

# Roanoke Valley- Alleghany Regional Commission





## **ROANOKE VALLEY-ALLEGHANY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany 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 RVARC 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 Roanoke Valley and Alleghany region comprises the valley around the cities of Roanoke and Salem and the Appalachian Mountains west of the valley to West Virginia. The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) serves the counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, and Roanoke, the cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem, and the towns of Clifton Forge and Vinton. Franklin County and the Town of Rocky Mount are in the West Piedmont planning district region but are also a joint member of both PDCs. The RVARC has a current population of approximately 323,089.

I-81 passes through the center of the region, traveling northeast to southwest. I-64 passes through the northern portion of the region running east to west. Primary east-west corridors include US 11, US 60, US 460, VA 40, and VA 42. The main north-south corridors are US 220 and VA 311. The three largest employment sectors within the region are health care and social assistance, retail trade, and manufacturing. The unemployment rate in the area is the same as the current rate for the Commonwealth, 3.3%. Median household income of the jurisdictions in the region has a range of \$33-\$53,000.

There are many recreational opportunities in the region including the Blue Ridge Parkway, The Appalachian Trail, Jefferson National Forest, and George Washington National Forest.

#### ***Mission***

The RVARC provides a variety of technical and program services to member local governments, including grant application assistance, management services for program implementation, land use planning services, and mapping. Transportation planning is another role which may entail highway development, ridesharing, airport planning, and specialized transit. The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission also provides staffing for the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which is involved in transportation planning in the urban area in and around Roanoke. The RV-ARC serves as an Affiliate State Data Center for the region in order to provide important information to businesses as well as citizens. The RVARC is also the regional contact for the Commonwealth Intergovernmental Review Process and provides input for a host of agencies and commissions.



future perspectives...

Other duties of the RV-ARC may include:

- To conduct studies on issues and problems of regional significance;
- To identify and study potential opportunities for local cost savings and staffing efficiencies through coordinated local government efforts;
- To identify mechanisms for the coordination of state and local interests on a regional basis;
- To implement services upon request of member localities;
- To provide technical assistance to state government and member localities;
- To serve as a liaison between localities and state agencies as requested;
- To review local government aid applications as required by applicable law;
- To conduct strategic planning for the region as required by applicable law;
- To develop regional functional area plans as deemed necessary by the commission or as requested by member localities;
- To assist state agencies, as requested, in the development of sub-state plans;
- To participate in a statewide geographic information system, the Virginia Geographic Information Network, as directed by the Department of Planning and Budget; and
- To collect and maintain demographic, economic, and other data, acting as a state data center affiliate in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission.

## **Leadership**

### RV-ARC Director and Commissioners

Wayne G. Strickland.....Executive Director  
Carolyn Barnette.....Alleghany County  
Dave Price.....Alleghany County  
John Strutner.....Alleghany County  
Ned McElwaine.....Botetourt County  
Stephen Clinton.....Botetourt County  
Billy Martin, Sr.....Botetourt County  
Todd Wampler.....Botetourt County  
Jennifer Durling.....Craig County  
Richard C. Flora.....Craig County  
David Cundiff.....Franklin County  
David Hurt.....Franklin County  
Charles Wagner.....Franklin County  
Christopher Whitlow.....Franklin County  
John Chambliss.....Roanoke County  
Kevin Hutchins.....Roanoke County  
Dean Martin.....Roanoke County  
Joe McNamara.....Roanoke County  
Charlotte Moore.....Roanoke County  
J. Lee E. Osborne.....Roanoke County  
Stephanie Clark.....City of Covington  
Allen Dressler.....City of Covington  
Darlene Burcham.....City of Roanoke  
David Bowers.....City of Roanoke  
Jay E. Foster.....City of Roanoke  
Court Rosen.....City of Roanoke

Robert H. Logan.....City of Roanoke  
David Trinkle.....City of Roanoke,  
Vice-Chairman  
John Givens.....City of Salem  
Vacant.....City of Salem, Treasurer  
Melinda Payne.....City of Salem  
Annette Anderson.....Town of Clifton Forge  
Tracey Shiflett.....Town of Clifton Forge  
James Ervin.....Town of Rocky Mount  
John Lester.....Town of Rocky Mount  
Brad Grose.....Town of Vinton  
Consuella Caudill.....Town of Vinton  
Phil Sparks.....Roanoke Regional Partnership  
Joyce Waugh.....Roanoke Regional  
Chamber of Commerce  
Debbie Kavitz.....Salem-Roanoke County  
Chamber of Commerce  
Temple L. Kessinger, Jr.....Alleghany Highlands  
Chamber of Commerce  
Dave Kjolhede.....Roanoke Valley  
Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Robert H. Sandel.....Virginia Western  
Community College  
Richard Teaff.....Dabney S. Lancaster  
Community College  
Doloris E. Vest.....Western Virginia Workforce  
Development Board



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### 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

Michael Gray	VDOT Salem District Planner	Michael.Gray@VDOT.Virginia.gov	540-375-3565
Heidi Coy	VDOT Salem District Public Affairs	Heidi.Coy@VDOT.Virginia.gov	540-387-5493
Sandy Myers	VDOT Staunton District Public Affairs	Sandy.Myers@VDOT.Virginia.gov	540-332-9201
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](http://www.virginiadot.org)

#### Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

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Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission		<a href="http://www.rvarc.org">www.rvarc.org</a>	



future perspectives...



**ANTICIPATED MILESTONE SCHEDULE**

