

New River Valley Planning District

**Transportation Planning Work Program
FY 2011**



New River Valley Planning District Commission

June 2010

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Introduction

The Federal Highway Administration provides State Planning and Research (SPR) funds to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to support transportation planning activities. VDOT, through its Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program, provides a portion of its SPR funds to Planning District Commissions to carry out transportation planning activities in rural areas. In the program guidelines, rural areas are defined as those “outside the metropolitan study area boundaries approved by metropolitan planning organizations under Section 134 of Title 23, United States Code.”

Use of these funds by the New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVPDC) 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 NRVPDC under the Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program in the upcoming fiscal year.

Local government staff and the NRVPDC’s Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) participate in the development of the work program, which must be approved/endorsed by the Planning District Commission.

For FY 2010-2011 the New River Valley Planning District Commission proposes to utilize the SPR funds to undertake activities in the three general areas: Regional Transportation Program Administration, Regional Projects, and Regional Long Range Rural Transportation Plan Development Assistance.

716.1 Regional Transportation Planning Program Administration

Objective and Background: 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. The PDC's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is the foundation of the PDC's transportation planning program. TAC is composed of administrators and professional staff from local governments and institutions/agencies within the New River Valley Planning District service area. TAC serves as an advisory body to the PDC on transportation issues. The TAC has grown into a group that supports local needs while maintaining a regional perspective.

Work Elements: This project includes staff support and assistance to TAC, meeting the financial management and reporting requirements of VDoT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program (RTPAP), and development of the PDC's annual RTPAP work program. Activities include:

- Staff support and assistance for the TAC and established subcommittees activities and meetings. Continue to facilitate TAC's role as a regional advisory body on transportation policy for the New River Valley PDC through consensus building among members concerning regional needs.
- Provide fiscal accountability of State Planning and Research (SPR) fund expenditures through regular quarterly reporting to VDoT.
- Provide adequate and appropriate public notice of TAC 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: TAC and established committee meeting mailings/notices; meeting documentation/minutes; quarterly activity and financial reports; RTPAP work program for FY 2011.

Budget:

<u>Total</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC Match (20%)</u>
\$20,637.50	\$16,510.00	\$4,127.50

716.2 New River Valley Regional Projects & Core Program Requirements

Objective and Background: Address regionalized transportation issues that are identified by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and the Planning District Commission. Individual projects and work elements are described below:

Work Elements:

- (a) **Transportation Planning Development and State Planning Process Assistance -** The purpose of this project is to enhance transportation planning in the New River Valley region. Activities will include providing technical assistance to VDoT, its consultants, and other state agencies, as needed/requested; training opportunities for the New River Valley PDC's transportation planning program staff; and providing a forum for local government staff to receive technical assistance from VDoT. Please note that tasks outlined above will be prioritized on funding availability.

Products: Provide assistance to the Virginia Department of Transportation for statewide planning on behalf of the New River Valley. Provide technical and planning assistance for transportation related projects for jurisdictions located outside of the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundary.

Benchmarks/Milestones:

- **Facilitating development of TAC/PDC comments on regional transportation needs** for the annual VDOT Salem District Pre-Allocation Hearing.
Status: Complete by September-October 2010
- **Attend two Regional Long Range Transportation Plan Workshops**
Status: To be determined
- **Attend two Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions Transportation Committee meetings**
Status: Summer 2010/Winter 2011
- **Input and assistance on the development of the Annual Statewide Transportation Performance Report**
Status: Time determined by VDoT
- **Assist VDoT in the VTRANS Regional Performance Measures data collection.** Pursuant to § 33.1-23.03, the CTB is required to quantifiable performance measures and achievable goals relating to, but not limited to, congestion reduction and safety, transit and high-occupancy vehicle facility

use, job-to-housing ratios, job and housing access to transit and pedestrian facilities, air quality, movement of freight by rail, and per capita vehicle miles traveled. The Board shall consider such goals in evaluating and selecting transportation improvement projects for inclusion in the Six-Year Improvement Program pursuant to § 33.1-12.

Status: Time determined by VDoT

- **Assist VDoT in coordinating a local review (through rural technical committee) of Virginia’s draft Bike and Trail Map.**

Status: Time determined by VDoT

- **Assist VDoT in the review of park and ride lots (current and proposed).**

Status: Time determined by VDoT

- **Assist VDoT in coordinating a local review (through rural technical committee) of data and information related to Virginia’s Statewide Multimodal Freight Study.**

Status: Time determined by VDoT

- (b) **Regional Technical Transportation Planning Assistance** - Project activities include:

Task 1: Montgomery County Rural Transportation Corridor Study

Products: Evaluation of a transportation corridor located within the rural planning area. Pragmatically recommend improvements to enhance future access management compliance, intersection safety and incorporation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Identify project location and define study limits.
- Establish a sound communication and project reporting plan.
- Compile existing data, planning and statistical information.
- Perform field visits as needed to obtain site specific information.
- Submit draft existing conditions report.
- Identify implementable performance driven recommendations.
- Submit formal needs assessment and final report recommendations to all applicable statewide agencies, impacted stakeholders and local planning offices.

Task 2: Regional Public Transportation Evaluation

Products: Formally evaluate connections between existing transportation modes to develop a sustainable regional mobility plan.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Compile existing data, planning and statistical information.
- Facilitation of stakeholder meetings to identify transportation deficiencies.
- Identify implementable performance driven recommendations that suggest likely improvements and associated costs.
- Prepare materials for meetings and project reporting.
- Submit formal needs assessment and project findings to all applicable statewide agencies, impacted stakeholders and local planning offices.

(c) Transportation Project Development and Grant-Writing Assistance

Products: Assist local applicants for transportation related grant funding applications. Provide grant-writing assistance for a maximum of five projects. If requests exceed 5 applications, all attempts will be made to accommodate requests.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- **Attend VDOT Enhancement Grant Workshops**
Status: Complete by August-October 2009
- **Schedule meeting with CTB representative enhancement applications.**
Status: Complete by October 2009
- **Submit Enhancement Applications.**
Status: Complete by December 1, 2010
- **Safe Routes to School Program Development Assistance** – Provide support to local governments during the application formulation.
Status: Complete by June 2010

Budget:

<u>Total</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC Match (20%)</u>
\$41,912.50	\$33,530.00	\$8382.50

716.3 Regional Rural Long-Range Plan

Objective and Background: The purpose of this work element is to create regional long-range plans in rural areas that compliment those in the metropolitan areas of the state. The program is broken into four phases across a multi-year effort that will result in a safety conscious, GIS based long-range multimodal transportation plan (highways, bicycle/pedestrian, freight, aviation and transit) for the New River Valley. The four phases are: Phase 1-Goals and Data Collection; Phase 2-Analysis and Problem Identification; Phase-3 Public Outreach and Recommendation Development; and Phase 4- Public Endorsement and Regional Adoption. Currently the plan is in Phase 3 with anticipation that Phase 4 will continue into FY 2011.

Work Elements:

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Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program FY10 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan Phase IV: Public Outreach and Recommendation Development	
Tasks	Responsibility
1. Complete all unfinished tasks from Phase 1, 2, 3 or 4	PDC/Rural Tech Committee
2. Coordinate the review of draft plan recommendations and plan elements with the Rural Technical Committee.	PDC/VDOT
3. Coordinate and assist with the public stakeholder involvement process.	PDC/Rural Tech Committee/VDOT
4. Assist VDOT and consultant with presentations to the Planning Commission throughout plan development.	PDC/Rural Tech Committee
5. Work with Planning Commission to secure formal adoption/approval of the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan.	VDOT/VHB

Budget:

<u>Total</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC Match (20%)</u>
\$9,950.00	\$7,960.00	\$1,190.00

**Budget Summary
FY 2010 Work Program**

<u>Project</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC (20%)</u>	<u>Total</u>
716.1 – Admin and State Trans.	\$16,510.00	\$4,127.50	\$20,637.50
716.2 - NRV Regional Projects	\$33,530.00	\$8,382.50	\$41,912.50
716.3 – Rural Long-Range Plan	\$7,960.00	\$1,990.00	\$9,950.00
TOTAL	\$58,000	\$14,500.00	\$72,500.00