

New River Valley Planning District
Transportation Planning Work Program
FY 2009-2010



New River Valley Planning District Commission

March 2009

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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 2009-2010 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. TAC serves as an advisory body to the PDC on transportation issues. TAC has matured into a purposeful and functional 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), development of the PDC's annual RTPAP work program. Activities include:

- Staff support and assistance for TAC 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 fiscally sound management and 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 state and local agencies concerning transportation issues.

Work Products: TAC meeting mailings/notices; TAC meeting documentation/minutes; quarterly activity and financial reports; RTPAP work program for FY 2010.

Budget:

<u>Total</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC Match (20%)</u>
\$13,813.32	\$11,050.66	\$2,762.66

716.2 New River Valley Regional Projects

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 may include but are not limited to: involvement and participation in the Statewide Multimodal Long-Range Transportation Plan, Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP), Small Urban Area Plan (SUAP) update, Statewide Multimodal Freight Study and VTrans 2035 processes; providing technical assistance to VDOT, its consultants, and other state agencies, as needed/requested by VDOT; participation in the Virginia Association of PDCs' (VAPDC) Transportation Committee; training and capability enhancement opportunities for the New River Valley PDC's transportation planning program staff; and providing a regional forum for local government staff to receive technical assistance from VDOT. Please note that tasks outlined above will be prioritized on funding availability.

Products: Comments and other requested participation from VDOT on the Statewide Multimodal Long-Range Transportation Plan and Freight Study, SYIP, and SUAP.

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 2009
- **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 2009/Winter 2010
- **Attendance of any SUAP meetings in the district**
Status: Time determined by VDOT

- **Input and assistance on the development of the Annual Statewide Transportation Performance Report**

Status: Time determined by VDOT

- **Input and Assistance on the Statewide Multimodal Freight Study**

Status: Time determined by VDOT

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

Status: Complete by June 2010

- **Preparation of Phase II Employment Mobility Study Project** – Identification of project scope and preparation of grant applications.

Status: Complete by March 2010

(b) **Regional Comprehensive Transportation Plan Updates** - Project activities include:

Task 1: Preparation of Regional Transportation Needs Assessment

Products: Provide Planning assistance to rural transportation regions throughout the New River Valley in an effort to determine existing and future transportation needs.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Coordinate Comprehensive Plan updates with local governments and communities.
- Facilitation of public meetings to identify transportation needs.
- Preparation of materials for comprehensive transportation plan updates.
- Submit formal needs assessment to VDOT

(c) **Bikeway-Walkway Planning Assistance** - Project activities include:

Task 1: Staff Regional BW-WW TAC Subcommittee with citizen and local government representatives;

Products: Provide staff support to regional BWWW committee. This includes bi-monthly meeting facilitation, preparing meeting minutes/agendas, coordinating volunteer speakers for meetings, and other committee tasks as needed.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- Secure volunteer speakers for 6 meetings.
- Prepare and deliver committee agendas and minutes.
- Organize materials for comment that are requested by the committee on identifying regional plan goals.

Task 2: Update the NRV Regional BW-WW-BW Plan.

Products: The BW-WW Committee members will identify their local bike/pedestrian/blueway plan initiatives that contribute to the framework of the regional plan. Following identification of local initiatives with regional implications, the Committee will begin goal development for the Plan. Goal identification will occur over the course of two meetings, one to facilitate goal creation and the second to prioritize goals and develop objectives.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- **Compile initiatives for the Regional Plan Update**
Status: Complete by November 2009

- **Coordination of Comprehensive Regional Plan Updates**
Status: Complete by June 2010

(d) Transportation Enhancement Project Development and Grant-Writing Assistance

Products: Technical/grant-writing assistance for three enhancement projects. Applications representing an additional phase of a previously funded project will receive preference. If requests exceed 3 applications, all attempts will be made to accommodate requests.

Benchmarks/Milestones (throughout year):

- **Schedule meeting with CTB representative enhancement applications.**
Status: Complete by October 2009

- **Attend VDOT Enhancement Grant Workshops**
Status: Complete by August-October 2009

- **Submit Enhancement Applications.**
Status: Complete by November 1, 2009

Budget:

<u>Total</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC Match (20%)</u>
\$34,380.69	\$27,504.55	\$6,876.14

716.3 Regional Long Range Transportation 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 our region. 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.

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, or 3	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
6. Provide support and input to VDOT's statewide planning efforts. (i.e. VTRANS, Freight Study and Performance Report.)	PDC/Rural Tech Committee
7. Provide assistance to member jurisdictions on transportation planning related issues.	PDC/Rural Tech Committee/VHB
FY-10 Deliverables	
Phase IV Report should include the following elements:	
1. Planning District Commissions formal review and Comment on VDOT/Consultant draft report	

Budget:

<u>Total</u>	<u>SPR (80%)</u>	<u>PDC Match (20%)</u>
\$24,305.99	\$19,444.79	\$4,861.20

**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.	\$11,050.66	\$2,762.66	\$13,813.32
716.2 - NRV Regional Projects	\$27,504.55	\$6,876.14	\$34,380.69
716.3 – Long Range Transportation	\$19,444.79	\$4,861.20	\$24,305.99
TOTAL	\$58,000	\$14,500.00	\$72,500.00