. Located in the northern portion of Virginia's Piedmont region, the Rappahannock-Rapidan region is an area of approximately 1,965 square miles, with a current estimated population of 164,209 people. The geographic setting is characterized by compact, historic towns, surrounded by rolling topography and scenic rural landscapes. The region is in itself rural, but surrounded to the north, east, and south by larger metropolitan areas, Washington DC, Fredericksburg, and Charlottesville.

I-66 passes through the northern part of the region. Other primary east-west corridors include US 211, VA 3, VA 28, and VA 20. The main north-south corridors are US 15, US 17, US 29, US 522, and VA 231. The region has experienced growth in through traffic between Northern Virginia and Charlottesville, and both US 17 and US 29 have become alternatives to the heavily traveled interstates located east and west of the Rappahannock-Rapidan region.

The three largest employment sectors within the region are state and local government, retail trade, and construction. The unemployment rate in the area has remained below the Virginia rate since the mid-1990s. Median household income in the region, \$50,343, was above the Commonwealth, \$46,677, in 2000.

There are many recreational opportunities in the region including Shenandoah National Park, Sky Meadows State Park, as well as historic sites in the region, including Civil War battlefields and pre-Revolutionary War settlements. Due to the close proximity of several metropolitan areas (most notably, the Washington, DC metro area), the region is a popular destination for weekend travelers in search of outdoor recreation, historical sites, and local wineries.

Coordinated Human Service Mobility Plan

The R-RRC recognizes that mobility, particularly of the elderly, individuals with disabilities, low-income, or those without access to a vehicle, can be a serious issue in rural areas where transit is not widespread. Recent development of a Coordinated Human Service Mobility Plan for the region highlighted these issues and established goals, objectives and strategies to address unmet transportation needs for these groups. These goals and objectives will be one of the factors which establish recommendations for the transportation network in the RLRP.

Mission

The R-RRC provides professional planning and technical resources, a concerted approach to regional cooperation, planning assistance with program delivery, and a forum for the interaction of appointed and elected local government officials and citizen members.

The R-RRC provides a variety of technical services and programming to member local governments including but not limited to:

- Project and Program Management
- Land Use Planning and Mapping/Geographic Information Systems
- Transportation Planning
- Environmental Planning
- Drafting/Development of studies and action plans on regional issues
- Implementation of projects or plans upon request of member localities
- Provision of Technical Assistance
- Comprehensive and strategic planning
- Assist state agencies in development of sub-state plans
- Participate in a state-wide geographic information station, the Virginia Geographic Information Network, as directed by the Department of Planning and Budget
- Collect and maintain demographic, economic, and other data, acting as a state data center affiliate in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission.

Leadership

R-RRC Director and Commissioners

Jeffrey Walker, AICP.....	Executive Director, Secretary
Sue D. Hansohn.....	Culpeper County
Ruth B. Updike*.....	Culpeper County
L.W. Carithers.....	Town of Culpeper
James Risner.....	Town of Culpeper, Treasurer
Anthony Hooper.....	Fauquier County
Chester Stribling.....	Fauquier County, Chairman
W. Hunt Cheatwood.....	Town of Warrenton
Powell L. Duggan.....	Town of Warrenton
Callie Kyhl.....	Town of Remington
James L. Arrington.....	Madison County
Robert Miller.....	Madison County, Vice-Chairman
William L. Lamar.....	Town of Madison
Teri Pace.....	Orange County
William C. Rolfe.....	Orange County
Cole Hendrix.....	Town of Orange
Harry C., Hopkins, Jr.*.....	Town of Orange
Robert Coiner.....	Town of Gordonsville
Robert P. Anderson*.....	Rappahannock County
John W. McCarthy.....	Rappahannock County
John F. Sullivan.....	Town of Washington

*** = At-large members of the Executive Committee**



Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

CONTACT LIST *Regional Commission*

Providing the most current up to date 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.

Virginia Department of Transportation

Marshall Barron	VDOT Culpeper District Planner	Marshall.Barron@VDOT.Virginia.gov	540-829-7555
Lou Hatter	VDOT Culpeper District Public Affairs	Lou.Hatter@VDOT.Virginia.gov	540-829-7537 540-387-5493
Darrel Johnson	VDOT Central Office	Darrel.Johnson@VDOT.Virginia.gov	804-371-8868

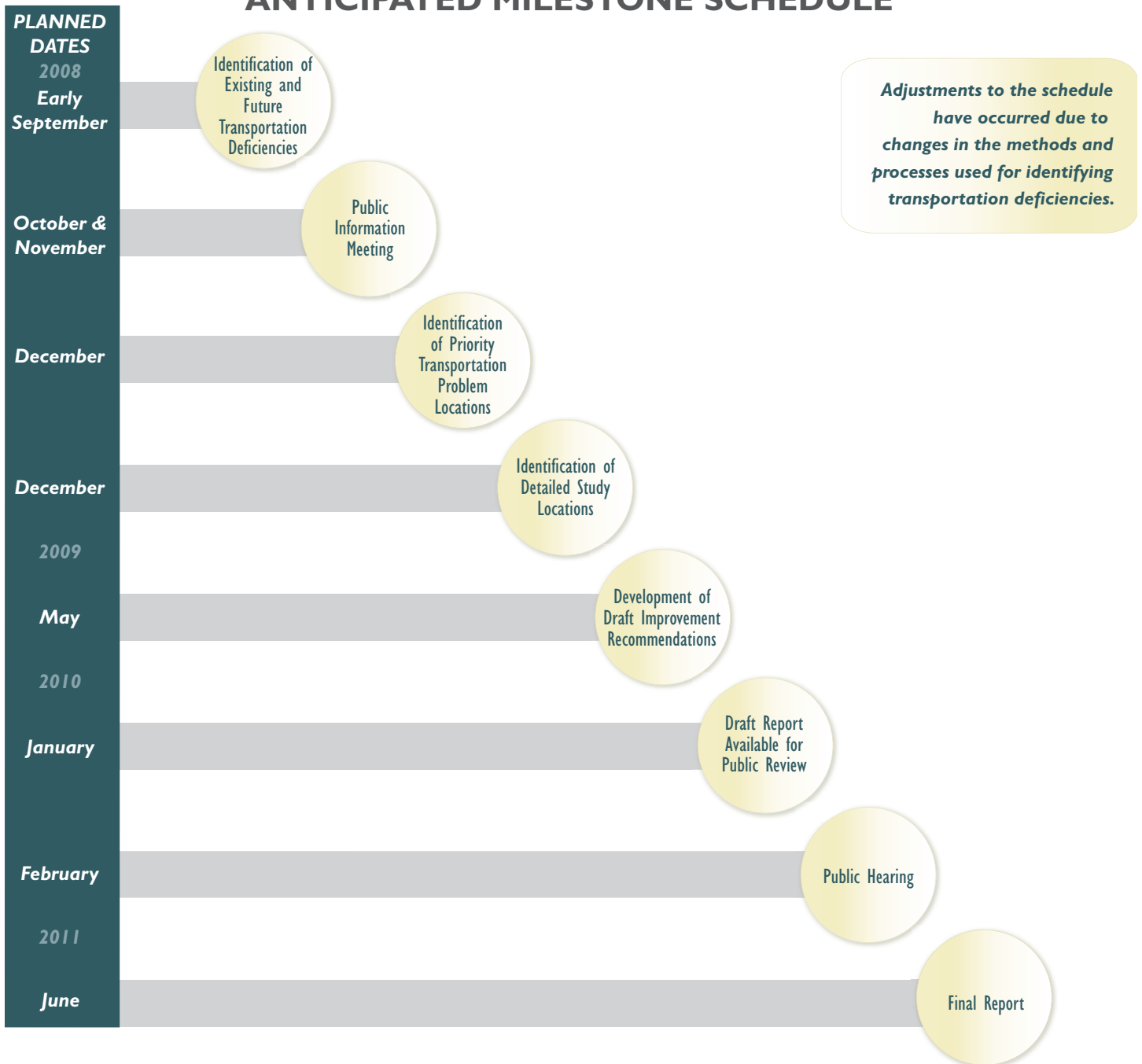
*Please visit the VDOT website to find additional information regarding
this and other important transportation initiatives in your area.
www.virginiadot.org*

Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

Jeffrey Walker	Rappahannock-Rapidan RC	jpwalker@rrregion.org	540-829-7450
Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission		www.rrregion.org	



ANTICIPATED MILESTONE SCHEDULE



Adjustments to the schedule have occurred due to changes in the methods and processes used for identifying transportation deficiencies.

*Dates are subject to change.