

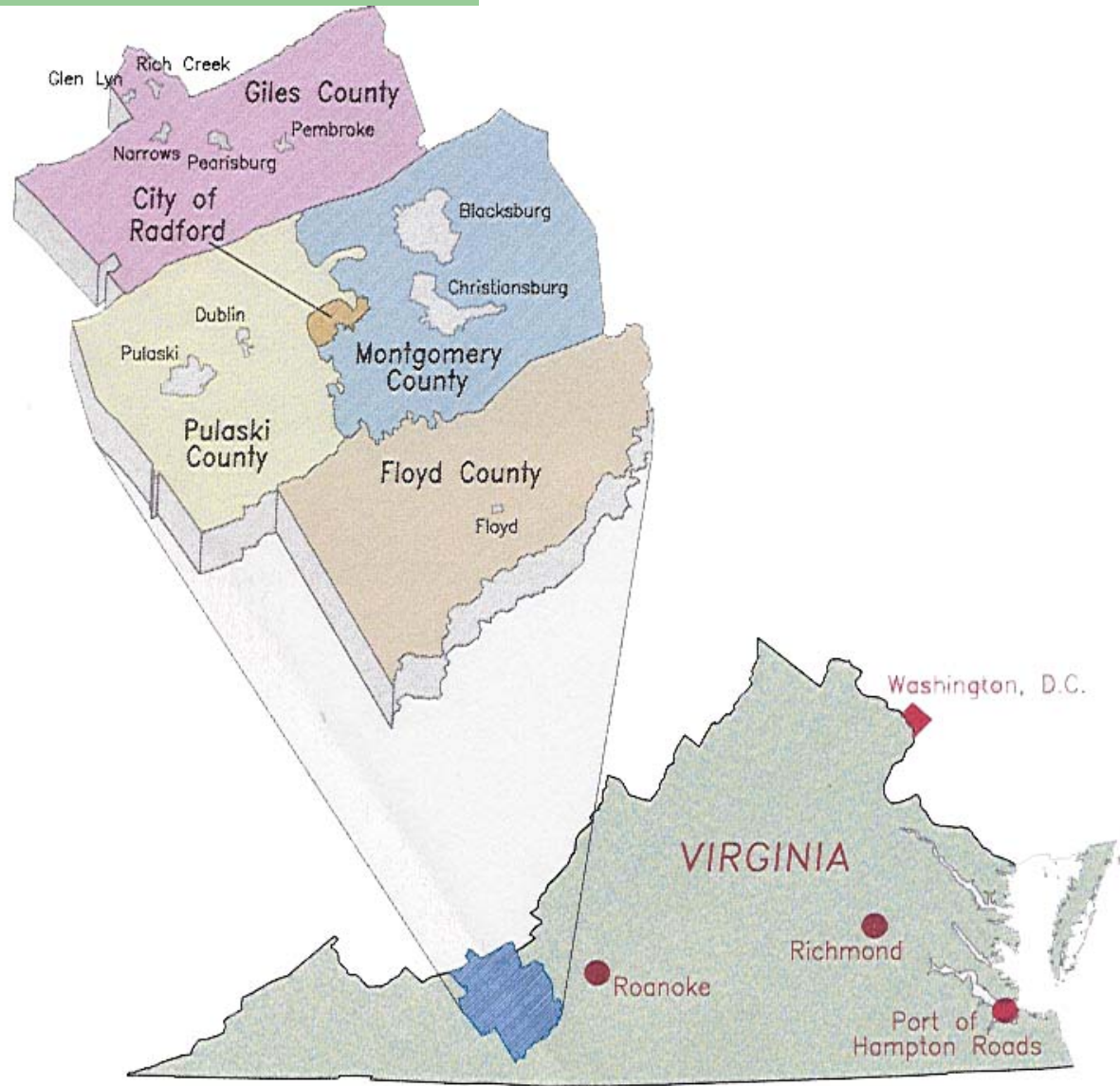


Legislative Program

New River Valley
Planning District Commission

December 14, 2006

Virginia's New River Valley



Priority Regional Issues

- Support for Regional Development Approaches
- Telecommunications/Community Fiber Optic Network
- Transportation
 - Basic Funding
 - International Airport
- Education funding
- Regional Water Source
 - Safety
 - Security

Regional Development

- Long Term
- Team Sport
- Regional Projects serve localities with similar needs
- Planning serves to create understanding
- Support increased State funding of \$100,000 to Rural PDCs and 35 cents per cap to Urban

Regional Projects

- WORK!
- Existing Projects Can Support Expanded Services
- Examples



Commerce Park Participation Committee

- Virginia's First Regional Industrial Authority
- 11 jurisdictions form membership
- 950+ acres publicly owned
- Virginia Enterprise Zone designation
- Adjacent to a Foreign Trade Zone & Port of Entry



Eight Member Localities



- Support State Participation in Expansion

Peppers Ferry Wastewater Authority (serves 6 members)



VT KnowledgeWorks

Accelerating company formation



LAKE VIEW

NRV Competitiveness Center

- New River Valley Development Corporation (Created by 8 governments)
- Support formation of local companies
- 31,000 sq. ft. Center April 1999
- 23,000 sq. ft. Expansion Sept 2003
 - 16 Companies with over 250 employees (since 1999)
- EDA Grants \$4,000,000
- State Grant \$250,000
- **\$2,200,000 Loans**



Support for Regional Development in the New River Valley **Matching Grant Fund**

- NRV has not enjoyed the Tobacco Commission funding support – dedicated State Investment
- Create a Matching Grant fund under 15.2-4217 Regional Cooperation Incentive Fund
- Purpose Matching funds for Planning and Implementation of Regional Projects \$2 million
 - \$450,000 Economic development infrastructure
 - \$100,000 Support Nano Tech feasibility study
 - \$ 500,000 debt reduction Competitiveness Center
 - \$ 950,000 Community Broadband Network Deployment
 - Other Regional Projects

Support for Regional Development Approaches

Encourage State Agencies to be Partners (mid-term)

- Department of Aviation should be an active participant in the development of New River Valley International Airport
- Economic Development Partnership should identify and market properties of statewide significance as a special focus to include: Commerce Park/NRV Airport
- Department of Rail should be actively coordinating the planning of rail serving the I-81 Corridor

Support for Regional Development Approaches **Matching Grant Fund**

- Create a Matching Grant fund under 15.2-4217 Regional Cooperation Incentive Fund
- Purpose Matching funds for Planning and Implementation of Regional Projects (14 million? \$2/capita as a Statewide Fund)
 - Economic development
 - Transportation
 - Water supply
 - Community Broadband Network Deployment
 - Other Regional Projects

The New River Valley Telecommunications Plan



APPALACHIAN
REGIONAL
COMMISSION



*Virginia's Center for
Innovative Technology*

e ENHANCING COMMUNITIES WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT
CORRIDORS



Virginia
Department of Housing and Community Development

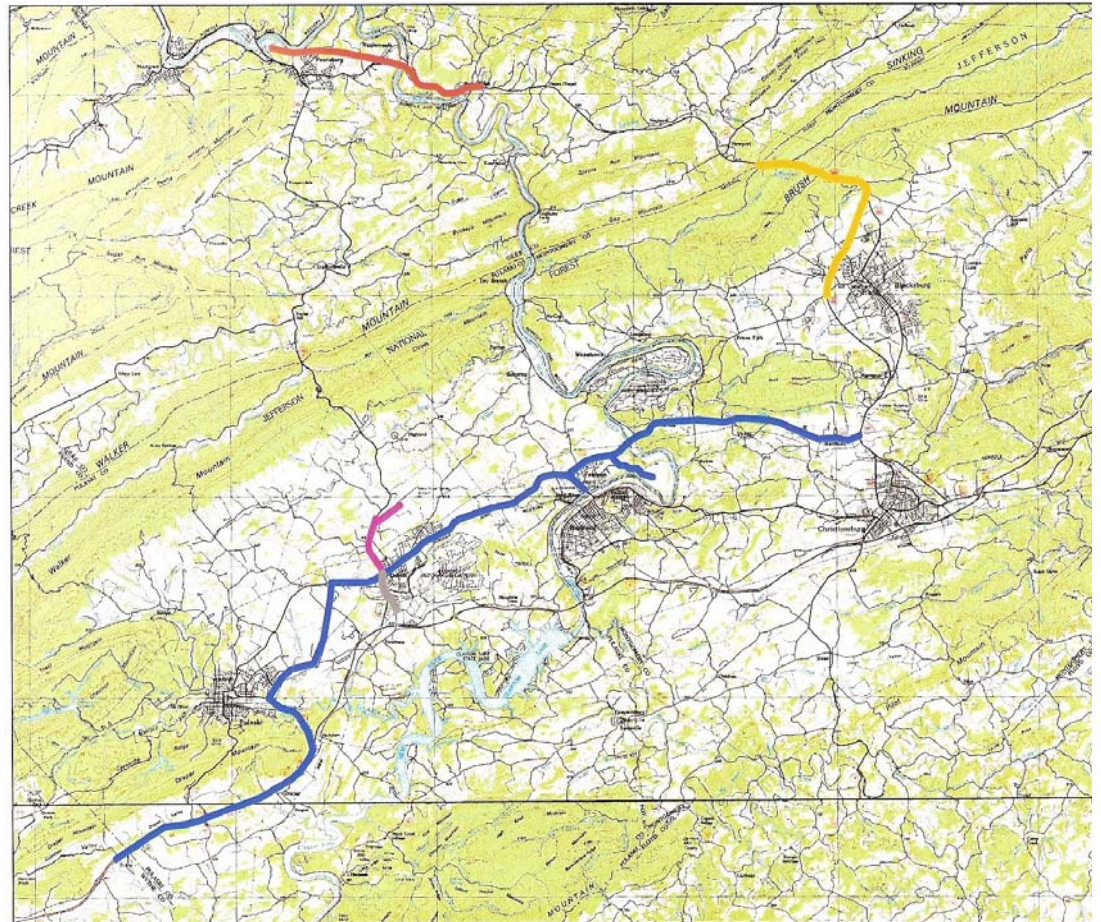


NRV Broadband Goals

- An open-access service network with three levels—inter-county, intra-county and local access—will be established through regional coordination and cooperation.
- *To “leapfrog” older networks to position the NRV to be competitive at the highest levels in the New Economy and the Information Age.*

Strategy: Integrating the pieces

Connecting the systems and filling in the gaps, will result in network estimated at \$4.3 million that will improve the economy and life in the NRV



FUNDING STRATEGY:

NRV is not the Urban Crescent or
in the tobacco settlement
regions of the State.

Strategic Approach
refocus local government
telecommunications payments

seek federal (**EDA & ARC**)
state help
(**Regional Incentive Funding**)

encourage private partners
as investors



Broadband Service is Required

- *Affordable access to a Fiber Network, providing high speed internet services is a basic infrastructure required to allow the region to compete*
- *NRV's approach open network supporting service providers*

Cable Modems and DSL (used car syndrome)

“ It is important to note here that the current generation of broadband technologies (cable and DSL) may prove woefully insufficient to carry many advanced applications driving future demand. Today’s broadband will be tomorrow’s traffic jam....”

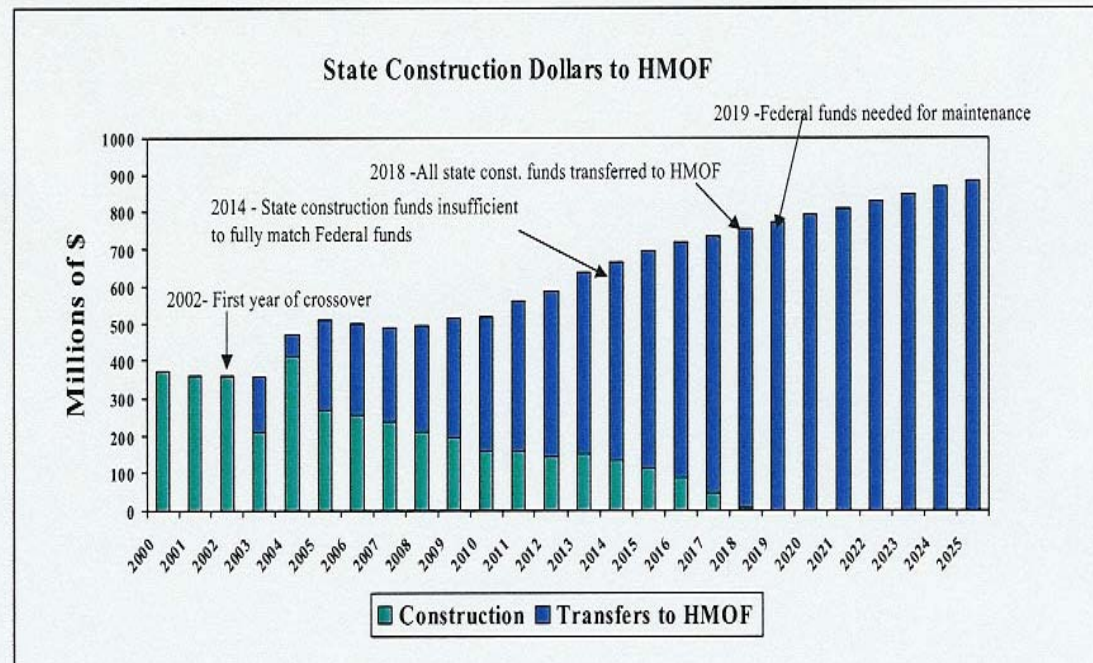
- US Dep’t of Commerce, “Understanding Broadband Demand....” (2002)

Support for Transportation Opportunities

- Basic Transportation Funding
- NRV International Airport
- Intermodal Infrastructure to serve the I-81 Corridor such as the RFAAP New River Site and a facility near the Virginia-Tenn. Border

Transportation Revenues

- One-time “fixes” will not adequately address funding needs into the future.



Transportation Revenues

- Commonwealth should adopt policies to ensure adequate investment in the transportation system.



New River Valley International Airport



- Major air transportation facility
- Should be receiving proactive Department of Aviation attention for improvements
- Only Virginia Airport having significant adjacent industrial land – should be receiving Virginia Economic Development priority as a unique facility to market, particularly internationally

Transportation Intermodal

- NRV could support Intermodal Infrastructure



TransDominion Express



Department of Rail
should assist in
making connections

Legislative Support for Transportation

- Support adequate long-term financing program
- Leave land use controls at the local level
- Require a partnership between VDOT and other transportation agencies and the local governments in evaluating land use and transportation impacts (some legislative proposals reverse priority)

Legislative Support for Education

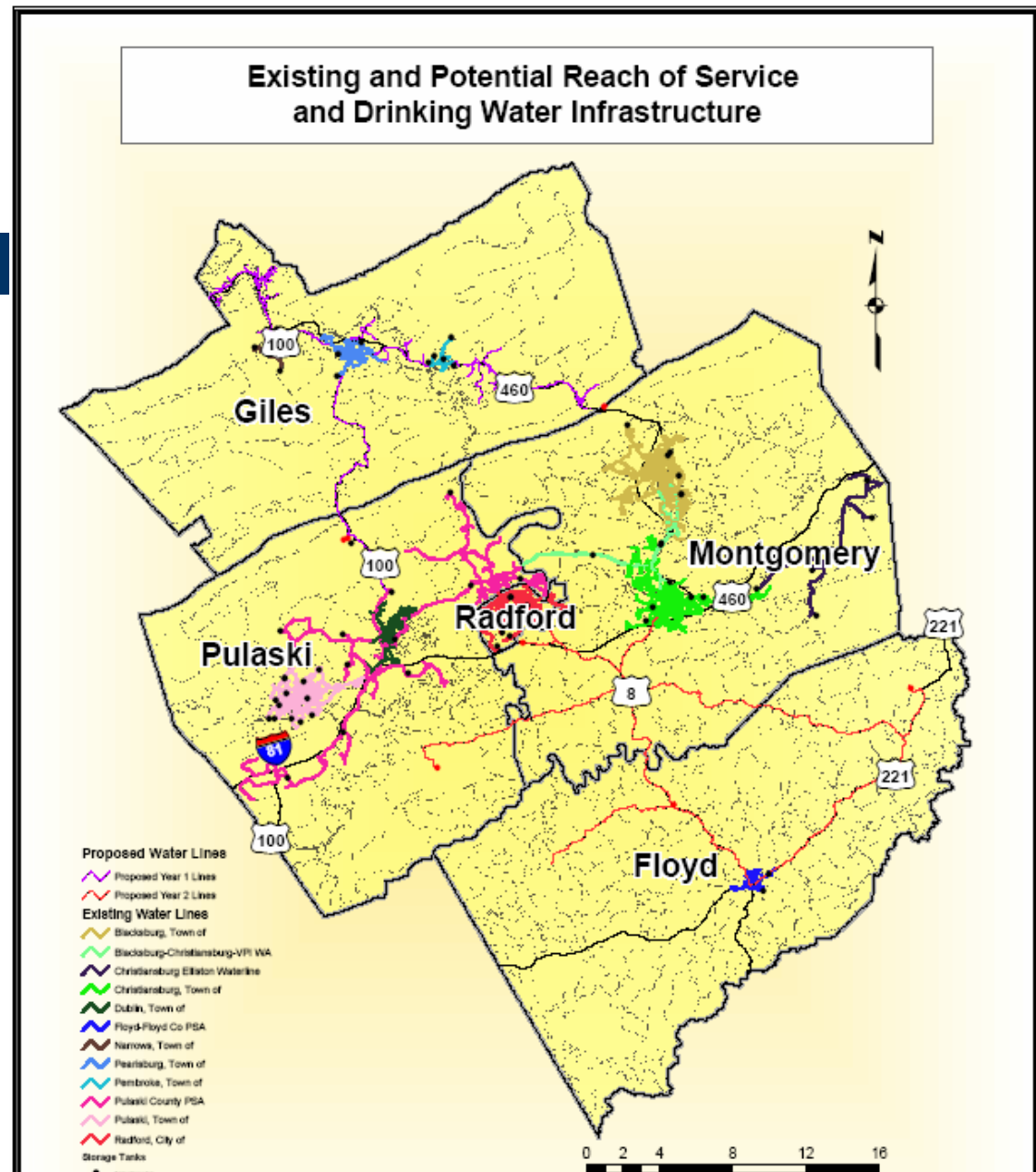
- Support adequate long-term financial program to assist with school construction



Regional Water Supply

- Expand Public Water Service
- Improve Security of Sources
- Improve Affordability
- Regionalize water supply
- Expand transport investment to improve efficiencies of public water service

Regional Water Supply



Legislative Support for Regional Water Supply

- Be aware and supportive of the project
- Encourage agency support in transition
- Help with funding through the Regional Cooperation Incentive Fund



Thank you



Discussion