

Southside Planning District Commission





SOUTHSIDE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Southside Planning District 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. 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 Southside 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.





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PLANNING DISTRICT

Formed in 1968, the Southside Planning District Commission 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 Southside Planning District serves more than 88,000 citizens in three large counties on the Virginia - North Carolina border: Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg. Included in this area are the towns of South Boston and South Hill, as well as 11 other towns within the three counties. In addition to being known as Southside, the region is also well known as “Lake Country,” due to its proximity to the largest lake in Virginia, Buggs Island Lake (Kerr Reservoir) and Lake Gaston.

The Southside Planning District is home to a number of industries, most of which are located in one of the region’s 15 industrial parks that accommodate manufacturing and industrial services, largely in the textile/apparel markets. In addition, the region has a large proportion of agriculture, forestry and construction jobs.

I-85 passes through the eastern portion of the region, traveling northeast to southwest. The primary east-west corridor is Route 58, and the primary north-south routes are Routes 1, 15, 360, and 501.

As a regional planning agency, the Southside Planning District is currently focused on a number of community projects. Specifically, the group is working with local emergency personnel and town/county management to develop a regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, which seeks to limit risk to life and property in the event of natural events such as hurricanes, floods, and winter storms. In addition, the group is involved with the creation of the Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center, a 23,600-square-foot facility in downtown South Hill that provides workforce training. The Lakeside Commerce Park, a regional industrial park designed to attract more information and technology based companies, is another initiative supported by the Southside Planning District.

Mission

The primary role of the Southside Planning District is to encourage and assist local and regional governments in economic development activities. The Commission executes this role by fostering intergovernmental cooperation, providing comprehensive planning services, and by making available needed technical assistance in developing and administering community improvement projects and programs. Specifically, the Southside Planning District’s primary objectives are to reduce the waste, overlap, and inefficiencies that frequently result from unplanned or uncoordinated governmental and private activities.

Leadership

Joyce I. French, Executive Director
John H. Crowder, Jr., Chairman, South Hill, VA

Robert H. Conner, Vice Chairman, Ebony, VA
Terry A. “Ted” Daniel, Treasurer, South Boston, VA





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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

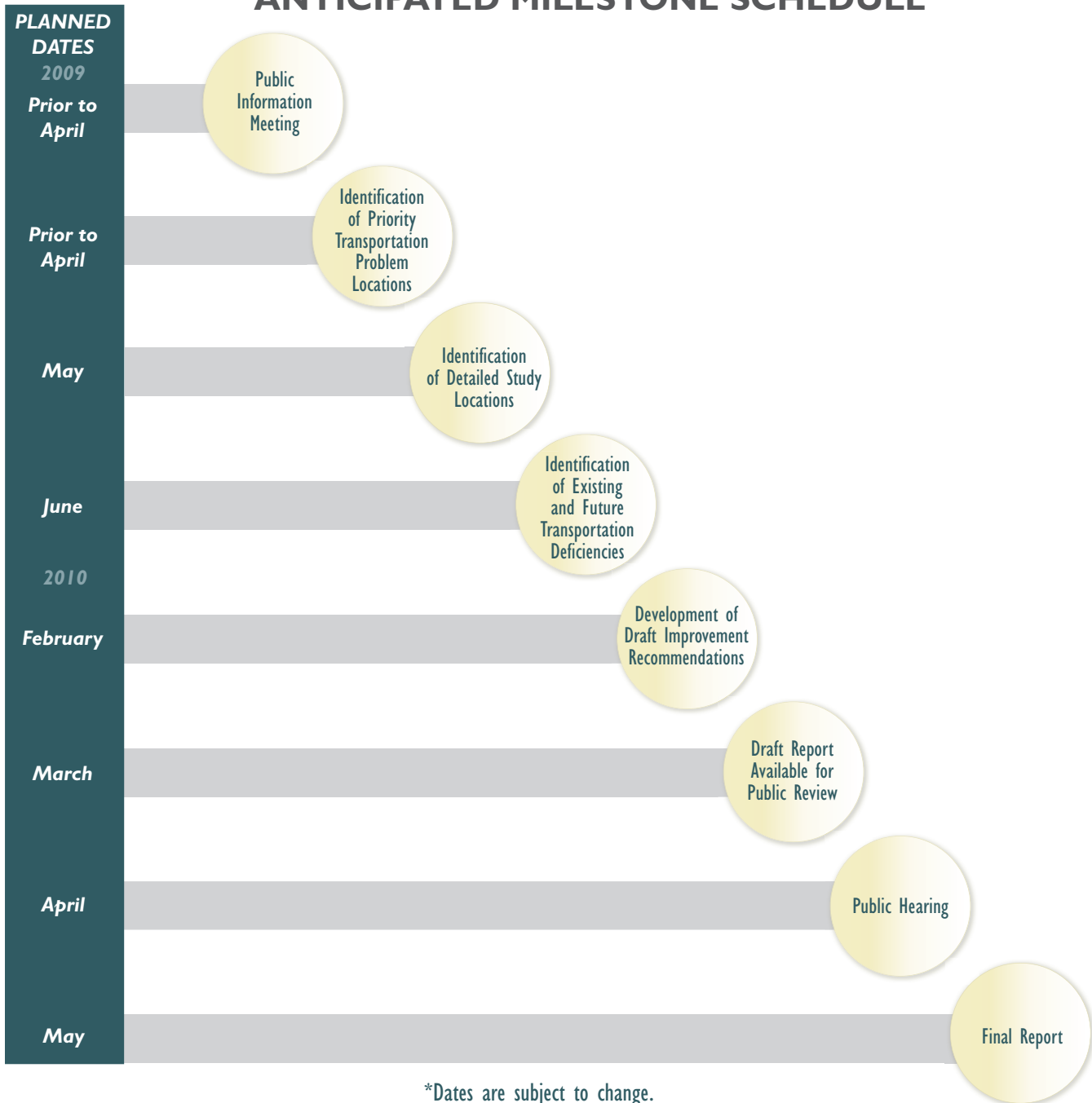
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ANTICIPATED MILESTONE SCHEDULE



*Dates are subject to change.

