

A Review of the Boundaries of Virginia's Planning Districts



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

May 2014

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Purpose

The Regional Cooperation Act outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Commonwealth's twenty-one planning district commissions (PDCs).¹ In addition, the Department of Housing and Community Development is required to complete a review of planning district boundaries following each United States decennial census of population.² This document represents the results of that effort following the release of the 2010 Census data.

Creation of Planning Districts

In 1968, the General Assembly approved legislation to authorize the creation of planning districts across the state. The Virginia Area Development Act established a statutory framework for the PDCs and directed the Division of State Planning and Community Affairs (DSPCA) to conduct surveys and studies necessary to divide the state into planning districts.³ DSPCA prepared a preliminary district plan and conducted a series of 22 public hearings across the state. The DSPCA director was given sole authority to make decisions on planning district boundaries with neither the Governor nor the state legislature authorized to have a role in the decision-making process. On July 1, 1969, 22 planning districts encompassing all areas of the Commonwealth were authorized for creation (Attachment 1).

During the next twenty years, there were no changes in PDC boundaries. In 1990, a major revision occurred through the merger of the Peninsula PDC and the Southeastern Virginia PDC to form the current Hampton Roads PDC. This merger reduced the number of planning districts to twenty-one, and was completed because local governments in the two planning districts decided it would be in their best interest to combine into a single district. Every eligible locality in the two districts became a charter member of the Hampton Roads PDC. No subsequent change to planning district boundaries has occurred since, and the current PDC boundaries are shown on Attachment 2.

Special legislation was passed in 1985 that permitted localities to hold dual memberships in PDCs.⁴ Presently six localities hold joint PDC memberships, as shown in the table below. These dual memberships reflect the changing natures of these localities which have developed

¹ *Code of Virginia*, Title 15.2, Chapter 42.

² *Code of Virginia*, § 36-139.7.

³ Chapter 224, 1968 Acts of Assembly.

⁴ *Code of Virginia*, § 15.2-4220

economic, social and physical ties to rapidly urbanizing areas that border them on one side and more rural localities that form another border.

Locality	Located within Planning District:	Also a member of:
Charles City County	Richmond Regional PDC	Crater PDC
Chesterfield County	Richmond Regional PDC	Crater PDC
Franklin County	West Piedmont PDC	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany RC
Gloucester County	Middle Peninsula PDC	Hampton Roads PDC
Surry County	Crater PDC	Hampton Roads PDC
Town of Rocky Mount	West Piedmont PDC	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany RC

Regional Cooperation Act

In 1995, the General Assembly modified the *Area Development Act* through adoption of the *Regional Cooperation Act*. The Act places a renewed emphasis on PDCs providing a forum for state and local government to address issues of a regional nature, calling on PDCs to play an important role in encouraging regional cooperation and coordination.

Section 36-139.7(a) of the Act outlines the requirements for reviewing PDC. A boundary review is required to be conducted by DHCD following every United States decennial census of population or upon the request of a member jurisdiction of a planning district. Upon concluding such reviews, any recommended adjustment to planning district boundaries are subject to the provisions of the Administrative Process Act (*Va. Code* §§ 2.2-4000 et seq.).

Public Comment

DHCD sought public comments to determine whether planning district stakeholders desired a change in planning district boundaries. In late October 2012, notices requesting public comment were emailed to chief local elected officials, chief local government administrators, state agencies, VACo, VML, and PDC directors and chairmen. (Attachment 3). The notice was also published in the November 22, 2012 edition of the *Virginia Register*. Written comments were requested by December 19, 2012.

All of the comments voiced a preference for retaining the current PDC boundaries. Responding entities are noted in Attachment 4. Eleven localities responded, representing eight planning districts. Three PDCs also provided written comment.

In addition, DHCD surveyed state agencies to determine the impact upon them if PDC boundaries were adjusted, and the responses are summarized in Attachment 5. The survey revealed that 20 of the 34 agencies responding use their own geographic regions for service delivery or data collection, and only 12 responded that they utilize PDC boundaries for such. In addition, agencies expressed concern that changing boundaries could limit the ability to compare data over time periods, and that splitting Metropolitan Planning Organizations should be avoided due to their close relationships with PDCs. Finally, the Department of Taxation

noted that the PDC boundaries for the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia PDCs define special taxes collected under the transportation legislation that was approved in 2013.

The second phase of review, a series of public information meetings, was not conducted due to the lack of interest expressed in changing PDC boundaries. DHCD did not receive any request to hold a public hearing to discuss boundary adjustments.

Population Analysis

A review of population data reveals that the three large urban PDCs (Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and Richmond Regional) all have a population of at least one million people, and combined they account for 61% of the state's population. This is an increase from 55% for the same statistic in 1970, the census immediately following the establishment of the PDC boundaries. (See Attachment 6 for populations of each PDC from 1970 through 2010.)

The remaining eighteen PDCs each represent a range of 0.6% to 4.1% of the state's population. Two planning districts had a population under 50,000 in 2010 (Accomack-Northampton and Northern Neck), and five PDCs had a population of less than 150,000, but greater than 50,000 (Southside, Middle Peninsula, LENOWISCO, Commonwealth Regional, and Cumberland Plateau.) The remaining eleven PDCs have populations between 150,000 and 350,000.

Between 2000 and 2010, six of the 21 PDCs experienced population growth in excess of 10 percent (George Washington, Rappahannock-Rapidan, Northern Virginia, Northern Shenandoah Valley, Thomas Jefferson, and Richmond Regional). These six PDCs accounted for 80% of the state's population growth during that period. Four of the Commonwealth's PDCs lost population (West Piedmont, Southside, Cumberland Plateau, and Accomack-Northampton), with the Accomack-Northampton PDC decreasing the most, at 12.5% during that decade.

The George Washington Regional Commission has consistently experienced a higher degree of population growth than any of the other PDCs, and has an appreciably higher population than the other smaller PDCs. Its population grew by 26.5% between 2000 and 2010, for a 2010 population of 327,773, and the region's population has increased more than fourfold since 1970, when it had a population of 77,425. Despite the rapid growth in this region, it still has a significantly smaller population than the next largest PDC, Richmond Regional, which has a population of over one million. The next most populous PDC following George Washington is Central Shenandoah, with a population of 286,781.

PDC Boundary Review Criteria

The Regional Cooperation Act identifies several criteria to be considered by DHCD in conducting any boundary review. These criteria are discussed in the sections below.

Communities of Interest/Common economic and market interests. Many planning districts consist of multiple jurisdictions surrounding an urban core, and naturally share common interests because of the economic interdependence of the urban core and the

outlying areas. There are also shared interests in the rural PDCs where agricultural activities predominate; however those commonalities can become distorted when one member jurisdiction begins to experience urbanization that originating from a neighboring PDC. As noted previously, several localities that have experienced this phenomenon have opted for dual PDC membership. With respect to other interests, the existing PDC boundaries adequately represent common interests with respect to environmental and social interests as well.

Ease of communications and commissioner travel time. A cursory review of the state's largest planning districts in area (Central Shenandoah, Commonwealth Regional, and Mount Rogers) demonstrates that the seat of government for the cities and counties served is usually about a half hour drive to the PDC headquarters. For three localities in those areas, Highland, Bath, and Carroll Counties, the county seat is located about an hour away from their respective PDC offices.⁵ Despite this distance, there is no other logical PDC to which these counties could be reassigned, and no comments were received about this issue during the public comment period.

Metropolitan Statistical Area boundaries. The federal Office of Management and Budget designates metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas in the US. The new 2013 designations indicate that the New River Valley and Region 2000 PDCs have boundaries that are coterminous with their respective metropolitan designation. (Attachment 7). The larger metropolitan areas generally have grown to cover all or most of their respective PDC area and portions of adjacent PDC areas, while the remaining metro- and micropolitan areas only encompass a few of the jurisdictions within a PDC. Some PDCs contain multiple small metro- and micropolitan statistical areas.

Population base to ensure financial viability. The two smallest PDCs by population (Accomack-Northampton and Northern Neck) have about 50,000 residents each. With federal, state, and local financial assistance, these PDCs support a variety of programs for their respective regions. Over the last several years, these PDCs have had annual budgets of approximately \$1,000,000, and there is no indication that these organizations have financial difficulties.⁶

Geographic Factors and Natural Boundaries. Some regions of the state have more commonly-accepted boundaries than others. The Accomack-Northampton, Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck PDCs benefit from clearly defined water features, which are also used as boundaries by other entities. Other boundaries that are commonly accepted include the Blue Ridge, and the New Kent-James City County line, which is usually considered the demarcation between the Richmond and Hampton Roads regions. Where these edges exist, PDC boundaries usually already follow them.

⁵ Estimated drive times from *Google Maps*.

⁶ Annual PDC financial information, as submitted to DCHD.

Another geographic factor for consideration is the conformance of PDC boundaries with service delivery administrative boundaries used by a sampling of state and federal agencies and regional organizations. Section 36-139.7 (d) provides “to the extent practical, upon completion of a statutory review of planning district boundaries, state agencies may provide for sorting local statistical data according to planning district geography for external use of information for state, regional and local strategic and economic development planning.” Many entities already aggregate information on a PDC level, although their internal regional boundaries are not in conformance with the PDC boundaries. Each entity’s boundaries likely evolved over a period of time based upon operational efficiencies, and it could be disruptive to attempt to fully align regional boundaries among organizations.

DHCD staff reviewed several of these entities’ boundaries, and observes that PDC boundaries do not correlate with the regional boundaries used by many state agencies; however, certain entities, such as the Virginia Community College System, the Virginia Health Department, the Department of Environmental Quality, and others have boundaries that somewhat conform to the PDC boundaries, with some variations. See Attachment 8 for an overview of this analysis, and links to maps for each organization.

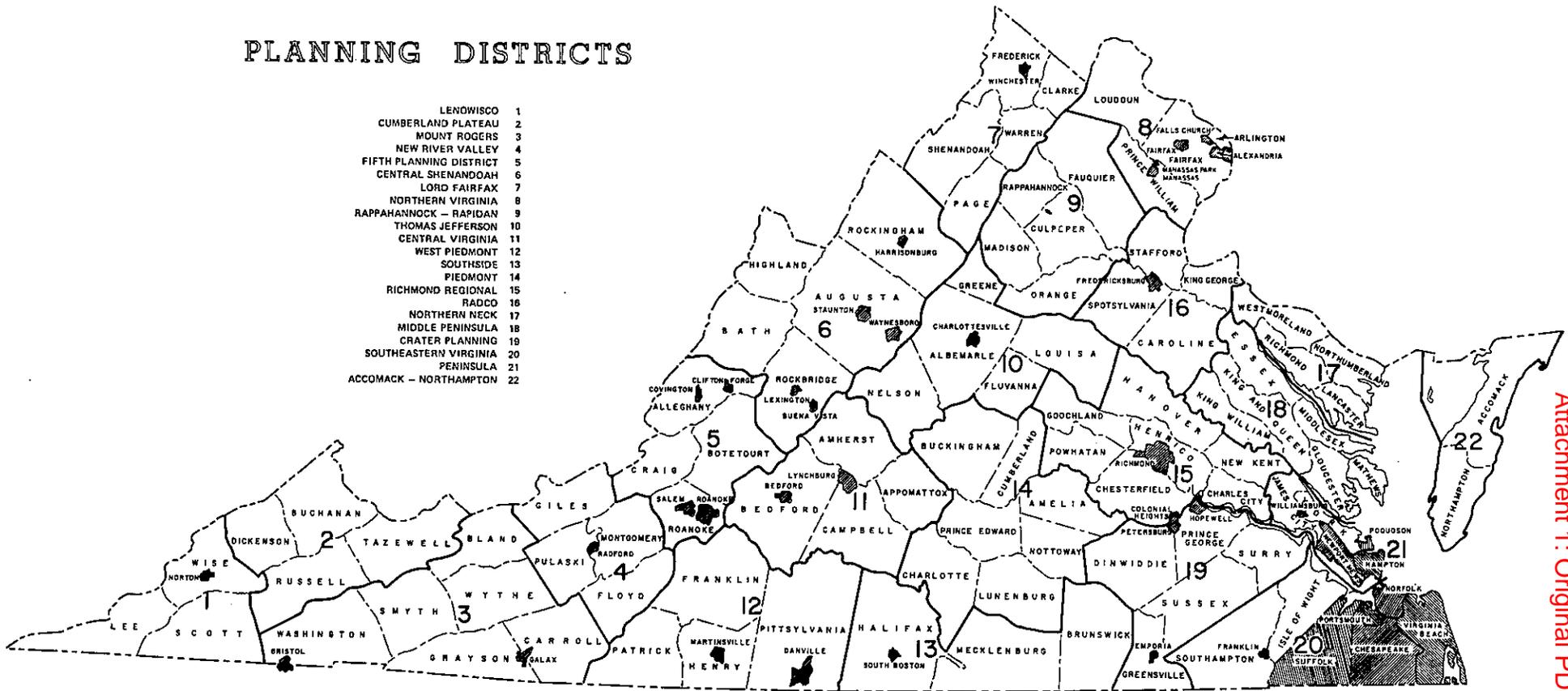
Wishes of member jurisdictions. As noted previously, no locality expressed an interest in changing PDCs during the review period. Several localities submitted letters or resolutions in support of their current PDC boundaries.

Recommendation

Upon reviewing the statutory criteria, population changes and public comments, it is DHCD’s recommendation that the current PDC configurations are generally accepted as recognized subregions within the state. DHCD recommends that the current PDC boundaries be retained until the next scheduled review, following the release of data from the 2020 Census.

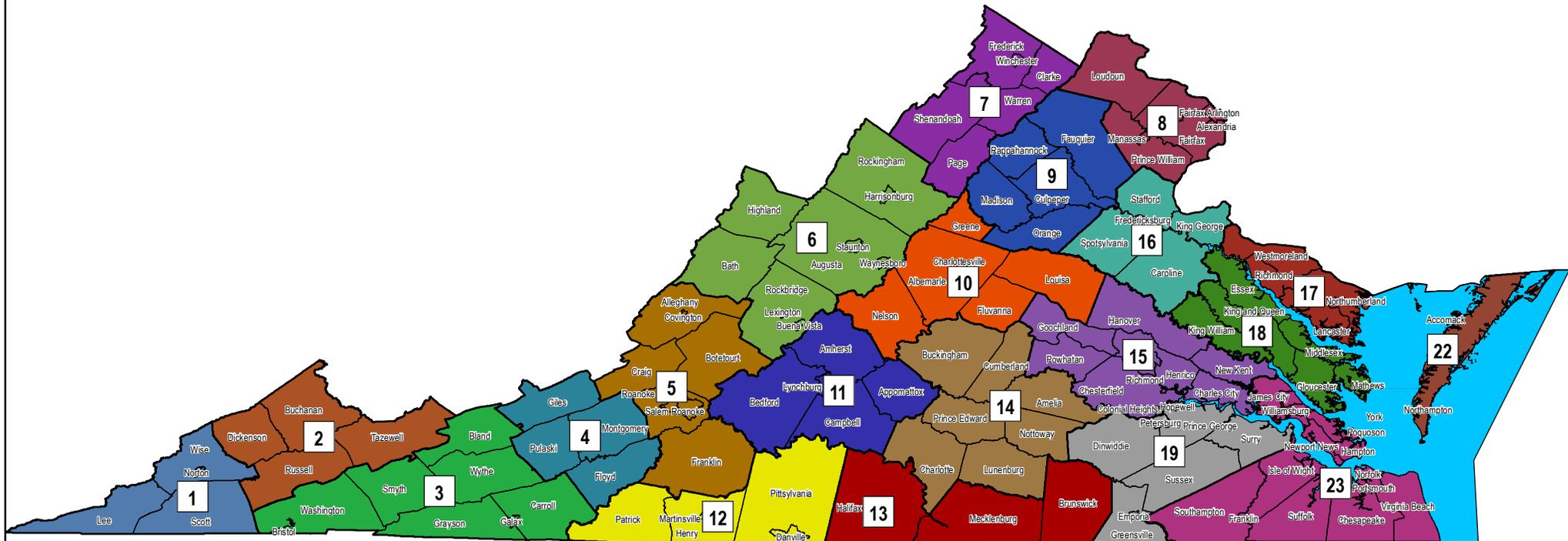
PLANNING DISTRICTS

- LENOXICO 1
- CUMBERLAND PLATEAU 2
- MOUNT ROGERS 3
- NEW RIVER VALLEY 4
- FIFTH PLANNING DISTRICT 5
- CENTRAL SHENANDOAH 6
- LORD FAIRFAX 7
- NORTHERN VIRGINIA 8
- RAPPAHANNOCK - RAPIDAN 9
- THOMAS JEFFERSON 10
- CENTRAL VIRGINIA 11
- WEST PIEDMONT 12
- SOUTHSIDE 13
- PIEDMONT 14
- RICHMOND REGIONAL 15
- RADCO 16
- NORTHERN NECK 17
- MIDDLE PENINSULA 18
- CRATER PLANNING 19
- SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA 20
- PENINSULA 21
- ACCOMACK - NORTHAMPTON 22



DIVISION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Commonwealth of Virginia: Planning District Commission Boundaries



Planning District Commissions			
1 - LENOWISCO	5 - Roanoke Valley-Alleghany	10 - Thomas Jefferson	15 - Richmond Regional
2 - Cumberland Plateau	6 - Central Shenandoah	11 - Region 2000	16 - George Washington
3 - Mount Rogers	7 - Northern Shenandoah Valley	12 - West Piedmont	17 - Northern Neck
4 - New River	8 - Northern Virginia	13 - Southside	18 - Middle Peninsula
	9 - Rappahannock-Rapidian	14 - Commonwealth	19 - Crater
			22 - Accomack-Northampton
			23 - Hampton Roads

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Regional Cooperation Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1995, places great emphasis on the planning district commissions serving as a forum for discussion of regional issues and identification of ways to promote regional cooperation. The Code of Virginia, Section 36-139.7, requires that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) conduct a periodic review of the boundaries of planning districts. It requires that DHCD consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

- recognition of communities of interest among the governmental subdivisions;
- recognition of common economic and market interests;
- ease of communications and commissioner travel time;
- federal metropolitan statistical area boundaries;
- a population base adequate to ensure financial viability;
- geographic factors and natural boundaries; and
- the wishes of the governmental subdivisions within or surrounding the planning district, as expressed by resolution of the governing body.

DHCD will conduct its review in two phases: a period of written public comment and, if warranted, public hearings.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT: This notice begins the period for written public comment. Letters should concisely address the need for retaining or modifying the current boundaries of a given planning district using the criteria outlined above or other factors that affect the viability or effectiveness of the planning district commission in carrying out its duties. The deadline for written public comment is **December 19, 2012**. Comments should either be emailed to susan.williams@dhcd.virginia.gov or addressed to:

Susan B. Williams
Local Government Policy Manager
Department of Housing and Community Development
Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

In the event that there are sufficient and compelling requests for boundary adjustments, DHCD will conduct public hearings within the affected planning districts. DHCD staff will consider all comments received through written responses and public hearings and, subject to the provisions of the Administrative Process Act, make adjustments to the boundaries of planning districts as it deems advisable.

Any such hearings will be advertised in local newspapers and notices will be sent to local government and planning district offices. The purpose of such hearings will be to gather information from local officials, organizations and residents as to why a boundary adjustment is warranted and the advantages such an adjustment would provide to each affected planning district in order to ensure that all affected parties have had adequate opportunity to share their views and perspectives on any proposed adjustment.

For additional information, please contact Susan Williams by regular mail at the address provided above; by email at susan.williams@dhcd.virginia.gov; or by telephone at (804) 786-6508.

RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

All responses were in support of retaining existing PDC boundaries.

Planning District Commissions

Commonwealth Regional Council

Mount Rogers PDC

West Piedmont PDC

Counties

Clarke County

Fauquier County

Gloucester County

Hanover County

Isle of Wight County

Mecklenburg County

Orange County

Surry County

Cities

Galax

Poquoson

Portsmouth

Agency	Q1. Our agency uses geographic boundaries for:			Q2. Our agency uses the following geographic delineations:				
	Service delivery areas.	Data collection.	Other purposes.	Existing PDCs.	General Assembly districts.	Congressional districts.	Internally developed boundaries.	Other.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control	X	X	Regional territories for manpower allocation and management	X			X	
Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council	X		Distribution of representatives on supervisory council			X		VSP districts used.
Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	X	X					X	
Department of Conservation and Recreation	X	X	<p>The Agency uses the National Watershed Boundary Dataset (NWBD) 6th order hydrologic unit (VAHU6) to prioritize the Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost Share funding allocations to address nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions in Virginia.</p> <p>The Planning and Recreation Resources Division uses the planning district boundaries to track and document outdoor recreation data and use every 5 years, and to interact with planning districts and local governments on a variety of outdoor recreational initiatives in development of the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP).</p> <p>The Dam Safety division uses the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Special Flood Hazard Areas to determine flood risk of communities and individual properties.</p>	X			X	The Agency uses seven (7) regional boundaries to define staff support to the 47 Soil and Water Conservations Districts (SWCD). The Dam Safety division uses the federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Special Flood Hazard Areas to determine flood risk of communities and individual properties.
Department of Environmental Quality		X	DEQ uses geographic boundaries to regulate certain activities to protect the environment. These boundaries are typically based on county boundaries or watershed boundaries.				X	DEQ conducts multiple programs that use different geographic delineations. Some programs utilize individual county or city boundaries, while other programs use watershed boundaries which can cover all or part of multiple localities. In some cases program are based on metropolitan areas.
Department of Fire Programs	X	X						VSP districts used.
Department of Forensic Science	X							The Department of Forensic Science groups laboratory service areas by the geographical boundaries of the Commonwealth's counties and cities.

Agency	Q1. Our agency uses geographic boundaries for:			Q2. Our agency uses the following geographic delineations:				
	Service delivery areas.	Data collection.	Other purposes.	Existing PDCs.	General Assembly districts.	Congressional districts.	Internally developed boundaries.	Other.
Department of Gaming and Inland Fisheries	X	X	X				X	We use a wide variety of boundary designations for regulatory purposes, i.e. hunting and fishing seasons including political subdivisions of the state (i.e. counties, cities, and towns, highways, railroads, water bodies, mountains, etc)
Department of General Services			We use geographic boundaries for data presentation/reporting as to the location of state owned and leased real estate assets.	X				
Department of Health Professions			Internal management of agency field staff performing investigations and inspections.				X	
Department of Human Resource Management			With the agreement of the Governor's Office, DHRM designates selected cities and counties in Northern Virginia as being in a separate area for compensation management purposes. Salary range maximums are higher there than in other areas of the state. DHRM determines the area included based on market and recruitment data. The practice is endorsed by the Appropriation Act, Section 4-6.01,i. In one situation, a specific legislative action resulted in adjustments to the localities included for a single agency.				X	
Department of Juvenile Justice		X						Judicial boundaries encompass juvenile court service units (CSUs); FIPS and CSU boundaries are used for data collection and analysis.
Department of Medical Assistance Services	X	X			X		X	VDH districts used.
Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Department of Motor Vehicles	X	X		X			X	
Department of Corrections			Regional management of DOC operations				X	
Department of Education	X	X						School divisions and regional Superintendents Planning Group

Agency	Q1. Our agency uses geographic boundaries for:			Q2. Our agency uses the following geographic delineations:				
	Service delivery areas.	Data collection.	Other purposes.	Existing PDCs.	General Assembly districts.	Congressional districts.	Internally developed boundaries.	Other.
Department of Forestry	X	X		X	X	X	X	The Department of Forestry uses the boundaries checked above for a variety of purposes in service delivery, developing work areas and work plans. The agency is not constrained by any reason to remain fixed to any particular boundary line and may alter to meet future needs. DOF provides GIS and resource information based one the requester's inquiry. Such inquiries for information could involve any of the listed options above to meet the client's particular needs. Information is often requested by local government, policy makers, legislators, and private business interests.
Department of Labor and Industry			The Department of Labor and Industry has four regional offices (Norfolk, Richmond, Manassas, and Roanoke) which serve the regions of Virginia that are designated as Tidewater, Central Virginia, Northern Virginia, and Southwest Virginia.				X	
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation	X	X					X	
Department of Rail and Public Transportation	X	X	Funding distribution and implementation of federal and state regulations	X	X	X	X	VDOT construction districts and transit service areas
Department of Social Services	X	X	Government collaborative, planning, training, emergency management	X			X	X
Department of Taxation			House Bill 2313 (Acts of Assembly 2013, Chapter 766) imposes additional taxes in planning districts that meet specific conditions as to population, registered vehicles and transit ridership. If a planning district currently meets the criteria, an additional state sales tax of 0.7 percent will be applied in the district's member localities. The additional tax will be charged beginning July 1 of any future year following a U.S. census if a district then meets the identified criteria. Currently, the criteria for the additional sales tax apply to Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia) and Planning District 23 (Hampton Roads) and the sales tax will be imposed in these planning districts on July 1, 2013.	X				
Virginia Commission for the Arts	X							

Agency	Q1. Our agency uses geographic boundaries for:			Q2. Our agency uses the following geographic delineations:				
	Service delivery areas.	Data collection.	Other purposes.	Existing PDCs.	General Assembly districts.	Congressional districts.	Internally developed boundaries.	Other.
Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	X			X				
Virginia Department of Transportation	X	X	On a geographic basis, VDOT provides funds and works with Virginia's Planning District Commissions ("PDCs") and other regional organizations to support the development, update, and implementation of federally required and regulated state and/or metropolitan transportation plans, programs and related procedures and studies. VDOT currently uses Planning District ("PD") boundaries to allocate rural transportation planning funds to 20 of the 21 PDCs in Virginia. In summary, the PD boundaries are very important to a number of functions within VDOT and a change would have definite impacts to a number of transportation planning initiatives. Further, PDCs provide planning data/input and perform administrative functions that are key and necessary for the identification of, and response to state, regional and/or local transportation needs.	X			X	VDOT uses a combination of geographic boundaries to operate its federal and state transportation programs in support of federal, state, regional and local interests. The primary regional geographic areas are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 regional VDOT Construction Districts and a Central Office • 21 PDCs • 15 MPOs (each with a metropolitan planning area that may be larger than the urbanized area). • Existing jurisdiction/locality boundaries are used for distribution of certain types of funding based on the Code of Virginia.
Virginia Economic Development Partnership	X	X	Uses include developing regional marketing profiles, deployment of staff connected to existing business expansion and community & ally relations; interface with regional economic development organizations (EDDs) for business attraction.	X			X	We use a blend of PDC & other boundaries, depending on the purpose. Sometimes PDC boundaries are aggregated into larger regions for data collection.
Virginia State Police	X	X					X	

Agencies responding to Q1 that they do not use geographic regions for any reason:

Department of Treasury
Norfolk State University
Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
Board of Accountancy
Library of Virginia

Agency	Q3. If changes were made to the existing planning district boundaries, what, if any, impact would this have on your agency's functions?
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control	Comparative analysis over time would need to be calculated based on localities rather than planning district comparisons. In the long run, we'd adjust and move on without a lot of concern.
Department of Conservation and Recreation	Planning and Recreation Resources— Changes in planning district boundaries would make comparative analysis of recreation data dating back to 1990 difficult. The strength in the Virginia Outdoors Plan has been the longevity and comparative data collection. Changes in planning district boundaries would also affect the mapping component of our work, and may impact regional conservation and recreation planning issues and projects addressed in the VOP.
Department of Environmental Quality	Changes to existing planning district boundaries would have little impact on programs overseen by DEQ. DEQ does not use planning district boundaries to implement any programs. In some cases, localities that are in the same planning district commission may have chosen to collectively meet regulatory requirements for a specific regulatory program. For example, localities within the same planning district commissions may work together to supply water to residents or handle sewage or waste materials. If planning district boundaries were to change, the localities could continue to participate collectively to meet regulatory requirements related to the services they provide. One agency program (Coastal Zone Management Program) provides technical assistance grants to the 8 coastal Planning District Commissions each year that are part of the coastal zone. The boundary of the coastal zone is established by statute and is based on the definition of Tidewater Virginia. If these planning district commission boundaries were modified, DEQ would need to ensure that the PDC's only used the funds received from the Coastal Zone Management program on projects inside the coastal zone boundary.
Department of Forestry	Changing the existing planning district boundaries would not impact the Department of Forestry in any way. The DOF uses county boundary lines associated with localities in meeting public safety obligations, such as forest fire fighting and emergency response, and service or working areas. Congressional districts were formerly used to appoint our Board of Forestry. This Code requirement has been abandoned with the merger of the Board of Forestry and Reforestation of Timberlands' boards into one consolidated Board of Forestry and congressional districts are no longer applicable for board member appointments. Local work areas are comprised of multiple counties (3 to 6) and our three administrative units are composed of 30+ counties to deliver a wide variety of services to landowners, local government and others. The Forestry Inventory Analysis (FIA) is a statewide inventory of Virginia's forestry resources and is the basis for socio-economic policy and business development. The FIA Unit boundaries correspond to 5 general physiographic areas within the state: coastal plain/Tidewater; Piedmont south of the James; Piedmont north of the James; the northern and southern mountain units are bounded by the Blue Ridge to the East and separated between Roanoke/Craig and MontgomeryGiles. (In FIA jargon, a "panel" refers to the annual workload, which covers the entire state(s). While we often report on the FIA units, data can be readily queried for the 11 congressional districts (it's a standard option). We don't typically receive many requests for this, given the extreme size difference (5,592 acres of forestland reported in the 8th District vs. 4,237,698 acres of forestland for the 5th District). While we can compile data by Virginia House or Senate district or planning district, it takes a significant amount of manual manipulation and time to get it together.
Department of Gaming and Inland Fisheries	The change of planning district boundaries would not have a significant impact on our agency. It potentially could change the DGIF staff contact information for the planning districts but that is just a matter of assigned coverage.
Department of General Services	No direct impact as to agency functions (DRES) but changes would require modifying records in our real estate management database.
Department of Human Resource Management	Changing Planning District boundaries would not have any direct impact on our compensation and policy activities. If other state agencies made changes to their organizational structures based on the Planning District changes, our agency would probably be involved in assisting them with those changes.
Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy	Projects coordinated with planning districts may be affected if the project area is placed into another district (water & reclamation projects).
Department of Motor Vehicles	Minimal. We use the Hampton Roads Planning District and Northern Virginia Transportation District by zip code to enforce fuels tax (effective 7/1/13) but any changes would simply have us add or delete zip codes. Other agency functions use agency specific boundaries for both service delivery and data collection (e.g. law enforcement and highway safety). I have attached a map of our districts for your information.
Department of Rail and Public Transportation	PDC staff often supports metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). If boundaries change, PDC boundaries may be inconsistent with MPO boundaries or overlap. We work with MPOs to conduct federal and state mandated planning activities and provide funding to support their activities.

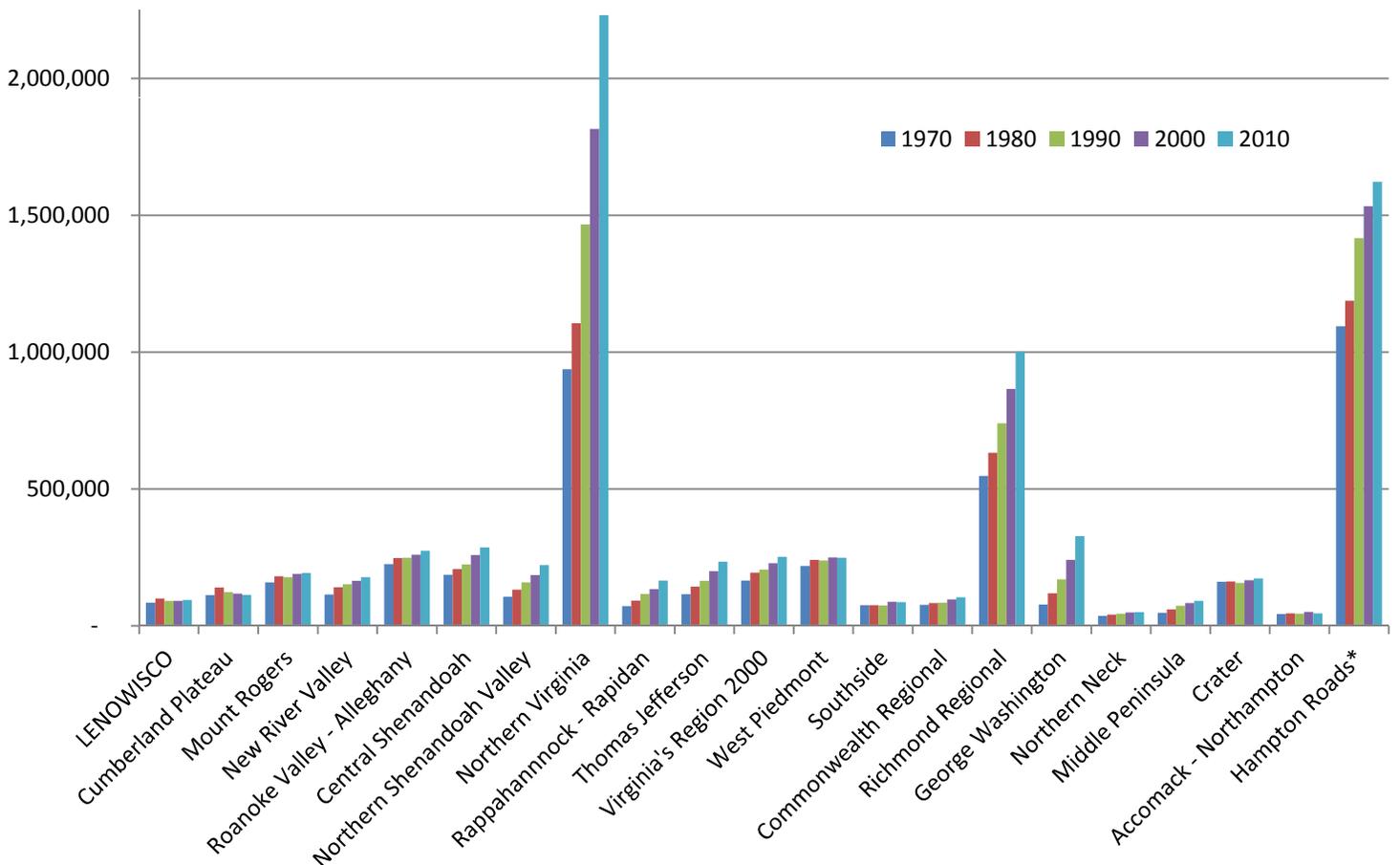
Agency	Q3. If changes were made to the existing planning district boundaries, what, if any, impact would this have on your agency's functions?
Department of Social Services	Agency geographic boundaries may encompass several planning districts. Local departments of social service work in planning districts and find the relationships to be very productive. They share resources and service providers. If planning districts are changed it would impact local departments and the relationships they have developed under the current system.
Department of Taxation	<p>As House Bill 2313 imposes the additional sales tax in cities and counties embraced by certain planning districts, particularly Planning Districts 8 and 23, changing those planning district boundaries to include or exclude localities would change the localities in which the sales tax is imposed. This would necessitate systems and forms changes for the Department of Taxation, as well as costs associated with notifying affected dealers.</p> <p>The Department of Taxation would also need to be aware if locality boundaries were to change. As the tax rate is determined by the locality where the transaction was made, the Department would need to update its systems for those changes so the correct tax rate could be applied. Additionally, the Department of Taxation allocates sales tax revenues based on the locality in which the transaction is sourced.</p>
Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Outreach Services are covered by contractors, and the RFPs for these services are based on the existing Planning Districts. Should changes be made to the existing planning districts during the contract period, coverage of these areas could be greatly impacted, changing the areas being served by a particular contractor.
Virginia Department of Transportation	<p>PDCs provide planning data/input and perform administrative functions that are key and necessary for identification of, and response to state, regional and/or local transportation needs. VDOT currently uses PD boundaries to allocate rural transportation planning funds to 20 of the PDCs in Virginia. PDCs also serve as staff to a number of the 15 federally designated metropolitan planning organizations within Virginia. VDOT contracts with those PDCs serving as MPO staff to provide federal metropolitan planning funds to the respective MPO areas. VDOT also uses PDC level planning data (population, employment, households, and land use) in transportation planning analysis.</p> <p>As a result of legislation enacted during the 2013 Virginia General Assembly (see Chapter 766 of the 2013 Acts of Assembly), for PDs meeting certain statutory criteria, various measures become effective within the localities comprising the PD, with resulting revenues dedicated to transportation funding for their respective areas/regions. Planning Districts 23 and 8 currently meet criteria established for various measures under HB2313. The PD boundaries are very important to a number of functions within VDOT and a change would potentially impact a number of transportation planning initiatives. VDOT also would be concerned that the PDC retain sufficient skilled planning staff to support the transportation planning work programs associated with the proposed-reorganized PD geographic boundaries.</p> <p>For any substantial PD boundary change, advance notice of a specific effective date would be required, to prevent disruption with regard to the funding and performance of ongoing and federally required, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning work. (Such advance notice would depend upon factors such as the timing of the change with respect to funding cycles and processes, the numbers of PDCs impacted and the extent of the boundary changes. For substantial boundary changes that impacted many or all of the PDs and/or significantly changed existing boundaries, the necessary notice may need to be up to 18 months or more.) Further, significant changes in PD boundaries would necessitate revision to existing transportation workplanning affiliations, and annual and multi-year work agreements involving numerous parties including public transit interests, federal transportation agencies, localities and MPOs.</p>
Virginia Economic Development Partnership	1) We would likely realign some of our online website maps to reflect changes to some regions. 2) We would need to adjust data collection processes (including IT coding of software) to reflect new boundaries. We are required by the General Assembly to publish several reports which are to report data annually on a PDC basis. (i.e. prospect visits, company announcements, business incentives)

Population and Area by Planning District: 1970 - 2010

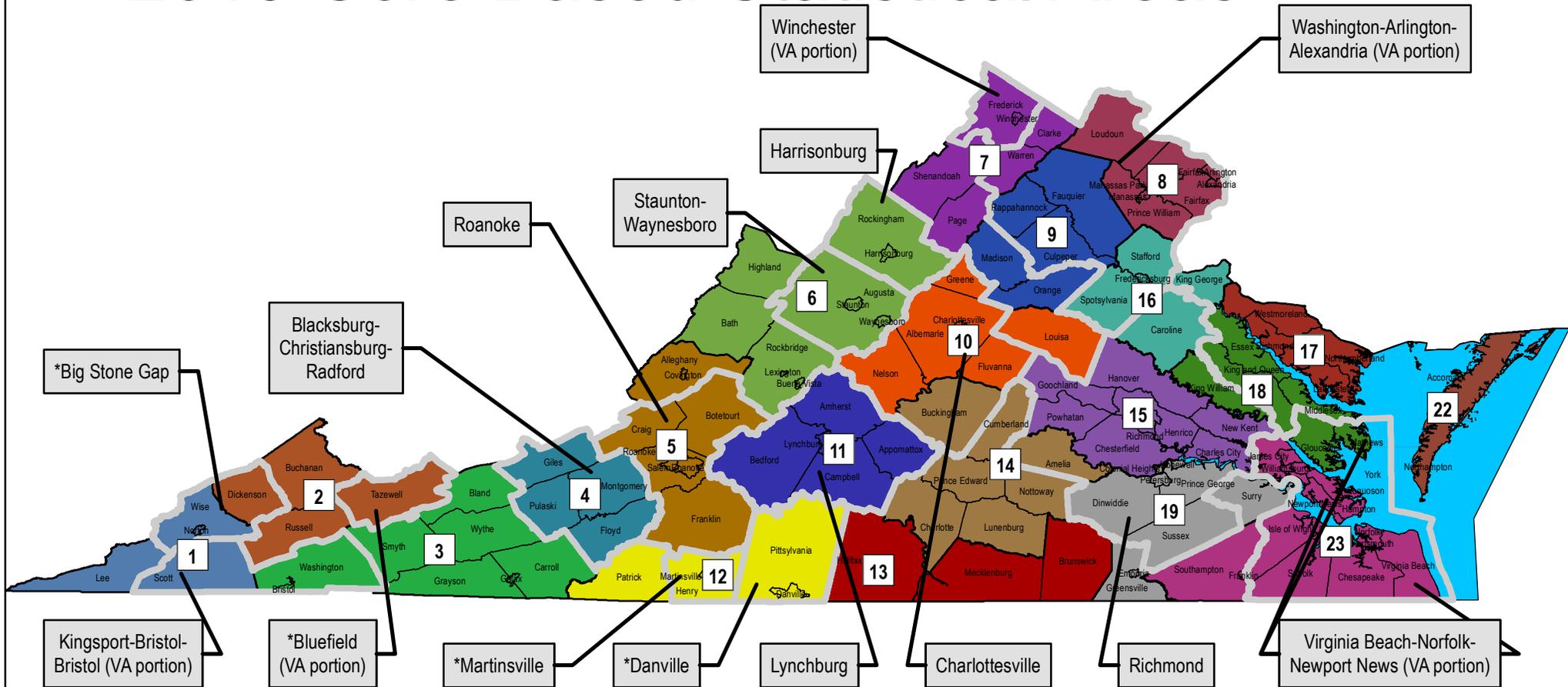
PDC #	Name	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Square Miles
1	LENOWISCO	84,816	99,644	91,520	91,019	94,174	1,382
2	Cumberland Plateau	112,497	140,067	123,580	118,279	113,976	1,826
3	Mount Rogers	159,412	181,139	178,205	190,020	193,595	2,770
4	New River Valley	114,833	141,343	152,720	165,146	178,237	1,453
5	Roanoke Valley - Alleghany	225,674	247,944	249,016	260,252	274,759	1,629
6	Central Shenandoah	186,306	208,344	225,025	258,789	286,781	3,420
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley	106,372	132,492	159,239	185,282	222,152	1,632
8	Northern Virginia	937,245	1,105,714	1,466,409	1,815,197	2,230,623	1,305
9	Rappahannock - Rapidan	72,222	92,661	116,524	134,785	166,054	1,954
10	Thomas Jefferson	115,235	143,597	164,210	199,648	234,712	2,140
11	Virginia's Region 2000	165,997	194,178	206,226	228,616	252,634	2,120
12	West Piedmont	219,179	240,917	238,837	250,195	249,182	2,579
13	Southside	75,674	75,494	74,261	88,154	86,402	2,009
14	Commonwealth Regional	77,060	83,549	84,905	97,103	104,609	2,804
15	Richmond Regional	547,542	632,015	739,735	865,941	1,002,696	2,120
16	George Washington	77,425	118,674	170,410	241,044	327,773	1,388
17	Northern Neck	37,011	40,950	44,173	49,353	50,429	745
18	Middle Peninsula	47,609	59,980	73,023	83,684	90,826	1,280
19	Crater	161,059	161,959	156,457	167,129	173,463	1,881
22	Accomack - Northampton	43,446	45,893	44,764	51,398	45,553	661
23	Hampton Roads*	1,093,893	1,187,586	1,416,443	1,533,192	1,622,394	2,392

*The Peninsula and Southeastern Virginia PDCs merged to form the Hampton Roads PDC in 1990. Population totals before 1990 are the combined total of these former PDCs.

Source: US Census



Commonwealth of Virginia: 2013 Core Based Statistical Areas



VA 2013 CBSAs	4 - New River	9 - Rappahannock-Rapidian	14 - Commonwealth	19 - Crater
Planning District Commissions	5 - Roanoke Valley-Alleghany	10 - Thomas Jefferson	15 - Richmond Regional	22 - Accomack-Northampton
1 - LENOWISCO	6 - Central Shenandoah	11 - Region 2000	16 - George Washington	23 - Hampton Roads
2 - Cumberland Plateau	7 - Northern Shenandoah Valley	12 - West Piedmont	17 - Northern Neck	
3 - Mount Rogers	8 - Northern Virginia	13 - Southside	18 - Middle Peninsula	

* Denotes a Micropolitan Statistical Area. All other labelled CBSAs are Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

<u>Entities with boundaries that fully conform with PDC boundaries</u>	<u>Entities with boundaries that conform with PDC boundaries; however some smaller PDCs are merged, or some larger PDCs are split. Few deviations from PDC boundaries exist.</u>	<u>No easily identifiable correlation to PDC boundaries</u>
US Economic Development Administration's Economic Development Districts. http://www.eda.gov/eddirectory/states/va.htm	17 Workforce Investment Boards http://vwn.vccs.edu/workforce-network-map/	VDOT Transportation Districts http://www.virginiadot.org/about/districts.asp
DCR Recreation Planning Regions http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/documents/vopchapt10intro.pdf	Virginia's 15 regional economic development alliances. www.goveda.org/resource/resmgr/imported/BX%20Regional%20Contracts.pdf	Council on Virginia's Future's analysis regions http://vaperforms.virginia.gov/extras/regions.php
	Virginia's 23 Community Colleges http://www.vccs.edu/about/where-we-are/college-locator/	Virginia State Police http://www.vsp.virginia.gov/Office_Locations.shtml
	Virginia Department of Health's 35 Districts http://www.vahealth.org/dcn/General%20Info/map.htm	Department of Social Services http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/regional_offices/map_boundaries.pdf
	Virginia's Community Service Boards http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/images/img-Chart-map-CSBs.pdf	Department of Education Superintendent's Regions http://www.doe.virginia.gov/directories/va_region_map.pdf
	Department of Environmental Quality's regions http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Locations.aspx	Court Circuits & Court Service Units http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/maps/home.html