

**Biennial Report to the Governor and General Assembly on**

**VIRGINIA'S PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSIONS  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2013 AND 2014**



**Department of Housing and Community Development  
Commonwealth of Virginia**

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# BIENNIAL REPORT ON VIRGINIA'S PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSIONS FY 2013 & FY 2014

## I. Executive Summary

Virginia has 21 planning district commissions (PDCs) – voluntary associations of local governments intended to foster intergovernmental cooperation by bringing together local elected and appointed officials and involved citizens to discuss common needs and determine solutions to regional issues.

The Virginia General Assembly created the statutory framework for the creation of the PDCs in 1968 through the passage of the Virginia Area Development Act. In 1995, the General Assembly modified the Area Development Act through the adoption of the Regional Cooperation Act (Chapter 42, Title 15.2, *Code of Virginia*). The Regional Cooperation Act clearly articulates that PDCs were created to provide a forum for state and local government to address issues of a regional nature.

Another purpose of PDCs is to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation in addressing, on a regional basis, problems of greater than local significance. This mission is accomplished through a variety of means, including the development regional strategic plans with participation from local governing bodies, the business community, citizen organizations and other interested parties.

Section 15.2-4215 of the *Code of Virginia* requires each PDC to submit an annual report to its member local governments and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) on how the PDC has met the provisions of the Regional Cooperation Act. Further, Section 36-139.6 of the *Code of Virginia* provides that DHCD is to submit a biennial report to the Governor and General Assembly, as well as certain other state agencies, which includes findings as to compliance by the PDCs with the Regional Cooperation Act. Based on their 2013 and 2014 annual reports, Virginia's planning district commissions are meeting the overall intent of the Regional Cooperation Act.

## II. Overview

Virginia has 21 planning district commissions (PDCs) – voluntary associations of local governments intended to foster intergovernmental cooperation by bringing together local elected and appointed officials and involved citizens to discuss common needs and determine solutions to regional issues.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A complete listing of the PDCs and their member jurisdictions is provided in Appendix H.

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Another purpose of PDCs is to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation in addressing, on a regional basis, problems of greater than local significance. This cooperation is intended to help local governments solve their problems by enhancing the ability to recognize and analyze regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services.

One important mechanism in helping localities meet these goals is the requirement that each PDC complete a regional strategic plan with participation from local governing bodies, the business community, citizen organizations and other interested parties. The strategic plan is required to include regional goals and objectives, strategies to meet those goals and mechanisms for measuring progress. The intent of the plan is to help promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the planning district.

In addition to the strategic planning requirement, the Regional Cooperation Act identifies other duties of the planning district commissions:

- To conduct studies on issues and problems of regional significance;
- To identify and study potential opportunities for cost savings and staffing efficiencies through coordinated local government efforts;
- To identify mechanisms for the coordination of local interests on a regional basis;
- To implement services upon the request of member local governments;
- To provide technical assistance to local governments;
- To serve as a liaison between local governments and state agencies as requested;
- To review local government aid applications as required by applicable state and federal law and regulation;
- To develop regional functional area plans as deemed necessary by the commission or as requested by member local governments;
- To assist state agencies, as requested, in the development of substate plans;
- To participate in a statewide geographic information system, the Virginia Geographic Information Network, as directed by the Department of Planning and Budget; and
- To collect and maintain demographic, economic and other data concerning the region and member local governments and act as a state data center affiliate in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission.

In support of these duties, for FY 2013 and FY 2014 the General Assembly appropriated and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) distributed \$1,785,321 annually to the 21 PDCs. These appropriations are still significantly lower than the amount allocated prior to numerous funding reductions that began in October 2007. The amount of the appropriation to the 21 PDCs for FY 2007 was \$2,463,771. Therefore, the amount appropriated in FY 2014 is \$678,450 – or 27.5 percent – less than the amount that was appropriated for FY 2007.

In FY 2014, the amount appropriated to individual PDCs ranged from \$75,971 to \$151,943. It should also be noted that planning district commissions' member jurisdictions contain a population that ranges from 45,553 to 2,230,623.<sup>2</sup>

Each PDC is required to submit an annual report to its member local governments and DHCD prior to September 1 of each year. The report, at a minimum, is required to describe the activities conducted by the PDCs during the preceding fiscal year and document how the commission met the provisions of the Regional Cooperation Act.

The Regional Cooperation Act also recognizes that dual membership by localities in PDCs may be advantageous to member jurisdictions. Section 15.2-4220 of the *Code of Virginia* permits any locality which is a member of a PDC to become a member of an additional PDC upon such terms and conditions as mutually agreed to by the locality and the additional PDC. Accordingly, the following jurisdictions hold dual membership in PDCs as indicated:

- Charles City County: Richmond Regional PDC and Crater PDC
- Chesterfield County: Richmond Regional PDC and Crater PDC
- Franklin County: Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission and West Piedmont PDC
- Gloucester County: Middle Peninsula PDC and Hampton Roads PDC
- Surry County: Crater PDC and Hampton Roads PDC
- Town of Rocky Mount: Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission and West Piedmont PDC

### III. Summary Data FY 2013 & FY 2014

The annual report format requires the PDCs to consider four elements of performance. Each PDC is asked to document progress in developing and implementing strategic planning in the planning district; to describe all activities accomplished with respect to the duties assigned under the Regional Cooperation Act; to highlight successes and achievements of special note with regional efforts in cooperation; and to submit a work program for the coming year that includes a budget and a list of member jurisdictions and commission members. The responses for Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014 are summarized on the pages that follow. Tables depicting the wide range of activities performed by each PDC relative to the individual elements required by the Regional Cooperation Act appear in Appendices A through G.

#### A. Regional Strategic Planning

Asked to document progress in developing and implementing strategic planning in the planning district, 14 out of 21 PDCs (two-thirds) reported that they had formally adopted a regional strategic plan.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For more information, see Appendix I for FY 2013 and 2014 state funding as well as population served.

<sup>3</sup> The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (PDC 8) is exempt from the requirement to adopt a strategic plan because its regional planning is conducted by a multi-state council of governments.

The following table summarizes the status of strategic plans for each PDC:

<u>Strategic Plan Adopted</u>		<u>Strategic Plan In Progress</u>	
1	LENOWISCO	2	Cumberland Plateau
3	Mount Rogers	7	Northern Shenandoah Valley
4	New River Valley	9	Rappahannock-Rapidan
5	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany	19	Crater
6	Central Shenandoah	22	Accomack-Northampton
10	Thomas Jefferson	23	Hampton Roads
11	Region 2000		
12	West Piedmont	<u>Strategic Plan Not Required</u>	
13	Southside	8	Northern Virginia
14	Commonwealth Regional		
15	Richmond Regional		
16	George Washington		
17	Northern Neck		
18	Middle Peninsula		

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Substantial (70.0 % achieved; 30.0 % in progress)***

## **B. Duties Performed**

The PDCs were asked to provide a concise description of all activities accomplished pursuant to the duties assigned under the Regional Cooperation Act ("the Act"). To facilitate summarizing the data for each of the duties prescribed by the Act, responses were grouped by the following predominant functional areas:

- Infrastructure
- Health and Human Services
- Housing
- Administration
- Planning and Zoning
- Environment
- Strategic Planning
- Disaster Planning
- Telecommunications and Technology
- Work Force
- Economic Development
- Transportation
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Community Development
- Other

### **i. To conduct studies on issues and problems of regional significance**

The 21 PDCs reported conducting a total of 624 such studies for the two-year period. Over the biennium, 351 studies (56.3 percent) dealt with the functional areas of transportation, economic development, disaster planning and environmental concerns. All but one PDC conducted at least one study in the most frequently addressed area of transportation. Five of the PDCs (Mount Rogers, Thomas

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Of the six PDCs that have not adopted a strategic plan, but are required to do so, all are addressing the requirement through the development of multiple strategic plans for specific program areas (e.g., economic development, transportation, etc.) or through other means.

Jefferson, Region 2000, Richmond Regional, and Hampton Roads) conducted ten or more transportation studies during the 2013-2014 biennium.

In order of frequency, studies addressed transportation (151), environment (87), disaster planning (57), economic development (56), infrastructure (45), community development (41), housing (35), planning and zoning (30), strategic planning (25), geographic information systems (22), telecommunications and technology (19), work force issues (17), administration (14), health and human services (8); and other issues (17).

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***

- ii. To identify and study potential opportunities for local cost savings and staffing efficiencies through coordinated local government efforts.**

During FY 2013 and FY 2014, the majority (59.2%) of the 801 such studies conducted by the 21 PDCs were focused on transportation (126), infrastructure (106), economic development (84), environment (80), and community development (78).

The functional areas that generated the fewest studies of potential cost savings or staff efficiencies were planning and zoning (28), work force issues (21), and strategic planning (6).

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***

- iii. To identify mechanisms for the coordination of local interests on a regional basis.**

During FY 2013 and FY 2014, the 21 PDCs reported 938 instances in which mechanisms were identified for coordinating local interests on a regional basis. Over one-half (55.8 percent) of the mechanisms identified were in the areas of environment (116), administration (114), transportation (114), economic development (102), and infrastructure (77).

For the biennium, the PDCs identified the areas of geographic information systems (29), health and human services (25), and work force issues (22) as having the least potential for coordinating local interests regionally.

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***

- iv. To implement services and to provide technical assistance upon request of member localities.**

These components of the Act accounted for 2,402 activities reported by the 21 planning district commissions during FY 2013 and 2014. As might be expected, the amount of services and technical assistance varies considerably by function area. Over one-third (36.6 percent) of the service provided,

was provided in the areas of geographic information services (334), transportation (285), and community development (260).

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***

- v. **To serve as liaison between localities and state agencies as requested.**

The 21 PDCs most often served as a liaison between local and state government when the issues dealt with transportation (14.4 percent), the environment (13.8 percent) and economic development (10.6 percent). The planning district commissions served as liaison less frequently in the areas of health and human services, geographic information systems, strategic planning, and work force issues.

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***

- vi. **To review local government aid applications as required by §15.2-4213, Code of Virginia and other state or federal law or regulation.**

During FY 2013 and FY 2014, all of the 21 PDCs reported reviewing local governmental aid applications. A total of 590 applications were reviewed.

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***

- vii. **To develop regional functional area plans as deemed necessary by the commission or as requested by member localities.**

During FY 2013 and 2014, the majority (56.4 percent) of the functional area plans developed by the 21 PDCs were in the areas of transportation (103), environment (60), economic development (43) and disaster planning (36). During that time period, PDCs developed the fewest functional area plans in the areas of health and human services, housing, and administration.

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***

- viii. **To assist state agencies, as requested, in the development of substate plans.**

The 21 PDCs assisted state agencies in the development of substate plans 215 times in FY 2013 and 121 times in 2014, for a total of 336 instances during the two-year period.

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***



- ix. **To participate in a statewide geographic information system, the Virginia Geographic Network, as directed by the Department of Planning and Budget.**

All 21 PDCs reported participation in the Virginia Geographic Information Network during the FY 2013-FY 2014 period.

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***

- x. **To collect and maintain demographic, economic and other data concerning the region and member localities and act as a state data center affiliate in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission.**

During the reporting period, all 21 PDCs reported significant with respect to demographic, economic and other data collection and dissemination in addition to serving as an affiliate state data center.

***Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Achieved (100 %)***

### **C. Successes and Achievements of Regional Significance**

In addition to providing data responsive to each of the requirements contained in the Act and reported on above, DHCD requests that each PDC highlight its successes and achievements with respect to regional cooperative efforts in each year's annual report to the agency. The following sections feature selected highlights that were submitted from each PDC:

#### **Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (A-NPDC)**

##### **Domestic Violence Shelter Once in Crisis Now Expands Service with A-NPDC Assistance**

In 2012, the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ESCADV) learned it would not receive a Homeless Solutions Grant, threatening the closure of its domestic violence shelter. In 2014, ESCADV partnered with A-NPDC on a regional grant application for the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program funding, which focused on the shelter operations of the domestic violence shelter and the expansion of its service area into Northampton County via hotel vouchers. The grant also provides Rapid Rehousing dollars to help individuals coming out of local shelters and funds to prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless. A-NPDC wrote the coordinated local planning group grant application, which has since been awarded and will provide ESCADV with double the amount of funds that it originally received before forming this partnership. Two years ago, domestic violence victims were facing the loss of a critical safety net but today they will find improved and expanded regional services.

##### **Regional Managers Meetings Begun**

A-NPDC, in partnership with Accomack and Northampton Counties, now staffs the new Regional Managers Meetings. These meetings are designed to share information and promote best management practices among the professional staff and mayors of the Towns and Counties. Topics discussed ranged

from how to implement the Virginia Retirement System's new Hybrid Retirement option to employment rules for Town police officers. The group has also used these meetings to seek out training needed for professional staff and officials of the jurisdictions on the Eastern Shore. A-NPDC staff are coordinating the next training on the Virginia Public Records Act from the Library of Virginia. This strategy is promoting compliance with Virginia laws and regulations and creating a culture amongst the group of cooperation and mutual assistance.

### **Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC)**

#### **Bath/Highland Broadband Project – Bringing Broadband to Rural Virginia**

On behalf of Bath and Highland Counties, the CSPDC applied for and received a CDBG regional planning grant for a telecommunications planning project. Planning grant funds will be used to develop strategies and identify resources for addressing the gaps in broadband services. A Broadband Telecommunications Management Team (TMT) has been established and is working towards developing a Community Telecommunications Plan which will include a needs assessment analysis, broadband education and application development, last mile connectivity solutions, preliminary engineering and cost estimates, organizational and operational recommendations, and funding strategies for future implementation projects. CSPDC staff is providing project management and grant administration services for this project and a consultant has been hired to develop the plan.

#### **Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Public Transit Program – Keeping Public Transit Moving in the Region**

In January 2014, the CSPDC assumed the administration of the of the public transit system in the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro area, known as Coordinated Area Transportation System (CATS) and operated by a private, non-profit transit service, Virginia Regional Transit (VRT).

As a result of the 2010 Census, the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro area was required to form a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to coordinate transportation planning and provision of transit services in the urbanized area. Rather than have the localities take over the administration, the CSPDC stepped in on their behalf. The CSPDC became the designated recipient of the Federal Transit Administration's Urbanized Area Formula Funding Program under section 5307 that funds public transit systems. The CSPDC took on the role of fiscal agent for the program and contracted transit services through VRT. Other partners and contributors to the program include Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Augusta Health, Shenandoah Valley Department of Social Services, Staunton Downtown Development Association and the three jurisdictions.

The next step for this program is the creation of a Transit Development Plan, which will evaluate existing system performance and identify transit service needs of the public, and recommend system improvements and a future operating plan.

**Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC)****Charlotte Court House Intersection Study**

In order to meet goals in the Virginia Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the CRC conducted a Pilot Intersection Study Analysis of State Routes 40 and 47 in Charlotte Court House, which was previously identified in the CRC's Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan. Although this intersection handles a large number of trucks, it is located in a historic area and is constrained by buildings that would make widening difficult. The study concluded that a bypass route should be pursued by VDOT in coordination with the Town of Charlotte Court House and Charlotte County. It also recommended that a freight study be conducted by VDOT to determine the amount of truck traffic currently traveling through the Town. It should be noted that this study was initiated to provide information to VDOT for future reference, and that VDOT acceptance of this report does not constitute approval of location and design or funding commitments.

**Regional Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Application for Funds to Update CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The CRC began the process of working towards another update of the CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Commonwealth Regional Council developed its initial Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2004-2005, and completed an update of the Plan in December 2011; therefore, another update will be required by 2017. The Plan is required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 to be eligible for certain types of FEMA funding, and must be updated every five years to remain in compliance with federal regulations.

The CRC submitted a regional application for FEMA Mitigation Grant Funding for planning grant funding to update the Plan. Funds were requested to assist in the evaluation and revision of the various sections, including a revised planning process, capability assessment, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA), vulnerability assessment, and plan maintenance section. Mitigation strategies will be reviewed, evaluated, and updated to better prepare the participating localities for the risks associated with the hazards addressed in the Plan. Furthermore, a Project Management Team will be formed with a representative from each participating locality. This team will assist the CRC staff in reviewing and updating the plan, and individual team members will serve as liaisons between the CRC and their respective locality. It anticipated that announcements of grant awards will be issued in the latter part of 2014.

**Crater Planning District Commission (CPDC)****2013 Fort Lee Joint Land Use Study**

Fort Lee represents one-seventh of the Crater District's economy with an overall economic impact of \$2.4 billion annually. The CPDC, in cooperation with Fort Lee, recently completed the Fort Lee Joint Land Use Study. The purpose of the study was to proactively look at encroachment, broadly

interpreted to include frequencies, air quality, air space, wastewater, and also development around Fort Lee. The study found that the region and Fort Lee have a compatible growth pattern, as most of its operational impacts and hazards are well confined on the base.

One key recommendation that is currently being pursued, is to develop a regional geographic information system database to monitor land use changes around Fort Lee. The CPDC is working with VCU's Center for Urban and Regional Development on this project.

The completion of this plan is a positive asset for the region, in the event that Fort Lee is considered in future base realignment and closure reviews. The plan could assist with additional functions being relocated to the base.

### **Buy Fresh Buy Local 2014 Food Guide**

This past year the PDC produced the *Buy Fresh Buy Local 2014 Food Guide*. It incorporates all of the District's localities and it promotes the farmers markets in the region, as well as local farms and producers that sell on-site. A contact person in each locality was designated to assist in identifying all of the interested producers. These guides have been widely distributed throughout the region with the hope that these local farms and farmers markets will grow their customer base. It is also an educational tool to share with consumers the benefits of eating locally grown foods.

Plans are already underway to expand the number of producers listed. Additionally, it is hoped that restaurants which serve locally grown food-farm-to-table fare will also want to be included in future annual updates of the Guide. A working group also met with a local producer about the feasibility of having an indoor farmers market beginning in late fall. Currently a survey instrument is being used to gauge interest in this project. A model for this project is a very successful indoor market in Roanoke.

### **Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission (CPPDC)**

#### **Virginia Coalfield Coalition Wireless 4G Project - Phase 2**

A new initiative in telecommunication, begun in 2011 in partnership with LENOWISCO PDC and the Virginia Coalfield Coalition (VCC), is the Regional 4G Wireless Project. Working with Verizon Wireless (VzW), the PDCs and VCC, in partnership with Bristol Virginia Utilities and Scott County Telephone Cooperative, completed Phase 1 of the project to provide back haul services to 27 existing VzW towers in the Coalfields region. Phase 2, begun in FY 14, involved construction of 11 new towers. Eight have been completed and put in service, one is near completion and two are in the permitting stage. The PDCs and VCC have received \$13.5 million in Tobacco Commission funding and a \$1.5 million loan from VCEDA to add to an approximately \$15.0 million investment by VzW to bring 4G cell service to the Coalfields region. When completed, the region will be one of the first rural areas in the nation with 4G service, greatly improving the region's economic development efforts.

**Clinch River Valley Initiative**

The CPPDC staff worked with the Town of Cleveland on a downtown project and prepared a successful CDBG application for nearly \$800,000 for blight removal, trail development and streetscape improvements as part of the Clinch River Valley Initiative (CRVI). CRVI is a pioneering grassroots effort to build local economies in the coalfields of Southwest Virginia by focusing on the Clinch River Valley - one of the most biodiverse river systems in North America. Working at a watershed scale with several local and regional partners, this collaborative grassroots effort has developed significant momentum with applicability for other communities in the District and beyond. These partners cooperated to bring another \$84,000 in grant funds to this effort.

**George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)****Coordinated Transfer of Advantage Website and Administration**

GW RideConnect is the transportation demand management (TDM) agency for the GWRC area, and it assists over 6000 commuters daily utilizing carpools, vanpools and commuter buses. This program is helping to reduce vehicle traffic traveled on the I-95 corridor by 181,198,080 miles per year.

There are currently 426 vanpool operators who are required to possess specialized liability insurance, and there is only one private insurance carrier that provides this coverage. Over the past several years GWRC has partnered with the State's Division of Risk Management (DRM) to provide Advantage Insurance to vanpool operators. This insurance, which is offered statewide, offers a competitive cost alternative to the one private carrier.

During the current year GWRC has coordinated a rewrite of the current Advantage Insurance website. This rewrite was done to provide the vanpool users with a one-stop, user-friendly means to register vans into the program, update information and pay premiums. In addition GWRC will provide administrative oversight, thus reducing administrative oversight burdens currently within DRM. DRM will continue to perform claim investigation and processing.

**Regional Emergency Planning Committee**

The Emergency Management leadership of GWRC area saw the need to develop a coordinated means of identifying and tracking the movement of hazardous material within the region. These hazards not only included those materials that are produced and/or housed in the area but also the movement of these materials into, through and outside of our area via our transportation network. Utilizing funding from the Department of Emergency Management, the Emergency Managers began to consider forming a Regional Emergency Management Committee, which would include local participants, state officials, and federal official in addition to community representation who would meet periodically to ensure proper communication in the event of a hazardous material emergency. Also included in this project was mapping of hazardous material sites within the region, which provided information on proximity of hazardous materials to population centers as well as vulnerable population groups.

**Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)****Hampton Roads Loan Fund Partnership (HRLFP)**

The HRPDC took the lead in organizing the HRLFP, one of 14 regional partnerships participating in the DHCD/VHDA Single Family Regional Loan Fund initiative. The HRPDC continues to act as Regional Administrator and fiscal agent for the HRLFP. The HRLFP is the first regional service delivery organization of its kind in Hampton Roads and serves as a model for future initiatives in regional cooperation. Since its establishment in 1997, the program has enabled more than \$44.5 million in VHDA low interest first mortgages and approximately \$7.0 million in DHCD down payment and closing cost assistance. The program has also leveraged more than \$17.3 million in other loan and grant funds including Federal Home Loan Bank funding, local land grant programs and Individual Development Account (IDA) programs. As a result of this program, over 661 low income households have been able to purchase their first homes.

**Sewer System Consolidation Study**

In 2010, Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) entered into a Federal Consent Decree with the Virginia DEQ and the US EPA. The Federal Consent Decree requires that HRSD work with the localities to develop a Regional Wet Weather Management Plan (RWWMP) that will ensure adequate wet weather sewer capacity in HRSD's portion of the regional sewer system. Localities are under a Special Order by Consent that requires them to develop a RWWMP for their portions of the sewer system.

HRSD and the localities conducted a study to determine if HRSD ownership of the localities' sewer systems would provide significant capital and operational cost savings to the region's ratepayers under the RWWMP. The regional study was completed in the summer of 2013 and estimated that one billion dollars could be saved over a 30-year period in capital and operation/maintenance costs as compared to a scenario where HRSD and the Localities independently seek to address wet weather capacity needs.

**Lenowisco Planning District Commission (LPDC)****Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

LPDC has completed its district-wide pre-disaster hazard mitigation plan, originally adopted in 2005. This updated plan will provide an effective means within the district to analyze, devise and implement pre-disaster mitigation strategies at the local and regional levels. The opportunity to participate in this planning/update process was open to all LPDC localities, which provided input throughout the planning process. Activities included review and revision, as needed, of the 2005 plan's community profiles, hazard identification and risk assessment, capability assessments, mitigation strategies, mitigation alternatives, and implementation plan.

### **Regional Downtown Initiative**

Through the cooperation of DHCD, over the last six years LPDC has taken the lead in establishing a Regional Downtown Initiative Team. Original members of this team include the Towns of Pound, Gate City and St. Paul. More recently, the Towns of Nickelsville, Jonesville, Dungannon, Wise and Big Stone Gap have joined in. Each of these localities, on their own, has begun the steps necessary for downtown renewal. The Regional group is made up of two members of each of these localities. The "Regional Downtown Initiative Team" has been very successful in educating each of these individual communities that a "Regional Partnership" effort will be much more successful than if each of the localities viewed the other as "competition". This approach has allowed each of the localities to share their successes and failures and has helped to move the process along in an efficient and economical manner.

Five of the members have been successful in receiving funds to begin the construction phase of their downtown projects (Gate City, Wise, St. Paul, Big Stone Gap and Pound). The other members are in various stages of the planning process and hope to secure construction funds within the next year.

### **Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC)**

#### **Roadside and Outfall Drainage Ditch Issues**

In response to ongoing drainage ditch maintenance issues along public roadways, MPPDC conducted a legal analysis to study ownership, management and oversight of stormwater ditches, and their relationship to VDOT-maintained roadways. The study revealed that the responsibility to maintain these drainage ways is complicated, and that VDOT is not responsible in many situations.

In response to the findings, MPPDC worked with Del. Keith Hodges to draft H.B. 528 (2014) to make VDOT revenue-sharing funds available for construction and maintenance of drainage facilities and to obtain. Ultimately, the bill was stricken after VDOT assured MPPDC localities that revenue-sharing funds could be used to address drainage issues impacting transportation. MPPDC continues to work with localities to help resolve roadside ditch issues as they continue to plague our low-lying coastal jurisdictions.

#### **Perrin River Revitalization**

A number of issues, including market forces, changing demographics, regulatory changes, and increasing tax burdens on waterfront properties are causing waterfront properties to transition to residential or recreational uses. If access to the waterfront is limited or severed, water-dependent industries will have fewer options to successfully utilize the tidal waters of the Commonwealth.

To begin addressing this issue, VDOT transferred ownership of a wharf on the Perrin River in Gloucester County to the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority. The wharf had traditionally been used by watermen to store vessels and offload seafood, as well as for public water access. The Authority reorganized the wharf and created new boat slips to improve docking arrangements and

traffic flow. This project was funded using federal, state, and local funds, and serves as an example of how a small investment in a community can help preserve and revitalize an urban waterfront, while benefitting a diverse group of users.

### **Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC)**

#### **Business District Revitalization Efforts**

MRPDC is currently working with several towns on business district / Main Street revitalization efforts. In the Town of Glade Spring, downtown revitalization efforts began in 2010, when the business district was comprised of 12 vacant storefronts and 5 occupied storefronts. Since then, MRPDC began providing Town Management services, managed a CDBG planning grant and served as a management team member, and prepared a competitive CDBG application. During the planning process, the town, with the PDC's assistance, completed an economic revitalization master plan and environmental review. With the CDBG funding awarded in summer 2013, Glade Spring will create a small business loan pool, eliminate physical blight in the downtown square, and promote Glade Spring through a new branding effort.

Since beginning the initiative the downtown square has been transformed and now is comprised of 17 occupied store fronts, a newly rehabilitated public library, and a brand new structure which houses a Head-Start facility. MRPDC staff will continue to work with the town to provide CDBG grant management and oversight for the downtown facade and loan programs, as well as the development of a farmers market.

MRPDC has also been supporting business district initiatives recently in Chilhowie, Damascus, Marion, Rural Retreat, Troutdale, and Wytheville.

#### **Regional Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation Program**

In response to a statewide initiative from DHCD to more efficiently service the localities currently participating in DHCD's Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation (IPR) Program, MRPDC applied for, and was awarded the role of Sub-recipient and Regional Administrator for the IPR Program of the area covered by the Mount Rogers, LENOWISCO, and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commissions (Service Area 1).

MRPDC will be working with DHCD to continue to provide a high level of service to each locality, and partnering with the traditional service providers: Appalachian Community Action and Development Agency, Clinch Valley Community Action Agency, Lee County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Rooftop of Virginia Community Action Agency, and the Southeast Rural Community Action Project (SERCAP) to implement the project in a manner conducive to producing successful outcomes. On an annual basis, the MRPDC will solicit input from the localities as to the state of the program, and to evaluate the status of the designated local service provider. Each service area received an initial allocation of \$320,000, with access to a competitive based "incentive pool" containing an additional



\$800,000 for the State. We anticipate completing at least 10 units within this fiscal year, with an estimated financial impact of over \$500,000 on the region.

### **New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVPDC)**

#### **New River Valley Livability Initiative**

Following a three-year collaborative planning process for the Livability Initiative, final reports were released in February, 2014. The process engaged over 3,000 residents of the region, and several hundred meetings were held to gain further insight on a future vision. The project was guided by a consortium comprised of local governments, non-profits and local serving agencies.

The final report is broken down into four themes shaped by the input secured during the planning process; Enhancing the Living and Working Environment; Preserving Rural Heritage and Community Character; Making the Business Environment More Productive and Resilient; and Building Healthy Communities. Goals and strategies identified for each theme are supported by data and trends. The intention of the reports is to help inform decision making in communities across the region and serve as the foundation for collaborations that can champion efforts.

Going forward, the NRV Livability Initiative is being transitioned to the Community Foundation of the New River Valley. As a local philanthropy dedicated to raising local funds for local needs, the Foundation will be evaluating their grant programs to determine whether their funds are directed to the areas of highest need as identified by the Livability Initiative planning process. Further, the Commission will partner with the Foundation to monitor progress in areas of high need and measure data relevant to indicators established in the plans.

#### **Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority and New River Valley Commerce Park**

Virginia's First and the New River Valley Commerce Park Participation Committee welcomed Red Sun Farms into the New River Valley Commerce Park this past fiscal year. Red Sun produces hydroponic vegetables and plans to grow organic tomatoes for the East Coast market. This first prospect to locate at the Commerce Park will be making a \$30 million investment on 45 acres and creating 205 jobs in the next five years.

Virginia's First continues to focus on economic development opportunity, with efforts centered on the Commerce Park. Staff have been assisting with the administrative and financial functions of the authority and its New River Valley Commerce Park Participation Committee. Design and development work is being done this fiscal year and next to better position the park in the market, particularly in response to a site certification process created by American Electric Power. Staff has assisted with site assessment activities and coordination of engineering design and studies, in addition to overall efforts to market the Park. To better position the Park financially, debt accrued in development of the park has been refinanced this fiscal year to provide more favorable terms for managing the property and debt service in the coming years.

**Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC)****National Heritage Area Designation**

The NNPDC continues its efforts toward having the Northern Neck designated a National Heritage Area under the National Park Service's National Heritage Area Program. Congress has approved the legislation to study the designation, and the feasibility study is ongoing and scheduled for completion in 2014. The Park Service's study criteria includes the analysis and evaluation of the natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic and recreational resources of the area as being nationally distinct and worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation and continuing use, and the significant and demonstrated support of the study area community including residents, business interests, organizations and appropriate local, state and federal government agencies. In the meantime, the NNPDC is planning to market and promote the region as a "heritage area".

**Broadband Planning Study**

The NNPDC has completed a Regional Broadband Study assessing the need for broadband services within the region and preliminary engineering. A Broadband Authority has been formed to pursue ways to implement the plan. A wireless broadband pilot program was completed to test a licensed wireless frequency. The NNPDC and the Authority are currently working with a local wireless service provider to deploy this licensed wireless frequency regionwide.

**Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC)****Winchester Transit System Bus Stop Inventory**

NSVRC's staff capacity helped complete activities for the WinTran program providing public transit in the City of Winchester. Staff completed an in-house assessment of every bus stop location in the City's system to determine Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and to inventory additional features at each site including access to shade and rain cover and sidewalk existence, condition and width. The results of the study were used to help determine the most appropriate locations for installation of benches and shelters along the system's routes. Additionally, the database, now that it is geocoded, can be easily maintained and compared to other geodatabases that track ridership and other rider features to assure maximized investment in the City's transit system.

**Planning Assistance to Strasburg and Toms Brook**

NSVRC assisted both the Towns of Strasburg and Toms Brook in Shenandoah County with exploration of growth scenarios for their respective communities. In keeping with Shenandoah County's principles for growth, each town is designated as a growth center in the County's comprehensive plan.

NSVRC assisted the Town of Toms Brook with an application to VHDA for Mixed Use Mixed Income planning funds to identify growth scenarios for the town that incorporate commercial and residential growth into the projections. Currently the Town is primarily residential with little to no commercial

growth. The grant supports the Town's vision for expanding the Town's boundaries, the potential land uses on expanded properties and the implications on the "downtown" corridor following US Route 11 through the center of the community.

NSVRC also assisted the Town of Strasburg in planning for the future, by helping to facilitate and negotiate a joint land use plan between the Town and the County for land within an industrial park currently located outside of the Town limits but contemplated for annexation. The Land Use Plan sought to reconcile the Town and County's differences in zoning designations for the property to better facilitate the Town's assumption of the land on a time lapse basis if necessary.

### **Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)**

#### **Know Toxics: Training on the Proper Handling of Commonly Used, Hazardous Materials**

Since 2006, the Northern Virginia Waste Management Board (Waste Board), the region's waste managers staffed by NVRC, has promoted the reduction of the most common hazardous wastes commonly generated and often improperly dumped into municipal waste. These items, referred to as universal waste, include fluorescent lamps and fittings, rechargeable batteries, mercury containing devices. In addition, waste managers were concerned with the volume of used electronics in the development of outreach and education strategies.

The Waste Board developed the Know Toxics campaign in 2006, which featured a website with information and vendor listings, as well as informational flyers, posters, and mail inserts for government outreach. As local waste managers began to develop more commercial outreach they realized the need for better education of the commercial, property management, and building facilities community on reducing mercury and explosive risks from these materials. The program now focuses on training, and targeted outreach to certain industry sectors. After positive responses from local government waste and facilities staff, NVRC expanded the program to a wider audience with the March 2013 session, which received statewide attendance.

#### **Market Analysis for Commuter Ferry Service on Northern Virginia Rivers**

NVRC spearheaded a stakeholders group to review the need for a commuter ferry, resulting in the study *Market Analysis for Commuter Ferry Service on Occoquan, Potomac, and Anacostia Rivers*. The central question of this study could be stated as "Are there other markets for commuters, people who currently travel by land between locations in relative proximity to the river system, or casual travelers who could, or would, take advantage of a ferry system, or route, that is designed primarily to meet their specific needs?" A very specific part of answering that question revolves around assessing the military installations along the waterways, particularly given that functions have been realigned and relocated as a result of BRAC.

There was a consensus that any potential for ferry commuter service exists within an area bounded by Quantico to the south and Georgetown/Washington D.C. to the north. From stakeholders meetings we

learned there is a diversity of opinions about opportunities that may exist for commuter ferries to meet various community objectives. These objectives, expressed in different ways, seemed to address two essential goals, improved mobility and economic development. A distant third goal, and certainly not universally embraced, was the potential to use the development of commuter ferries as an emergency preparedness resource.

### **Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC)**

#### **Rappahannock-Rapidan Tourism Committee Acknowledged for Award-Winning Regional Tourism Marketing Campaign**

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Tourism Committee was recognized for a regional tourism marketing and promotion initiative by the Virginia Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus' (VACVB). The VIRGO Travel and Tourism Award recognizes individuals, groups, businesses and destination marketing organizations that significantly contribute to the Commonwealth's economy through tourism promotion and development. The Committee was recognized for its Civil War mobile website (<http://m.thevirginiapiedmont.org>), which was created to commemorate the Civil War Sesquicentennial events and sites in the region. The site also allows for updates and adjustments following the Sesquicentennial to promote other themed tourism events and sites while increasing exposure and tourism in this region. The mobile site was funded in part through a Virginia Tourism Corporation Sesquicentennial Grant, with each of the five counties contributing matching funds. In addition to the mobile site, grant funds were used to create rack cards highlighting the region's Sesquicentennial events and included in the regional The Virginia Piedmont brochure. Together, the mobile site and brochure insert will target potential visitors to the Rappahannock-Rapidan region, increasing tourism and contributing to the local economy.

#### **Partnership on Successful Neighborhood Stabilization Project with Fauquier County**

After three and a half years of operation, Fauquier County's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) concluded this past year, having met all program objectives and contract obligations. NSP, which was enacted by Congress in 2008 to address the foreclosure crisis, provides local agencies with funds to purchase, repair and resell homes in neighborhoods hit hardest by foreclosures and vacancies. In 2008, Fauquier County was identified as having the 14th highest number of foreclosures among all cities and counties in the Commonwealth. In 2008, the County's Circuit Court recorded 339 foreclosure proceedings, a 155% increase over 2007, and about 1 in 80 homes were bank-owned or in some stage of foreclosure.

RRRC partnered with Fauquier by providing grant-writing, project management and grant administration. The project successfully purchased nine foreclosed, vacant houses; made repairs to bring each up to building code and HUD quality standards; and resold eight of the nine homes to qualified, credit-worthy, low-income homeowners. A ninth home was transferred at no cost to Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services for use as a group home for adults with intellectual disabilities. As intended, repairing the properties and transferring them to responsible homeowners has

had a positive impact on the neighborhoods where they are located. Currently 1 in 1,347 homes in Fauquier County are reported to be in some stage of foreclosure, a vast improvement over the 1 in 80 rate estimated at the beginning of 2009.

### **Region 2000 Local Government Council (LGC)**

#### **Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Forestry Economies**

Using an Agriculture & Forestry Industries Development Fund grant from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and matching grant funds from the LGC, local and state stakeholders created the *Strategic Plan for the Agriculture and Forestry Economies in Virginia's Region 2000*. The plan identified and defined three goal areas that were structured around the Vision Statement and the Plan's Guiding Principles. The goals are: coordinate regional marketing and outreach; strengthen resources for producers; and, promote career and small business development opportunities. This Plan incorporated insight and valued direction from over seventy businesses and agencies ranging from orchard operators to beef cattle farmers, from vineyards to saw mill operations, from equipment sellers to landscapers, and from local health departments to dairy farms. With continued coordination and collaboration on implementing the goals defined in the Plan, Virginia's Region 2000 will continue to play an important role in the success of all those involved in the agriculture and forestry economies – making an impact in our Region by promoting these industries to strengthen regional economic development and future sustainability. The Plan can be found by visiting: <http://www.region2000.org/afid>

#### **Regional Library System**

Region 2000, along with Bedford and Campbell Counties and the City of Lynchburg, continue efforts to explore a regional library service delivery system. After completing the initial planning level analysis of the viability of a regional library service delivery model, the working group undertook a more detailed Regional Library Operations Study. The Study identifies approximately \$500,000 in savings to the participating jurisdictions as well as opportunities for improved service delivery. It also defines an implementation program.

Campbell and Lynchburg have indicated intentions to continue with the effort. Bedford is considering the matter. Lynchburg is moving forward with a \$100,000 capital investment to join the existing integrated library system currently shared by Bedford and Campbell Counties. This system integration would allow for seamless user access to the entire materials collection for all three library systems.

### **Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC)**

#### **Capital Region Collaborative (CRC)**

The CRC is a cooperative effort between the RRPDC and the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce to identify, prioritize and implement actions to improve the quality of life within the Richmond Region. The RRPDC provides staff support to this strategic planning effort. An inclusive public participation

process, including 85 public meetings and 9,000 Richmond Region residents, was used to identify the following regional priorities: job creation, workforce preparation, education, quality of place, coordinated transportation, healthy community, the James River, and social stability.

Workgroups comprised of community representatives and subject matter experts were formed to develop recommended action steps which will move progress within each of the Region's priority areas. The CRC is now working to advance implementation of key components of these action strategies. In addition, a set of regional indicators will be established around each of the Region's priority areas to establish baseline and monitor progress over time. This indicators project will be managed by the RRPDC.

### **Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

The RRPDC developed the Region's first regional economic development strategy during the past year. The CEDS was adopted by the RRPDC Board and approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). The CEDS identifies priority economic development areas for the Richmond Region, and presents infrastructure, job creation and workforce development recommendations and strategies to support economic development in the Richmond Region. The adoption of the regional CEDS will also allow the Richmond Region to compete for infrastructure funding through the EDA.

### **Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC)**

#### **Regional Homelessness Task Force**

RVARC continued coordination of the Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness (formerly the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Advisory Council on Homelessness), as it has since 2008. The interagency council facilitates and coordinates the region's efforts to prevent, treat, and end homelessness and serves as the lead entity for the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care planning process. The Council is composed of members from the general public, local governments, mental health programs, state and federal programs, non-profit organizations, businesses, and colleges and universities throughout the Roanoke region. Its service area includes the counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, and Roanoke; the cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem, and the towns of Clifton Forge and Vinton. The Council conducts the annual Point in Time (PIT) count, reviews the annual Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) applications, organizes the annual Homeless Persons Memorial service, and conducts the annual update of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. Additional information is available at [www.rvarc.org/homelessness](http://www.rvarc.org/homelessness).

#### **Roanoke River Blueway**

RVARC, working with a steering committee composed of citizens, outfitters, six local governments, and other stakeholders, developed the Roanoke River Blueway Plan. The plan included an inventory and mapping of river access points and related amenities as well as an interactive website. The 45-mile Blueway runs from the South Fork Roanoke River at East Montgomery County Park to the Hardy Ford

boating access at Smith Mountain Lake. The Blueway includes sections of the South Fork Roanoke River, Tinker Creek, and Back Creek and flows through or borders the cities of Roanoke and Salem, the counties of Montgomery, Roanoke, Bedford, and Franklin, and the Town of Vinton.

The Roanoke River Blueway provides river access for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, tubing, wading, wildlife viewing, and other recreational opportunities, while connecting to numerous local parks, Roanoke River Greenway, Tinker Creek Greenway, Mill Mountain Greenway, Explore Park, and Smith Mountain Lake. Additional information is available at <http://rvarc.org/blueway/>.

### **Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC)**

#### **Alberta/Lawrenceville Regional Utility Consolidation Project**

The Town of Alberta is experiencing severe deficiencies with its sanitary sewer collection system and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The WWTP has consistently exceeded permissible copper levels and received numerous Notices of Violations and a DEQ-issued Consent Order. The cost to remedy these deficiencies without grant assistance would not be an affordable option for Alberta's customers, which are 58% low-to-moderate income. The Town of Lawrenceville proposed to assume ownership and consolidate Alberta's water and sewer systems with Lawrenceville's public utility systems that would be operated and maintained by Lawrenceville. This partnership is further supported by the fact that Lawrenceville has been providing municipal water to the Town of Alberta for many years.

A CDBG application was submitted and awarded in 2013 to assist with the infrastructure improvements needed for the consolidation, including: 1) sewer rehabilitation improvements to reduce infiltration/inflow (I/I) from Alberta's sanitary sewer systems as required in the Brunswick County IDA Water/Wastewater Agreement; 2) installation of the gravity sewer and pump station upgrades to convey and connect Alberta's influent sewer to the Brunswick County Conveyance System; and 3) minor infrastructure improvements needed for fire protection and proper operation of the Alberta water system. Project construction activities are underway with a projected completion date of January 2015.

#### **Brunswick Byways Visitors Center**

With the assistance from SPDC, Brunswick County received a \$458,375 Economic Development grant from the Tobacco Commission in 2010, and a \$638,479 National Scenic Byways Project grant from the Department of Transportation in 2011 to plan and construct a comprehensive tourist welcome center with interpretive displays, maps, brochures, and restroom amenities. Brunswick County purchased the once regional office building of the International Paper Company situated on 1.7 acres for use as the Brunswick Byways Visitors Center. Strategically located on State Route 46, the project site is well situated to attract and serve travelers. Route 46 is a Virginia Byway and is a gateway to Lake Gaston. The site is located on a prominent hilltop location within one mile of the Fort Christanna Historical Park and a planned canoe trail access on the Meherrin River, a State Scenic River. The site is approximately 3 miles south of U.S. Route 58 and the Town of Lawrenceville, and is 10 miles south of Interstate 85.

The Center, as a staging area and orientation resource, is pivotal to the implementation of the County's multifaceted tourism development plan. The Center will inform, attract and direct travelers in order to cultivate its resources for entrepreneurial opportunities and jobs and generate much needed revenue. The Brunswick County Tourism Association was formed to direct tourism development activities for the County and will direct daily operation of the Visitor Center. Three full-time jobs will be retained and two (2) part-time jobs will be created as a result of this project. The projected completion date for the project is December 2015.

### ***Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC)***

#### **Local Plans Database**

This database was created as part of the Sustainable Communities project, but has application across a wide range of planning projects. The Local Plans Database was created to provide a tool to efficiently search a compilation of over 12,000 goals, objectives, strategies and action items based on key issues and topics identified in 82 local planning documents. The database allows users to quickly search these plans based on key topics or "tags" in order to access goals related to specific areas of interest. The information is contained within a Google Fusion database that enables users to easily filter the contents using a single tag or combination of tags. The City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County used this tool as part of the Comprehensive Plan updates process. The tool is also being used to identify actions that individuals, organizations, businesses and localities could take to make our community more sustainable. Combining tags and filtering the database allows users to fine tune their searches. The Date Field and the Search by Keyword functions allow users to organize or filter goals based on the date the plan was adopted or amended and to type in their own keyword to find goals. David Neuman, Architect for the University of Virginia and member of the Planning and Coordinating Committee (PACC) Technical Committee sees the database as an excellent tool to facilitate dialogue and allow us to quickly cross-reference community plans to guide deliberations.

#### **Livable Communities Planning Project**

The three-year Livable Communities Planning Project was completed in January 2014. The Planning and Coordinating Committee (PACC), consisting of representatives of the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and UVA, adopted four deliverables for TJPDC's Livable Communities Planning Project: (1) The Performance Measurement System Report, which contains an inventory of baseline community conditions that are good indicators of the region's livability; (2) The Joint Vision and Goal language, which addressed topics such as transportation, housing, land use and economic vitality, that guided revisions to the two comprehensive plans; (3) The Code and Ordinance Review Toolkit, which is a tool linking comprehensive plan provisions with applicable local codes and ordinances, for use by Planning Commissions and their staffs as they look to implement comp plan provisions; and (4) The Actions for Community Health and Livability, a catalogue of actions that individuals and organizations could take to support community health and livability in the region.



The Livable Communities Planning Project worked closely with Charlottesville and Albemarle staff and the Planning Commissions, stakeholder groups and hosted various public outreach events as part of its work. The "Many Plans: One Community" Project was funded by a three-year grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to build upon the region's 1998 Sustainability Accords and other area planning documents to integrate crosscutting strategies for land use, transportation, housing, economic vitality, air and water quality, and energy use.

### **West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC)**

#### **New College Institute - Building on Baldwin Project**

WPPDC has assisted the New College Institute (NCI) with a number of applications for construction of the Building on Baldwin project, which was completed in July 2014. This \$16.5 million, 52,000 square foot facility will provide workforce training and career pathways in advanced manufacturing, next generation healthcare, and entrepreneurship. The WPPDC/Economic Development District staff prepared grants offered by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Tobacco Commission, Appalachian Regional Commission, and DHCD, which should fund about half of the project costs. WPPDC has also supported NCI through mapping and technical assistance throughout the construction project. Staff assisted with implementation of grant administration, contributing to efforts in Davis-Bacon requirements, participating in meetings, and providing general support during the span of the project.

Within the new structure are fourteen to seventeen flexible learning spaces or "collaboratories" that can be arranged in multiple setups, three high-bay laboratories to house equipment for training in advanced manufacturing, and a 10,000 square-foot Grand Hall with a 450-seat capacity. Additionally, the Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation and the Visitor Center are co-located in the new building. New businesses, such as Kilgour Industries, have been and will be attracted to the area because of the high-tech facility and state-of-the-art equipment offering specialized training.

With a long history of high unemployment in the region, NCI is being highly responsive by partnering with business and industry to fulfill current and future workforce needs. The specialized programming offered through NCI and this new world-class facility will build a high-skilled workforce to fill the skills gaps in the area. In addition, this project will greatly allow existing industries to expand, attract new businesses, assist in entrepreneurial efforts, and cultivate other opportunities to diversify the local and regional economies for global competition.

#### **Local Foods and Local Energy Initiative**

WPPDC proposed a work program item to promote local food systems and local energy initiatives throughout the region. Predominately rural, agriculture and wood products are prevalent and are an important part of the local economies.

A 2011 study found that if households in the region spent 15 percent of their weekly food budget on locally grown food products, \$90 million in new farm income would be created for the region. With the

growing number of farmers' markets and demand for more locally grown products, the PDC resolved to assist in promotion of this very important venture with a region-wide survey that is currently underway to inventory producers, agritourism sites, farmers' markets, and other food-related markets. Statistics regarding the type of establishment, products produced and marketed, a description of operations, and barriers and limitations to current operations are just part of the survey information garnered to help build the inventory and gauge interest. Distributed to farmers' markets in the region and available on-line, this survey will be used to develop an interactive, Google-based map with information and links on the WPPDC website. Utilizing the survey information, a Local Foods Guide will be published to promote the producers and other markets within the region as well. Locally grown foods benefit the health, well-being, and economic wealth of the district and its citizens. In reference to the local energy initiative, the WPPDC staff continues to explore opportunities to identify existing alternative fuel sources within the region and ways to help them expand and implement new technology and attract new industry.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

It is important to note that, while the Regional Cooperation Act articulates specific duties of the PDCs, it does not require that each PDC conduct activities in every functional area. Rather, each PDC is challenged to tailor its services to meet the diverse needs of its member localities. Based on their 2013 and 2014 annual reports, Virginia's planning district commissions are meeting the goals as well as the overall intent and specific requirements of the Regional Cooperation Act.

## **Appendices**

## **Appendix A**

### **Strategic Planning and Studies of Regional Significance**

**Appendix A: Studies on Issues and Problems of Regional Significance**

FY 2013 & FY 2014

**Focus of Studies of Regional Significance**

District PDC		Infrastructure	Health & Human Services	Housing	Administration	Zoning / Planning	Environment	Strategic Planning	Disaster Planning	Telecom/ Technology	Work Force	Econ Development	Transportation	GIS	Community Development	Other	Strategic Plan Status
1	LENOWISCO	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		ADOPTED
2	Cumberland Plateau							X	X			X	X		X		IN PROGRESS
3	Mount Rogers	X		X				X	X			X	X	X	X		ADOPTED
4	New River Valley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		ADOPTED
5	Roanoke Valley Alleghany						X	X		X		X	X		X		ADOPTED
6	Central Shenandoah	X					X		X				X				ADOPTED
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley	X	X	X			X		X	X			X		X		IN PROGRESS
8	Northern Virginia						X									X	N/A
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan			X		X	X		X				X	X	X		IN PROGRESS
10	Thomas Jefferson			X			X		X				X		X		ADOPTED
11	Virginia's Region 2000	X			X		X	X	X			X	X			X	ADOPTED
12	West Piedmont	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		ADOPTED
13	Southside	X		X	X		X	X	X				X				ADOPTED
14	Commonwealth Regional								X			X	X				ADOPTED
15	Richmond Regional	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	ADOPTED
16	George Washington Regional			X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X		ADOPTED
17	Northern Neck					X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			ADOPTED
18	Middle Peninsula	X					X		X	X		X	X		X		ADOPTED
19	Crater					X	X					X	X		X		IN PROGRESS
22	Accomack-Northampton	X	X	X			X		X	X		X	X				IN PROGRESS
23	Hampton Roads	X		X			X		X			X	X	X		X	IN PROGRESS

## **Appendix B**

### **Study Opportunities for Local Cost Savings and Regional Efficiencies**

**Appendix B: Identify and Study Potential Opportunities for State and Local Cost Savings through Coordinated Governmental Efforts  
FY 2013 & FY 2014**

**Local Cost Savings and Regional Efficiencies Identified and/or Studied**

District	PDC	Infrastructure	Health & Human Services	Housing	Administration	Zoning / Planning	Environment	Strategic Planning	Disaster Planning	Telecom/ Technology	Work Force	Econ Development	Transportation	GIS	Community Development	Other
1	LENOWISCO	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	
2	Cumberland Plateau	X					X		X	X				X	X	
3	Mount Rogers	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	
4	New River Valley	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5	Roanoke Valley Alleghany		X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X		X	
6	Central Shenandoah	X		X	X		X			X	X	X	X		X	X
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley	X		X	X	X	X		X	X			X		X	
8	Northern Virginia			X			X							X		X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan		X	X	X		X					X	X	X	X	
10	Thomas Jefferson		X	X		X	X		X				X	X	X	X
11	Virginia's Region 2000	X			X		X					X	X			
12	West Piedmont	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13	Southside	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
14	Commonwealth Regional	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X
15	Richmond Regional	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
16	George Washington Regional	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X		X	X
17	Northern Neck	X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X	X		
18	Middle Peninsula	X					X									
19	Crater				X		X					X	X	X		X
22	Accomack-Northampton	X	X	X	X				X				X		X	
23	Hampton Roads	X		X	X		X		X			X	X			X

## **Appendix C**

### **Mechanisms for Coordination of Local Interests**



**Appendix C: Identify Mechanisms for the Coordination of State and Local Interests on a Regional Basis**

FY 2013 & FY 2014

**Mechanisms for Coordination of Local Interests on a Regional Basis**

District	PDC	Infrastructure	Health & Human Services	Housing	Administration	Zoning / Planning	Environment	Strategic Planning	Disaster Planning	Telecom/ Technology	Work Force	Econ Development	Transportation	GIS	Community Development	Other
1	LENOWISCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2	Cumberland Plateau	X					X			X		X	X		X	
3	Mount Rogers	X			X			X		X		X	X	X	X	
4	New River Valley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5	Roanoke Valley Alleghany			X	X		X	X		X		X	X		X	
6	Central Shenandoah	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X		X	
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley		X	X	X	X	X		X				X			
8	Northern Virginia		X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X			X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan			X	X		X	X				X	X	X	X	
10	Thomas Jefferson		X	X			X	X	X				X		X	X
11	Virginia's Region 2000				X	X	X					X	X			
12	West Piedmont	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13	Southside	X		X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
14	Commonwealth Regional		X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
15	Richmond Regional	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
16	George Washington Regional		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
17	Northern Neck	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X		
18	Middle Peninsula				X	X	X	X								
19	Crater				X	X	X		X			X	X		X	
22	Accomack-Northampton		X	X	X		X					X	X			
23	Hampton Roads	X	X	X	X		X		X				X		X	X

## **Appendix D**

### **Implement Services and Provide Technical Assistance**

**Appendix D: Services Implemented and Technical Assistance Provided to State and Localities**

FY 2013 & FY 2014

**Services Implemented and Technical Assistance Provided to Localities**

District	PDC	Infrastructure	Health & Human Services	Housing	Administration	Zoning / Planning	Environment	Strategic Planning	Disaster Planning	Telecom/ Technology	Work Force	Econ Development	Transportation	GIS	Community Development	Other
1	LENOWISCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
2	Cumberland Plateau	X			X	X	X			X		X		X	X	
3	Mount Rogers	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	
4	New River Valley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5	Roanoke Valley Alleghany			X		X	X			X		X	X		X	
6	Central Shenandoah	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	
8	Northern Virginia		X				X						X			X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan		X	X	X		X					X	X	X	X	
10	Thomas Jefferson			X			X						X	X	X	X
11	Virginia's Region 2000	X			X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X
12	West Piedmont	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13	Southside			X	X	X			X			X	X	X	X	
14	Commonwealth Regional	X		X		X	X		X			X	X		X	X
15	Richmond Regional	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
16	George Washington Regional	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X
17	Northern Neck	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
18	Middle Peninsula			X	X	X	X					X	X	X		
19	Crater		X			X	X			X		X		X	X	
22	Accomack-Northampton	X		X		X			X	X			X		X	
23	Hampton Roads	X		X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X

## **Appendix E**

### **Liaison between Localities and State Agencies**

**Appendix E: Serve as a Liaison Between Localities and State Agencies  
FY 2013 & FY 2014**

**State-Local Liaison Activities**

District	PDC	Infrastructure	Health & Human Services	Housing	Administration	Zoning / Planning	Environment	Strategic Planning	Disaster Planning	Telecom/ Technology	Work Force	Econ Development	Transportation	GIS	Community Development	Other	Review of Local Government Aid Applications
1	LENOWISCO	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
2	Cumberland Plateau	X					X		X			X	X		X		X
3	Mount Rogers	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X
4	New River Valley	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
5	Roanoke Valley Alleghany				X		X					X	X				X
6	Central Shenandoah	X		X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley	X	X	X			X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X
8	Northern Virginia					X	X					X				X	X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan		X	X	X		X					X	X	X	X		X
10	Thomas Jefferson		X	X			X		X				X		X	X	X
11	Virginia's Region 2000				X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X		X
12	West Piedmont	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
13	Southside	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X
14	Commonwealth Regional	X		X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X
15	Richmond Regional	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
16	George Washington Regional			X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X			X
17	Northern Neck		X	X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X
18	Middle Peninsula	X		X	X	X	X		X			X	X				X
19	Crater				X		X		X			X	X		X	X	X
22	Accomack-Northampton			X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X			X
23	Hampton Roads				X		X		X				X	X		X	X

## **Appendix F**

### **Functional Plans Developed**

**Appendix F: Develop Regional Functional Area Plans**

FY 2013 & FY 2014

**Functional Area Plans Developed**

District	PDC	Infrastructure	Health & Human Services	Housing	Administration	Zoning / Planning	Environment	Strategic Planning	Disaster Planning	Telecom/ Technology	Work Force	Econ Development	Transportation	GIS	Community Development	Other
1	LENOWISCO	X			X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	
2	Cumberland Plateau						X		X			X	X			
3	Mount Rogers	X					X	X	X			X	X	X	X	
4	New River Valley	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5	Roanoke Valley Alleghany								X	X		X	X		X	
6	Central Shenandoah	X					X	X	X	X		X	X			
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley		X	X		X	X		X	X			X		X	
8	Northern Virginia		X				X									X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan		X	X	X		X		X			X	X	X	X	
10	Thomas Jefferson			X			X		X				X		X	
11	Virginia's Region 2000						X						X			
12	West Piedmont	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
13	Southside						X	X	X	X		X	X			
14	Commonwealth Regional								X				X			
15	Richmond Regional	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
16	George Washington Regional						X	X	X				X			
17	Northern Neck						X	X	X			X				
18	Middle Peninsula	X					X			X		X	X		X	X
19	Crater						X					X	X			
22	Accomack-Northampton						X		X			X				
23	Hampton Roads	X							X			X	X			

## **Appendix G**

### **Other Activities**



**Appendix G: Other activities**

**FY 2013 & FY 2014**

**Other Activities**

District PDC		Assist State with Development of Substate Plans	Participate in VGIN/GIS Network	Data Collection & Data Center Affiliate
1	LENOWISCO	X	X	X
2	Cumberland Plateau	X	X	X
3	Mount Rogers	X	X	X
4	New River Valley	X	X	X
5	Roanoke Valley Alleghany	X	X	X
6	Central Shenandoah	X	X	X
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley	X	X	X
8	Northern Virginia	X	X	X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan	X	X	X
10	Thomas Jefferson	X	X	X
11	Virginia's Region 2000	X	X	X
12	West Piedmont	X	X	X
13	Southside	X	X	X
14	Commonwealth Regional	X	X	X
15	Richmond Regional	X	X	X
16	George Washington Regional	X	X	X
17	Northern Neck	X	X	X
18	Middle Peninsula	X	X	X
19	Crater	X	X	X
22	Accomack-Northampton	X	X	X
23	Hampton Roads	X	X	X

## **Appendix H**

### **PDCs and their Member Jurisdictions**

## Virginia's Planning District Commissions and Their Member Local Governments

<u>COUNTIES</u>	<u>CITIES</u>	<u>TOWNS</u>	<u>COUNTIES</u>	<u>CITIES</u>	<u>TOWNS</u>
<i>Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission</i>			<i>Hampton Roads Planning District Commission</i>		
Accomack		Chincoteague	Gloucester**	Chesapeake	
Northampton			Isle of Wight	Franklin	
			James City	Hampton	
<i>Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission</i>			Southampton	Newport News	
Augusta	Buena Vista		Surry**	Norfolk	
Bath	Harrisonburg		York	Poquoson	
Highland	Lexington			Portsmouth	
Rockbridge	Staunton			Suffolk	
Rockingham	Waynesboro			Virginia Beach	
				Williamsburg	
<i>Commonwealth Regional Council</i>			<i>LENOWISCO Planning District Commission</i>		
Amelia			Lee	Norton	
Buckingham			Scott		
Charlotte			Wise		
Cumberland*					
Lunenburg			<i>Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission</i>		
Nottoway*			Essex		Tappahannock
Prince Edward			Gloucester**		Urbanna
			King and Queen		West Point
<i>Crater Planning District Commission</i>			King William		
Charles City**	Colonial Heights		Mathews		
Chesterfield**	Emporia		Middlesex		
Dinwiddie	Hopewell				
Greensville	Petersburg		<i>Mount Rogers Planning District Commission</i>		
Prince George			Bland	Bristol	Abingdon
Surry**			Carroll	Galax	Chilhowie
Sussex			Grayson		Damascus
			Smyth		Fries
<i>Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission</i>			Washington		Glade Spring
Buchanan		Bluefield	Wythe		Hillsville
Dickenson		Richlands			Independence
Russell		Tazewell			Marion
Tazewell					Saltville
					Troutdale
<i>George Washington Regional Council</i>					Wytheville
Caroline	Fredericksburg				
King George					
Spotsylvania					
Stafford					

\* These jurisdictions are currently inactive

\*\* Jurisdictions belonging to more than one PDC.

\*\*\* Virginia Tech and Radford University are also members of NRVPCD

## Virginia's Planning District Commissions and Their Member Local Governments

<u>COUNTIES</u>	<u>CITIES</u>	<u>TOWNS</u>	<u>COUNTIES</u>	<u>CITIES</u>	<u>TOWNS</u>
<i>New River Planning District Commission***</i>			<i>Region 2000 Local Government Council</i>		
Floyd	Radford	Blacksburg	Amherst	Lynchburg	Altavista
Giles		Christiansburg	Appomattox		Amherst
Montgomery		Floyd	Bedford		Appomattox
Pulaski		Narrows	Campbell		Bedford
		Pearisburg			Brookneal
		Pulaski			
		Rich Creek			
<i>Northern Neck Planning District Commission</i>			<i>Richmond Regional Planning District Commission</i>		
Lancaster			Charles City**	Richmond	Ashland
Northumberland			Chesterfield**		
Richmond			Goochland		
Westmoreland			Hanover		
			Henrico		
			New Kent		
			Powhatan		
<i>Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Council</i>			<i>Roanoke Valley - Alleghany Regional Council</i>		
Clarke	Winchester	Berryville	Alleghany	Covington	Clifton Forge
Frederick		Front Royal	Botetourt	Roanoke	Rocky Mount**
Page		Luray	Craig	Salem	Vinton
Shenandoah		Middletown	Franklin**		
Warren		Stephens City	Roanoke		
		Strasburg			
		Woodstock			
<i>Northern Virginia Regional Council</i>			<i>Southside Planning District Commission</i>		
Arlington	Alexandria	Dumfries	Brunswick		South Boston
Fairfax	Fairfax	Herndon	Halifax		South Hill
Loudoun	Falls Church	Leesburg	Mecklenburg		
Prince William	Manassas	Purcellville			
	Manassas Park	Vienna			
<i>Rappahannock - Rapidan Regional Council</i>			<i>Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission</i>		
Culpeper		Culpeper	Albemarle	Charlottesville	
Fauquier		Gordonsville	Fluvanna		
Madison		Madison	Greene		
Orange		Orange	Louisa		
Rappahannock		Remington	Nelson		
		Warrenton			
		Washington			
			<i>West Piedmont Planning District Commission</i>		
			Franklin**	Danville	Rocky Mount**
			Henry	Martinsville	
			Patrick		
			Pittsylvania		

\* These jurisdictions are currently inactive

\*\* Jurisdictions belonging to more than one PDC.

\*\*\* Virginia Tech and Radford University are also members of NRVPCD

## **Appendix I**

### **FY 2013 and FY 2014 State Funding and Population Served**

**Appendix I: FY 2013 and FY 2014 State Funding and Population Served**

<b>#</b>	<b>PDC</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>2010 Pop.</b>
1	LENOWISCO	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	94,174
2	Cumberland Plateau	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	113,976
3	Mount Rogers	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	193,595
4	New River Valley	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	178,237
5	Roanoke Valley Alleghany	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	274,759
6	Central Shenandoah	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	286,781
7	No. Shenandoah Valley	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	222,152
8	Northern Virginia	\$ 151,943	\$ 151,943	2,230,623
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	166,054
10	Thomas Jefferson	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	234,712
11	Virginia's Region 2000	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	252,634
12	West Piedmont	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	249,182
13	Southside	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	86,402
14	Commonwealth	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	104,609
15	Richmond Regional	\$ 113,957	\$ 113,957	1,002,696
16	George Washington	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	327,773
17	Northern Neck	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	50,429
18	Middle Peninsula	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	90,826
19	Crater	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	173,463
22	Accomack-Northampton	\$ 75,971	\$ 75,971	45,553
23	Hampton Roads	\$ 151,943	\$ 151,943	1,622,394
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,785,321</b>	<b>\$ 1,785,321</b>	