

*New River Valley Planning District Commission*

**Transportation Planning Work Program  
FY 2012**



*March 2011*

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## **Introduction**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) allocates part of the State Planning and Research (SPR) funding to provide annual transportation planning assistance for non-urbanized areas within the Commonwealth. The Rural Transportation Planning (RTP) Program was created to aid the State in fulfilling the requirements of the State Planning Process to address the transportation needs of non-metropolitan areas. Funds appropriated under 23 U.S.C. 307(c) (SPR funds) are used in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia for transportation planning as required by Section 135, Title 23, U.S. Code. These Federal funds provide 80 percent funding and require a 20 percent local match.

In FY-2012 each planning district commission / regional commission will receive \$58,000 from VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program and each planning district commission / regional commission provided a local match of \$14,500 to conduct rural transportation planning activities. This resource may be supplemented with additional planning funds, all such funds requires the development of a scope of work, approval and other coordination in administrative work programs.

The scope of work shall include specific activities as requested by VDOT and/or the Federal Highway Administration. The scope of work may also include activities or studies addressing other transportation planning related issues that may be of specific interest to the region. The criteria for the determination of eligibility of studies for inclusion as part of this work program are based upon 23 U.S.C. 307 (c), State Planning and Research (SPR).

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-2012 the NRVPDC proposes to utilize the SPR funds to undertake activities in the three general areas: Regional Transportation Program Administration, Regional Projects, and Statewide Projects.

## 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 (such as the Bikeway Walkway Committee) 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.

### 716.1 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

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

### **Work Elements:**

- (a) **Regional Technical Transportation Planning Assistance** - Activities include:

#### **Task 1: Regional Sustainable Communities Transportation Plan**

**Products:** Provide assistance to the Sustainable Communities program coordinators to develop the transportation component of the regional plan.

#### Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Attend Summit/Program Kick-off
- Provide staffing and technical planning assistance in the area of transportation
- Coordinate and lead monthly committee meetings during 24-month plan development phase.
- Develop an interactive transportation website.

#### **Task 2: Regional Public Transportation Organization Analysis**

**Products:** As the interest in public transportation continues to increase in the New River Valley there may be opportunities to create new services, establish partnerships and increase funding competitiveness for the benefit of each community in the region.

#### Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Compile stakeholder interview feedback
- Establish consensus for model recommendation amongst stakeholder committee
- Prepare a formal report document

- (b) **Transportation Project Development and Grant-Writing Assistance**

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

#### Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- **Attend VDOT Enhancement Grant Workshops**  
Status: Complete by August-October 2011
- **Schedule meeting with CTB representative enhancement applications.**  
Status: Complete by October 2011

- **Submit Enhancement Applications.**

Status: Complete by December 1, 2011

- **Safe Routes to School Program Development Assistance** – Provide support to local governments during the application formulation.

Status: Complete by November 2011

**716.2 Budget:**

<u>Total</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC Match (20%)</u>
\$36,326.25	\$29,061.00	\$7,265.25

**716.3 Statewide Projects & Core Program Requirements**

**Objective and Background:** The purpose of this work element is to provide assistance to the Virginia Department of Transportation for statewide planning on behalf of the New River Valley. Furthermore, provide local technical assistance required to fulfill statewide planning and policy efforts.

**Work Elements:**

- **Prioritize recommendations from the RLRP** into two categories: 1) by jurisdiction and 2) by region. Lists will be provided to VDOT (District Planning and Investment Manager) for consideration in developing the draft Six-Year Improvement Program.
- **Identify possible strategies**, funding, development opportunities, etc. for implementing the top 3 recommendations in each of the two categories 1) by jurisdiction and 2) by region.
- **Coordinate with the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment** to identify specific locations within the Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS) in your region as identified in VTrans 2035 that would be a candidate for further study. This list will be used to assist the CTB and VDOT in determining which locations within the CoSS to study in the future.
- **Coordinate, in conjunction with VDOT, a local review** (through the rural technical committee) of data and information related to Virginia’s freight initiatives, including identifying the location and classification of freight activity zones and responding to freight surveys prepared by VDOT.
- **Compile a list of local and regional bicycle and pedestrian recommendations** and include the source of each of the recommendations. These will be used in the development or enhancement of local bike plans. The identified projects will be used by VDOT to strengthen the bicycle and pedestrian element of the next Surface

Transportation Plan, allow VDOT to map the planned recommendations and provide an inventory of which jurisdictions have bicycle / pedestrian plans.

- **Coordinate and host in each member jurisdiction a day to ride and inventory major roads.** The purpose is to discuss problems and potential solutions. (VDOT to provide transportation) Participants on the ride should include: 1) the VDOT Representative on Rural Technical Committee, 2) District Local Liaison (if available), 3) City / County Engineer / Planner, 4) PDC Planner. These field trips will help build working relationships and provide an opportunity to gain local / state perspective on transportation challenges.

**716.3 Budget:**

<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>SPR (80%)</u></b>	<b><u>PDC Match (20%)</u></b>
\$15,536.25	\$12,429.00	\$3,107.25

**Budget Summary  
FY 2012 Work Program**

<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>SPR (80%)</u></b>	<b><u>PDC (20%)</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
716.1 – Program Administration	\$16,510.00	\$4,127.50	\$20,637.50
716.2 - NRV Regional Projects	\$29,061.00	\$7,265.25	\$36,326.25
716.3 – Statewide Projects	\$12,429.00	\$3,107.25	\$15,536.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$58,000</b>	<b>\$14,500.00</b>	<b>\$72,500.00</b>