

Rural Long Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP)

Goals, Objectives and Measurements

Goal Statement 1: Support and improve the economic vitality of the region.

| Objective | Measurement | Definition |
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| Encourage projects within all modes of transportation that improve the global competitiveness of the New River Valley. | Number of projects related to global competitiveness | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with regional partners in planning, coordinating and supporting transportation projects that will improve the New River Valley's ability to utilize transportation assets in support of global trade and the economic vitality of the region. |
| Support tourist and recreational activities within the region | Number of projects supported | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work in support of new, improved and enhanced recreational and tourist infrastructure in the New River Valley. This includes utilizing green infrastructure strategies to encourage plans to beautify the region's viewshed from major highway and roadways and working to help enhance tourism in the region. |
| Assist in diversifying the movement of goods and commodities by linking major transportation infrastructure and developing transportation facilities in the NRV | Freight movement statistics | The ability to move goods across multiple transportation modes (air, road, rail) and links to shipping ports is vital for the region's economy. By examining freight movement, the region should be able to identify strengths and weaknesses and plan for infrastructure investments. |
| Encourage efforts that improve the efficiency and access to the highway system in the New River Valley | Traffic flow rate information, access management studies, traffic delay information, and traffic counts. | Evaluating traffic flows, counts and delay information help to identify the overall movement of traffic throughout the region as well as to identify areas experiencing significant congestion and delays that require special attention or design changes. |
| Work regionally to encourage economical commercial air service that is convenient for the citizens of the New River Valley and ensure that air facilities offer adequate and affordable service for all users. | Roanoke Regional Airport reports and airline information analysis | Roanoke Regional Airport's reports flight counts and destination. Airline and other commercially available information can be used to track average fares. |
| Promote the development, implementation and maintenance of regional hiking, walking, biking and driving routes as an economic development strategy for the region | Number of enhancement applications filed | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work in support of new, improved and enhanced recreational and tourist infrastructure in the New River Valley. This includes support of regional walking, hiking and biking trails that directly link major transportation corridors and take into consideration land use development patterns in determining where new pathway infrastructure is necessary. |
| Encourage the development of passenger rail service in the New River Valley | No direct measure available | If requested, the RPO, its committees, and staff will assist in coordinating with localities and passenger rail providers to develop information necessary to support passenger rail service to the New River Valley. |

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Goal Statement 2: Provide a safe and secure transportation system

| Objective | Measurement | Definition |
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| Encourage efforts that improve the safety and security of the region's transportation system for all users | Crash Rate Statistics, Law Enforcement Information | By examining crash statistics and in discussion with law enforcement, the region should be able to identify strengths and weaknesses and plan for safety and security investments. |
| Support the identification of dangerous transportation mode/user conflicts within the transportation system | Crash Rate Statistics, activity of local safety committees | By examining crash statistics, the region should be able to identify areas where a significant focus on safety would be beneficial. Statistics should include information on conflicts across various modes, for example vehicle/pedestrian, vehicle/bicycle, vehicle/vehicle, pedestrian/vehicle, vehicle/train, train/pedestrian, train/bicycle, and when available specific details such as the type of vehicle involved (passenger car, truck, SUV), road conditions (day, night, dry, wet) and any other details that would be helpful toward developing recommendations for safety improvements. |
| Support the development of safety policies and a comprehensive regional plan that addresses the identified safety and security concerns | No direct measure available | The RPO, its committees, and staff will integrate available statistics, information and planning documents from various agencies and localities to guide implementation and consideration of safety policies, provided the availability of funding. This information could include data from: VDOT, MMS, DCR, DEQ, VEM, VDOF, VDH, etc. |
| Promote and support implementation strategies through educational initiatives and infrastructure improvements that will implement the developed regional safety plan and policies. | Number of assistance visits or training opportunities participated in | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with regional partners to help facilitate educational initiatives and support infrastructure improvements aimed at the safety and security of our regional transportation network and surrounding communities. |

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Goal Statement 3: Preserve the existing transportation network and promote efficient system management to increase accessibility and mobility of the transportation system

| Objective | Measurement | Definition |
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| Work with federal, state and local officials to highlight the need for adequate funding in the New River Valley to maintain and improve the region's transportation system. | Annual Transportation Appropriations | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with regional partners to highlight the needs and the benefits to the New River Valley of adequate transportation funding. |
| Support the implementation of traffic flow measures to alternative routes through the New River Valley in times of highway accidents, congestion, and lane closures | Flow Rates, Highway Planning Documents | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with VDOT to discuss various measures that could be implemented in the New River Valley to ease congestion and delays during times of accidents, road closures or construction, especially along the I-81 corridor. |
| Work with local transportation officials, planners, designers as well as citizens, schools, businesses, churches and other large attractants to help maintain traffic flow | Traffic Flow Data | Traffic Flow Data should provide an accurate portrayal of when traffic flows are increased. The RPO, its committees, and staff will participate in any attempt to quantify if there is a specific event that causes such increases (shift change, church, school, etc.). |
| Support the development of alternative and passenger transportation efforts such as programs for elderly/handicap mobility transit in the New River Valley and promoting ride share and other alternative transportation options. | Transit data and Ride Share data | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with regional transit and carpool providers to accomplish this goal towards developing programs and encouraging their use within the region with particular emphasis on promoting comprehensive planning that integrates transit, bike/ped, and other alternative transportation options for the region. |

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Goal Statement 4: Enhance the links and connectivity of the transportation system throughout the region across and between modes for people and freight

| Objective | Measurement | Definition |
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| Promote connectivity and diversity amongst all modes of transportation to enhance and optimize the efficiency of the region's transportation system. | Number of connection points | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with regional partners and VDOT staff to promote connectivity and diversity among all modes of transportation, including promoting efforts to connect bikeways with mass transit points, etc. |
| Promote efforts to improve connectivity of transit system throughout the New River Valley | Number of connection points | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with regional partners to promote transit operations, increase the number of connection points, develop new transit options, and improve the interconnectivity of transit operations in order to provide a transit system able to connect the entire New River Valley. |
| Encourage cooperation among the regional airports and support the unique role each airport offers in the region's air transportation network. | No direct measure available | The two public airports in the New River Valley offer unique services and together complement each other in providing the region with vital air transportation assets. The RPO, its committees, and staff will offer their assistance to both airports to continue to develop a strong regional air transportation system that is able to accommodate a variety of aviation users. |
| Support the development passenger rail options such as short routes/local connectivity | Passenger Rail Statistics | The RPO, its committees, and staff will be supportive of increased passenger rail service and options throughout the New River Valley. |

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Goal Statement 5: Develop regional land use and transportation coordination measures

| Objective | Measurement | Definition |
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| Promote the coordination of transportation improvement with land use changes in the New River Valley | Implemented Land Use Measures | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with regional partners to evaluate and coordinate transportation improvements with land use changes in cooperation with present or future federal and state laws. |
| Coordinate green infrastructure planning to help to minimize cultural, community and environmental impacts of the transportation system | Environmental and Land Use Measures | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with regional partners to identify, promote and educate the region on the benefits of green infrastructure and the impacts it can have on the transportation system and benefits to the environment. |
| Promote mass transit ridership and alternative transportation measures as a way to encourage environmental health | Transit Ridership Statistics, RIDE Solutions Statistics | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with transit providers and regional programs to encourage transit ridership and alternative transportation such as biking or carpooling. |
| Utilize green infrastructure strategies to help implement long term land use measures and goals to enable the future growth and development of the transportation system | Land Use Measures | The RPO, its committees, and staff will evaluate green infrastructure strategies and suggest those that may be implemented in the New River Valley to help enable and plan the future growth of the transportation system. |
| When rail facilities are proposed to be abandoned, give priority to use those facilities as trails or scenic railroads | Number of rail facility conversions | The RPO, its committees, and staff will evaluate methods and tactics to promote rail conversion to trails or scenic railroads. |
| Facilitate the integration of emergency response, hazard mitigation and environmental planning efforts. | Number of assistance visits or training opportunities participated in | The RPO, its committees, and staff will work with regional partners to include emergency response and hazard mitigation plans with environmental planning efforts. |