

Biennial Report to the Governor and General Assembly on

**VIRGINIA'S PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSIONS
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2017 AND 2018**



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

September 2018

Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary	1
II. Overview.....	1
III. Summary Data FY 2017 & FY 2018	3
A. Regional Strategic Planning.....	4
B. Duties Performed	4
IV. PDC Highlights for FY 2017 & FY 2018.....	7
V. Conclusion	23
V. Appendices:	
A: Strategic Planning and Studies of Regional Significance	
B: Study Opportunities for Local Cost Savings and Regional Efficiencies	
C: Identify Mechanisms for Coordination of Local Interests	
D: Implement Services and Provide Technical Assistance	
E: Liaison between Localities and State Agencies	
F: Functional Plans Developed	
G: Other Activities	
H: PDCs and their Member Jurisdictions	
I: FY 2017 and 2018 State Funding and Population Data	

BIENNIAL REPORT ON VIRGINIA'S PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSIONS FY 2017 & FY 2018

I. Executive Summary

Virginia has 21 planning district commissions (PDCs) – voluntary associations of local governments¹ 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 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 2017 and 2018 annual reports, Virginia's planning district commissions are in compliance with 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, involved citizens, and others to discuss common needs and determine solutions to regional issues.²

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 of

¹ In 2017, Chapter 42 of Title 15.2 was amended to also allow for federally recognized Indian tribes within the boundaries of such PDCs to elect to become part of a PDC at any time (Chapter 377, 2017 Acts of Assembly).

² A complete listing of the PDCs and their member jurisdictions is provided in Appendix H.

the *Code of Virginia*). The Regional Cooperation Act 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 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 planning district commissions, directing them to:

- Conduct studies on issues and problems of regional significance;
- Identify and study potential opportunities for cost savings and staffing efficiencies through coordinated local government efforts;
- Identify mechanisms for the coordination of local interests on a regional basis;
- Implement services upon the request of member local governments;
- Provide technical assistance to local governments;
- Serve as a liaison between local governments and state agencies as requested;
- Review local government aid applications as required by applicable state and federal law and regulation;
- Develop regional functional area plans as deemed necessary by the commission or as requested by member local governments;
- Assist state agencies, as requested, in the development of sub-state plans;
- Participate in a statewide geographic information system, the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN), as directed by the Department of Planning and Budget; and
- 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 2017 and FY 2018 the General Assembly appropriated \$1,785,321 annually to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for distribution to the 21 PDCs. These appropriations are lower than the amount allocated prior to state funding reductions that began in October 2007. The amount of the appropriation to the 21 PDCs for FY 2008 was \$2,463,771, its highest level. Therefore, the amount appropriated in FY 2018 is \$678,450 – or 27.5 percent – less than what was appropriated for FY 2008.

In FY 2018, the amount appropriated to individual PDCs ranged from \$75,971 to \$151,943. Eighteen PDCs receive an appropriation of \$75,971, while the remaining three most populated PDCs receive larger appropriations.³ It should also be noted that planning district commissions' member jurisdictions contain populations that range from 45,553 to 2,230,623.⁴

Each PDC is required to submit an annual report to its member local governments and DHCD prior to September 1st 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 2017 & FY 2018

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 2017 and 2018 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.

³ The Richmond Regional PDC receives \$113,957 annually, while the Hampton Roads PDC and Northern Virginia Regional Commission each receive \$151,943 annually.

⁴ For more information, see Appendix I for FY 2017 and 2018 state funding as well as population served.

A. Regional Strategic Planning

Asked to document progress in developing and implementing strategic planning in the planning district, 18 out of 20 PDCs (90.0%) reported that they had formally adopted a regional strategic plan while the one remaining PDC is exempt from this requirement.⁵

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

Overall compliance with this requirement of the Act: Substantial (90.0 % achieved; 10.0 % 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 593 such studies for the two-year period. Over the biennium, 318 studies (53.6%) dealt with the functional areas of transportation, the environment,

⁵ 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.

community development, and economic development. Transportation was the most popular area with 20 PDCs conducting at least one study followed by economic development (19 PDCs), and the environment and disaster planning (18 PDCs for each). Four of the PDCs (West Piedmont, Central Shenandoah, Northern Shenandoah, and George Washington) conducted ten or more transportation studies during the 2015-2016 biennium.

In order of frequency, studies addressed transportation (137), the environment (64), community development (59), economic development (58), disaster planning (51), geographic information systems (39), infrastructure (32), housing (30), strategic planning (29), planning and zoning (26), workforce (16), other services (14), health and human services (14), administration (14), and telecommunications and technology (10).

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 2017 and FY 2018, the majority (52.5%) of the 773 such studies conducted by the 21 PDCs were focused on transportation (102), infrastructure (82), geographic information systems (78), economic development (73), and community development (71).

The functional areas that generated the fewest studies of potential cost savings or staff efficiencies were other services (27), work force (22), telecommunications and technology (21), and health and human services (16).

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 2017 and FY 2018, the 21 PDCs reported 793 instances in which mechanisms were identified for coordinating local interests on a regional basis. Nearly half (49.9%) of the mechanisms identified were in the areas of economic development (120), transportation (113), environment (88), and other services (75).

For the biennium, the PDCs identified the areas of planning and zoning (23), work force (23), and geographic information systems (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 4,276 activities reported by the 21 planning district commissions during FY 2017 and 2018. As might be expected, the amount of services and technical assistance varies considerably by function area and there appeared to be variation in how each PDC interpreted what constituted technical assistance, as indicated in very high numbers reported by some PDCs relative to lower activity numbers reported by others. Over one-half (54.7%) of the service provided, was provided in the areas of environment (955), transportation (625), administration (403), and economic development (336).

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

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

Similar to matters involving technical assistance, there was a lot of variation among PDCs in serving as liaisons between localities and state agencies as indicated in very high numbers reported by some PDCs relative to lower activity numbers reported by others. Moreover, there was considerable variation in the number of activities reported for the various topics. The 21 PDCs most often served as a liaison between local and state government when the issues dealt with the environment (1,301), economic development (1,171%) and community development (805). The planning district commissions served as liaison less frequently in the areas of health and human services (40), telecommunications and technology (24), and other (22).

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 2017 and FY 2018, all of the 21 PDCs reported reviewing local governmental aid applications. A total of 823 activities related to this activity were reported.

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 2017 and 2018, the majority (50.0%) of the functional area plans developed by the 21 PDCs were in the areas of transportation (103), economic development (42), and disaster planning (38). During that time, PDCs developed the fewest functional area plans in the areas of geographic information systems (7), administration (6), other (5), and health and human services (4).

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 287 (140 in FY2017, 147 in FY2018) times in FY 2017 through FY2018.

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 2017-FY 2018 period and reported 526 activities related to this topic.

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 achievement with respect to demographic, economic and other data collection and dissemination in addition to serving as an affiliate state data center. There was significant variation in the number of activities reported by PDCs with respect to this topic, which is likely a reflection in different interpretations among PDCs in measuring this activity.

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

IV. PDC Highlights for FY 2017 & FY 2018

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)

Tangier Receiving a Donation of Nutrient Credits from Tyson Foods

A-NPDC, with technical assistance from the Augusta County Service Authority (located in the Shenandoah Valley far from the Eastern Shore) and Aqualaw, assisted the Town of Tangier in finding another way to obtain nutrient credits for their wastewater system. The Town of Tangier sits on an island in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay. A-NPDC was able to find that Tyson Foods was interested in assisting the Town by donating Tyson Food nutrient credits to the Town. This will save the Town approximately \$7,500 each year to purchase nutrient credits. In many years, the Town did not even need the credits, but it was necessary for them to continue to purchase them. The state approved

contract between Tangier and Tyson will be in force through December 2021 and is estimated to save the Town \$30,000.

Broadband Initiative Started by A-NPDC in 2004 Reaches New Milestone

A-NPDC's Executive Director currently serves as Chairman of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority (ESVBA) and spearheaded the development of the first capital improvement plan that would extend the network in 2015. A-NPDC began the broadband initiative in 2004 and obtained and administered approximately \$9 million in federal, state and local grants and earmarks. ESVBA is a financially sound organization that does not receive any operating funding other than from existing customers. In 2018, the residential broadband pilot project, started in September 2017 was deemed successful, and A-NPDC assisted ESVBA with developing the plan to offer the Fiber to the Premise service to residential areas (5,292 Accomack Addresses, 3,313 Northampton Addresses) along the existing 300 miles of fiber network. ESVBA completed an analysis with CTC Technologies that found that construction of the remaining public portions of a ubiquitous fiber network would cost \$29.2 million. ESVBA has applied for \$5 million in bond financing to build the remainder of the capital improvement plan and a ubiquitous fiber network in all nineteen incorporated towns on the Eastern Shore including the Town of Tangier on an island in the Chesapeake Bay. This build will provide access to over 8,000 new addresses.

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC)

BRITE Transit

In 2013, the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) became the designated recipient of the federal (FTA) and state (DRPT) funding for the region's public transit system, known as BRITE. The CSPDC is the only planning district in the state and one of the few in the country that administers and operates a public bus system. This small urban and rural public bus system operates in the Staunton, Augusta, and Waynesboro area and provides riders with transit service to employment centers, Blue Ridge Community College, Augusta Health hospital and other destinations in the region. As the administrator, the CSPDC is responsible to plan and manage the transit service, for meeting federal and state mandates for transit, and for all reporting. In the first quarter of 2017, a competitive procurement was completed that resulted in a "turn-key" contract for operating BRITE service. The service contract was awarded to Virginia Regional Transit (VRT) with the contract beginning on July 1, 2017. Under the contract, VRT is responsible for providing buses, maintaining the buses, hiring, training and supervision of drivers and customer service.

On June 30, 2017 ownership of the transit facility in Fishersville was transferred to the CSPDC. State and federal transit funds were used to construct the building in 2011, which houses the operational offices and maintenance bays of the BRITE bus system. The contracted service provider, Virginia Regional Transit (VRT), occupies and maintains the space, with oversight from the CSPDC.

GO Virginia Region 8

In August 2017, the GO Virginia Region 8 Council completed its Economic Growth and Diversification Plan, a pre-requisite to receive GO Virginia funds from the state. Region 8's plan identifies five targeted industry sectors in the Shenandoah Valley where job growth is anticipated. These jobs are expected to have an average wage of \$41,000 or higher. The targeted industries are financial and business services, healthcare, light manufacturing, IT/communications, and transportation and logistics.

In early 2018, the Region 8 Council began receiving proposals to be funded with its approximately \$928,000 GO Virginia per capita allocation. Two projects were approved for funding in Fiscal Year 2018. They were the Rockbridge Area Advanced Manufacturing Project (RAAMP) for a welding program at Byers Technical Institute in Rockbridge County and a Cyber Security Workforce and Jobs program at Blue Ridge Community College to train students as cyber security analysts. Both projects will lead to higher paying jobs in the private sector.

GO Virginia is a business-led, Commonwealth-supported initiative formed in 2016 to generate private sector growth and job opportunities by encouraging strategic, job-focused collaboration among business, education, and local government.

Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC)

Regional Emergency Planning

The CRC successfully applied for and received funding from VDEM for Regional Emergency Planning in 2017. CRC staff are working with local government emergency management personnel to develop FEMA Approved Debris Management Plans, and Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) for use of facilities during a natural disaster event recovery. While working with local staff over the past year, the CRC staff also determined additional needs in regional emergency planning and have applied for additional funding to continue providing regional emergency planning services.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for CRC

The CRC successfully applied for and received an EDA Grant to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the CRC Region. The CRC developed a RFP for consultant services and has selected the Berkley Group to assist the CRC in the development of the CEDS. The CRC CEDS Committee is working with the CRC and the Consultant to develop the CRC's first CEDS for the region. Once the CEDS has been approved by EDA it will afford participating localities the opportunity to apply for funds from EDA for projects. Currently none of the localities in our region are eligible to apply for EDA funding.

Crater Planning District Commission (CPDC)

Managing Petersburg Area Regional Tourism (PART)

Crater PDC continues to provide day-to-day administrative/executive functions for PART's Board of Directors with close collaboration with PART's six local government partners (counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, and Prince George and cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Petersburg). During the year, the Crater PDC oversaw the update and printing of the regional visitor guide (80,000 copies), placements of various marketing ads, as well as implementing the fulfillment function of PART. PART continues to build upon its working relationship with WWBT and WTVR to increase its television marketing reach.

2016 tourism expenditures data (latest available) from VTC indicated that visitors spent \$364 million, supporting over 3,750+ jobs with a payroll of \$73.7 million. Because of this activity, PART localities collected \$26.7 million in local tax revenues. Tourism in the region continues to grow each year and is an important contributor to the region's economy. The growth spurt in the hospitality/ tourism sector in the PART region continued during the first six months of 2018, helping to propel local hotel revenues to new highs. Hotel room sales reached \$36.8 million for the first six-months of 2018.

Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM)

During the year several initiatives took place between CCAM and the Crater Commission. The Commission staff assisted CCAM with the development of a \$3.15 million application to the U. S. Economic Development Administration, which was approved to assist in funding the construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Apprentice Academy (AMAA). This project is included in the Commonwealth's current bond package as well. This project was the number one rated project in the Crater Commission's approved 2017-2018 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The AMAA will center its training initiatives in three high-demand and well paid positions- machining, welding and mechatronics.

CCAM received a \$430,000 GO Virginia grant from the Region 4 Regional Council to establish a state-of-the art Mechatronics training program. John Tyler Community College and Southside Virginia Community College are partners in this pilot program. The Crater Planning District Commission formally agreed to financially support this GO Virginia initiative and was involved in the development of CCAM's application. On June 28, 2018 CCAM hosted the Crater Planning District Commission's Annual Budget and Work Program meeting. CCAM provided a tour of its facility and also provided an overview of CCAM's operations.

Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission (CPPDC)

AML Pilot Program Funding

The PDC staff in cooperation with the Town of Pocahontas, the Breaks Regional Airport Authority and Russell County IDA, applied for funding from the AML Pilot program and other agencies for economic development projects in our coal-impacted communities.

The AML Pilot Program was funded by \$10 million received by DMME from the U.S. Treasury to help identify abandoned mine land sites that could be reclaimed to boost economic development efforts in

Virginia's Coalfields. CPPDC staff worked with DMME, OSM, Lenowisco PDC, Congressional representatives and others to solicit proposals and recommend approval of projects.

PDC staff assisted the Town of Pocahontas in preparing an application for Phase 1 of the Pocahontas Exhibition Mine and Museum Restoration Project. An award of \$1.5 million was made to the Town for critical improvements that will enhance tourism and business development in the town.

PDC staff also assisted the Town of Grundy on the Breaks Regional Airport Runway Expansion Project. The project received a commitment of \$1.9 million for the project but will take several years to complete.

Staff also worked with Russell County IDA to prepare an application for \$3.5 million in Tobacco Commission funding to support \$3.2 million in Pilot funding for the Russell Reclaim project. This massive project involves reclamation of the old Moss 3 Prep Plant in Carbo and the creation of over 200 acres of industrial property with rail access. Staff will provide application preparation to localities in FY19 for Round Two of this important new program.

Cumberland Plateau Regional Broadband Fiber and Wireless Network

In the early 2000's, the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission (PDC), through its non-profit arm, the Cumberland Plateau Company (CPC), undertook a major broadband deployment initiative in our four-county area. After successfully obtaining nearly \$40 million in EDA, Tobacco Commission and Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority funding to deploy over 700 miles of fiber backbone throughout the District, in 2012 the Cumberland Plateau and Lenowisco PDCs, through their economic development partnership the Virginia Coalfield Coalition (VCC), administered a wireless 4G project in the five counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Wise and Lee. The Virginia Tobacco Commission and VCEDA provided \$14 million to match \$9 million from a wireless carrier to provide fiber backhaul to 27 existing towers and to build 11 new towers to provide enhanced cell phone coverage in the coalfields.

2016 brought a serious challenge to the future public mission of this massive telecommunications initiative when the Cumberland Plateau's main partner in this effort, Bristol Virginia Utilities Authority (BVU), negotiated a sale of the BVU Optinet system to a private company. At the same time, BVU proposed to assign its operating agreement with CPC Optinet to the private company. All of this was done in secret and without informing CPC of the deal.

CPC staff and Board were forced to seek legal counsel to insure that the public mission was protected in keeping with the grant agreements with the public funders of this project. The fact that it was never anticipated that the system would ever be sold, much less to a private company, only complicated an already complicated situation.

The "long story short" summary is that the CPC and VCC boards, staffs and attorneys worked for 30 months from February 2016 to August 2018, to ensure that the public interest and benefits of this vast IT system were protected going forward. This included significant financial and operational concessions

agreed to by the various involved parties that will protect the Cumberland Plateau's ability to expand broadband fiber services in the PDC and the VCC's to enhance wireless services in the Coalfields region.

George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC)

GWRideConnect

GWRideConnect supports the largest fleet of vanpools in the Commonwealth. Each weekday 365 vanpools leave the George Washington Region, transporting more than 7,300 people round trip to their places of employment. The same program also connects over 14,000 GWRideConnect Facebook followers with timely information on transportation news in both our region and Northern Virginia. Between this and other rideshare efforts, GWRideConnect effectively frees up the equivalent of an entire lane of traffic each weekday. This shows the impact of regional cooperation on transit and congestion mitigation.

GO Virginia Region 6

During the summer of 2017, the GO Virginia Regional Council, with GWRC as its support agency, developed the first Region 6 Economic Growth and Diversification Plan. This plan, which identified economic opportunities and challenges, created a strategic framework to solicit and approve proposals for GO Virginia funding. Since that time four regional projects have been funded, addressing such critical needs as broadband access, flexible workspace, training, and creation of a new industry cluster around shoreline resiliency and water management economy.

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)

Public Access to Waterways

Staff prepared the Regional Strategic Plan for Public Access to Waterways in Hampton Roads, which contains an inventory of existing and planned public access locations and facilities, a gap analysis to identify opportunities for new public access sites, an assessment of funding opportunities, and descriptions of public outreach materials. The overall goal of the project is to use the research/tools discussed to inform state, federal, and nonprofit plans to improve public access to waterways in Hampton Roads.

Freight Study: Highway Gateways Used by Port Trucks

Over the last several decades, the HRTPO has engaged in numerous important freight planning activities, including the development of the Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study, which serves as a comprehensive resource document on the region's multimodal transportation system. Highway Gateways Used by Port Trucks, released in March, 2018, was developed to inform the HRTPO Board which highway routes port-related trucks primarily use to enter and exit Hampton Roads. The study

results will be used to inform the scoring of candidate projects under the HRTPO Project Prioritization Tool, and to provide input for major regional studies currently being conducted by HRTPO and VDOT.

LENOWISCO Planning District Commission (LPDC)

Project Intersection:

LENOWISCO has been the lead agency to coordinate the development of a regional "Mega-Site" Project to serve the entire region. LENOWISCO has facilitated meeting with local, state and federal elected officials to best piece together a funding package for the acquisition and site development of this site. The site was identified by the LENOWISCO Regional Site Selection Study.

As noted last year, LENOWISCO completed an application to the Virginia Tobacco Commission that was funded in the amount of \$1.25 million. Over the past year, the project has also received funding in the amount of \$3.5 million from the Office of Surface Mining. Applications are still pending with the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Economic Development Administration.

This project will be the first project that is sponsored by the newly formed Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority. Both "Project Intersection" and the RIFA are examples of regional economic development collaboration at its best.

Powell River Trail Project:

The Towns of Big Stone Gap, Appalachia and the City of Norton are partnering to complete the Powell River Trail Project. When complete, the trail will be close to 13 miles in length. Presently, close to three miles have been completed. The Appalachian Regional Commission has funded the next study phase of the project which will identify the route that will connect the first phase of the trail in Appalachia to the City of Norton.

All three of the participating localities see the benefit of having a trail that connects all three of them. Already, with the completion of Phase I, a noticeable amount of activity has been noticed within the Town of Appalachia. This is a perfect example of how localities, when they work together, can benefit both individually and as a region.

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC)

Assistance with Rural Stormwater Management Legislation

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission staff assisted with the introduction of House Bill 1307, which allows any rural Tidewater locality, as defined in the bill, to comply with water quantity technical criteria for certain land-disturbing activities based on the percentage of impervious cover in the watershed. The bill provides that any eligible locality electing to use certain control standards shall, by ordinance, adopt an official map that indicates the percentage of impervious cover in each watershed within the locality and shall update the map at least annually. The bill allows any such locality to apply

one of the following three standards for managing water quantity to any new development project: (i) if the site, as indicated on the map, has less than 5.0 percent impervious cover, the standard shall be a particular State Water Control Board regulation; (ii) if the watershed has 5.0 percent or more but less than 7.5 percent impervious cover, the standard shall be the one-year, 24-hour release method; and (iii) if the watershed has 7.5 percent or more impervious cover, the standard shall be the energy balance method. The bill provides that any project whose construction would cause the watershed in which it is located to step up to the next higher tier shall be evaluated under the energy balance method or a more stringent alternative.

Assistance with Establishing Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund and Grant Program

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission staff also assisted the introduction of Senate Bill 693, which establishes the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund and Grant Program. The program provides grants to political subdivisions and local governing bodies that propose certain dredging projects and related activities. The bill directs the Virginia Port Authority to manage the grant program by developing guidelines and procedures for the application process and for the awarding of annual grants.

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC)

Bland County Wireless Hollybrook Expansion Project

Working with Bland County, CHA Consulting, and GigaBeam Networks, MRPDC completed a telecommunications plan for the county, which focused on using wireless technologies to reach localities that have been unserved by broadband due to the lack of access and expense of reaching them with fiber optic lines. The group determined that by using new wireless technologies instead of wired fiber, it would cost a fraction of the price to serve the county's currently unserved customers. The Hollybrook Community was chosen as the pilot for the project and received a grant of \$192,141 from DHCD's Virginia Telecommunications Initiative. Bland County teamed up with GigaBeam to provide 25Mbps/3Mbps wireless broadband internet, with no data caps, to the Hollybrook Community. The Hollybrook community is a mountainous community with several ridges with no large population center, that has 376 households and covers approximately 24 square miles. In December 2017, Governor McAuliffe attended the ribbon cutting for the project.

Highlight #2: Water/Wastewater Program

Southwest Virginia Regional Water/Wastewater Construction Fund: In FY18, the PDC received \$688,290 in construction funds and technical assistance funds to assist its localities with water and wastewater development needs. Since the program began, 137 construction projects and 90 technical assistance projects have been funded in the Mount Rogers district. In FY18, the PDC funded projects to provide over 275 new household connections, improved water and wastewater service to 15,345 households and 865 businesses and four PERs. From 2013 to 2018, 66 construction projects, approximating \$3.27 million, leveraged approximately \$51.6 million, created 917 new household and 81 new business connections, and improved service to 83,420 households and 3,204 businesses.

New River Valley Planning District Commission (NRVDC)**New River Valley Agriculture & Agritourism Strategic Plan**

Agriculture is Virginia's largest and oldest industry, generating over \$52 billion annually and providing more than 350,000 jobs. Almost 90% of Virginia's farms are family owned and operated. In the New River Valley, beef and forestry are the largest agriculture sectors. In addition to traditional agribusiness operations, agritourism activities are thriving in Virginia. In fact, agritourism activities increased 42% from 2007 to 2012 and income increased \$2.3 million over the same time period. The Regional Commission facilitated the development of a regional action plan for agribusiness and agritourism. Additional project deliverables included: a market brief that evaluated trends, forecasts, problems, and opportunities in agritourism; a regional assessment of traditional agribusiness; a unique brand that can be used to promote agritourism activities or local agribusiness products; an interactive local foods guide map; and a statewide conference that featured Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Todd Haymore. The plan was a collaborative effort, funded by the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Giles County, Montgomery County, and Pulaski County. The process was led by a steering committee consisting of local farmers, agribusiness owners, agritourism operators, Virginia Cooperative Extension staff, and local government planning, tourism, and administrative staff. The complete plan, deliverables, and supporting documentation are available on the Economic Development page of the Regional Commission's website.

New River Watershed Roundtable

Working along with the Fall into the New river clean-up event, the Regional Commission continues to promote dialogue and action on regional issues, such as water quality within the New River Watershed. To this end, the Regional Commission submitted and received a support grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to reestablish a watershed roundtable in the New River Valley. A watershed roundtable provides a forum for conversation and action to improve local water quality, and funding from this grant enables the Regional Commission to help establish a New River Watershed Roundtable through gathering stakeholders and supporting water quality projects.

Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC)**Downtown Business District Revitalization Assistance**

The NNPDC continues assisting the Town of Colonial Beach, Town of White Stone, Town of Warsaw, and the Village of Callao with planning and implementation of downtown business-district revitalization strategies. Activities include improvements to facades; the administration of revolving-loan programs; public improvements to the project areas such as the installation of street lighting, landscaping, street furniture, and signage, plus the construction of pedestrian crosswalks. In Colonial Beach alone, a State investment of \$747,000 has resulted in over \$3,924,000 of private investment.

Assign-A-Highway Program

The NNPDC coordinates a regional "Assign-A-Highway" Program utilizing court probationers to clean up roadside trash throughout the region. In FY18, almost 14 tons of trash were picked up in the Northern Neck, translating into over \$21,000 in savings to the Counties. The removal of litter from public roads provides environmental benefits as well as benefits to the region's tourism efforts.

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC)**GO Virginia**

The NSVRC is now the primary support organization for GO Virginia Region 8. In addition to being the fiscal agent, staff has begun work building collaborative relationships within the region to foster the development of transformational projects in the field. We have chosen to strategically contract with other entities, both public and private, whose specialties leverage our existing assets to provide additional support. The first applications from the Shenandoah Valley were submitted this year and will result in the creation of new high-paying jobs within the region. The regional council is a collaborative body of private sector and public leaders that recognizes the value of regional economic development. NSVRC is proud to provide support to this effort.

Shenandoah County Transit Feasibility Study

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, County of Shenandoah, and the Towns of New Market, Mt. Jackson, Edinburg, Woodstock, Toms Brook and Strasburg applied for and received funding from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to determine the feasibility for a county-wide fixed route public transit system. This is a first-time collaborative effort among state and local government, the business community, educational institutions and local human services agencies. This regional effort made it possible to receive funding for the study which requires a 20% match from the localities. With this existing regional effort and collaboration as a foundation for the study, a future with a county-wide transit system is much more achievable than with one locality going it solo. A lack of mobility options is a chief barrier to employment, medical care and education in the region. No one community in this rural area can sustain a transit system, but this effort will assess the viability of a regional transit system to help remove the barrier of transportation.

Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)**LED Street Lighting**

NVRC led a regional effort and discussions with its local government partners and Dominion Energy to achieve improved terms and conditions related to LED Street Lighting in the region and state. The resulting agreement, which was adopted by all parties, will provide local governments with more LED street light choices, a variety of bulb intensity level and new replacement policies, among others, to achieve local government environmental and energy savings goals. One local government reported that

if it changed all of its streetlights under this new agreement it will save the locality \$500,000 annually with a pay-back period of approximately 3.5 years.

Cyber Readiness Conference

NVRC continues to convene the regional Community, Federal Facilities and Military Partnership, which formed a cyber workforce committee to develop strategies that will position transitioning military personnel for cyber jobs. NVRC convened a conference in late June with multiple public and private partners to help develop a Cyber Readiness Roadmap to identify and implement strategies to improve the cyber readiness of the region.

Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC)

Foothills Area Mobility System Transportation Collaboration

The Foothills Area Mobility System (FAMS) is the Rappahannock-Rapidan region's transportation resource partnership. FAMS was formed in 2009, following a critical recommendation of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Coordinated Human Services Mobility plan. The partnership includes RRRC, Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services, Virginia Regional Transit, Aging Together, regional employers, and regional volunteer transportation providers. The strategies identified in the initial FAMS Mobility plan included:

- Establish a formal regional partnership and programs to promote collaboration, effectiveness, and efficiency of Human Services Mobility
- Provide effective Information & Referral (I&R) and outreach to ensure that target populations can and will access transportation services
- Provide flexible, quality transportation options and more specialized one-on-one services through expanded use of volunteers
- Support existing transit and human service transportation providers in their efforts to continue and improve their services
- Identify and support implementation of new and expanded transportation service, other than volunteer programs, to meet identified need

FAMS has successfully implemented a regional Mobility Management program that provides transportation information, referrals, and travel training to area residents, and maintains transportation resource guides for the region and individual localities to include public, private, and volunteer transportation services. On a regional level, FAMS has introduced and implemented a standard form for volunteer driver applications that incorporates independent volunteer driver programs under a single application form to reduce duplication and provide increased opportunity for volunteer drivers and those requiring transportation services. Funding partners include the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, PATH Foundation, Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services, and the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission and its member jurisdictions. RRRC accepted the 2018 Best Practices Award from the VAPDC on behalf of the FAMS partnership.

Purely Piedmont Food Brand

The Regional Commission and the Rappahannock-Rapidan Food Council unveiled the Purely Piedmont food brand in May 2017. The Regional Commission launched a local foods branding study for the region in early 2017 with funding from the PATH Foundation. Following stakeholder interviews, a consumer survey and public input sessions, the Region's Food Policy Council unanimously voted to approve the Purely Piedmont brand name.

Feedback indicated that consumers strongly value knowing where their food comes from, with 75% of survey respondents stating it would make them much more likely to buy local food. The chosen name is intended to provide that knowledge and evoke the fresh and wholesome qualities survey respondents associated with the region's locally-grown food. The marketing campaign is intended to encourage more local and state residents to try our farmer's products and expand upon the wealth of positive feedback the Commission received during the branding study. Initially, the brand will cover foods produced within the Commission's jurisdictions—Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties—with the opportunity for other counties in the Northern Piedmont of Virginia to participate in the future. The potential also exists for development of a regional label program similar to the state's Virginia Grown program.

The branding effort is part of the Commission's on-going implementation of its 2015 Regional Farm and Food Plan.

Region 2000 Local Government Council (LGC)

Region 2000 CEDS Implementation Action Plan

The Virginia's Region 2000 CEDS Implementation Action Plan is a supplement to the CEDS by presenting specific activities, programs, partners, and metrics and timelines to advance the five economic prosperity goals and initiatives in the CEDS. The Action Plan outlines a five-year road map to accomplish the visions of the CEDs and specifically:

- Introduces roles and responsibilities of program partners;
- Presents specific objectives (outcomes), strategies (actions) to accomplish CEDS goals;
- Identifies partner agencies, organizations, and entities essential in advancing economic prosperity; and
- Establishes quantifiable metrics to gauge success.

The CEDS Action Plan was developed through a coalition of individuals that, through their profession or local organization leadership position, are knowledgeable and dedicated to advancing one of the CEDS topic areas. These six groups spent the last year in outlining the individual action plans. The following principles were used:

1. Support the CEDS Advance projects that serve as "catalyst" to advance the CEDS;
2. Cast the Net Capitalize on existing programs, expand participation avenues; and

3. Be Pragmatic Present feasible strategies with quantifiable metrics.

Assist in GLTC Transportation Development Plan and Facility Evaluation

LGC staff provided valuable planning support to the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) and their consultant, Kimley-Horn, in development of the GLTC Transit Development Plan (TDP), a five-year program planning document. LTC staff also completed a bus stop inventory that provided an extensive evaluation, including ADA accessibility, of every bus stop in the GLTC route system. The TDP process has resulted in considerable adjustments to the route structure to provide seamless and efficient route options for residents and visitors. Additionally, the bus stop inventory will be utilized to assist in the pending sidewalk evaluation and retrofit programming that will be undertaken in FY2019.

Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC)

Organizational Strategic Plan

Beginning in August 2017, the Commission initiated an organizational strategic planning process that involved participation from all nine member jurisdictions. The steering committee was comprised of members of the Commission (each representing a member locality) and included active participation and consultation with the local government managers of the region. The Commission adopted a Strategic Planning Framework in June 2017 that sets the overall agency direction and included a timeline for development of the final plan and implementation targets. The new framework established a customer focused model and set the expectation of designing a prioritization framework that selects work program items based on need of localities and regional priorities. The Strategic Planning process occurs just before the Commission's 50th anniversary and sets expectations for developing increased competencies in public outreach and engagement; data collection, research and analysis; and emphasis on regional trends with balance given to local support needs.

Regional Transportation Demand Model

RRPDC made significant progress in FY2018 in developing the Regional Transportation Demand Model. In September 2015, an on-call consultant was selected to provide assistance in developing the model and to date, four work tasks have been completed. These included model documentation and analysis of the highway, transit and freight networks. The fourth task, Freight System Analysis, was completed in FY2018 and included review of the freight sub-model of the regional model. Following completion of this task, the lead RRPDC staff member was invited to present at the Transportation Research Board Innovations in Travel Modeling conference in June. The completion of these tasks in the model development process represent increased capacity for the Richmond and Tri-Cities MPO regions to evaluate current and future conditions of the transportation network for multiple modes. The development of this model has been beneficial to the region to strengthen regional planning activities and has served as a cost and time efficient tool for jurisdictions to access when evaluating projects at the local level. As we further develop the model, the RRPDC will increase capacity to evaluate various

investment options in the transportation network and advance its objective to move toward scenario planning for future long range planning activities.

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC)

Regional Study on Transportation Project Prioritization for Economic Development and Growth

Understanding the nexus between strategic transportation improvements and economic development, Identifying pertinent transportation needs in the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany region, highlighting regional economic trends and conditions, Establishing transportation objectives and strategies that support economic development, and Identifying a list of 5-10 transportation projects within the area that could advance regional economic objectives. By far, the purpose of the study is to create the foundation by which the region can focus its efforts in promoting overall regional competitiveness through transportation improvements. The study ultimately seeks to highlight how strategic investment can change a region's overall behavior and can ensure a transportation project's higher probability of return in terms of productivity and competitiveness.

Roanoke Valley Economic Study of the Arts & Cultural Industry

Sixteen organizations that provide programming to the region participated in the study based on FY 2016 data. The last study was conducted in 2013. The study noted that, over the years arts and cultural organizations have had a fairly significant economic impact on the economy of the Roanoke Valley. Although this study looked specifically at dollars spent by the local arts and cultural organizations and through visitor spending, the data showed that there are intangible impacts associated with a healthy arts and cultural scene. Such impacts include providing opportunities for students to participate in performing and visual arts activities and creating a strong positive perception of the Roanoke Valley by visitors and businesses.

Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC)

Southern Virginia Food Hub Project

The Southern Virginia Food Hub was formed in 2016 with the Southside PDC providing technical assistance and grant writing to create a unique "farm to table" marketplace in Southern Virginia. Approved funding to date includes \$258,812 from the Tobacco Commission; \$179,036 from DHCD Industrial Revitalization Fund; \$271,800 DHCD Local Innovation; \$50,000 VEDP Brownfield Fund, \$204,336 VDAC Rural Rehab Trust Fund and \$75,000 Rural Development RBEG. The Southern Virginia Food Hub is an exciting innovative project that will help create successful, profitable agribusinesses and preserve the heritage of family farms in seven southern Virginia Counties. The Food Hub's physical location in downtown South Hill will spur economic activity in the central business district while transforming a vacant building into a viable structure. The Southern Virginia Food Hub will serve farmer and producer businesses throughout Southside Virginia by housing a local food grocery store that sells products made from local agriculture, a commercial kitchen where food products can be prepared for

resale, a local food deli and a community classroom. A dairy processing room for making milk products is also planned. The Food Hub has just received non-profit status and the official opening of the facility will be in the fall of 2018

Regional Downtown Development Strategy for Southside Virginia

The Southside PDC coordinated the completion of a Regional Downtown Development Strategy for Southside Virginia. Funding was used to secure a consultant to develop the plan which was completed in 2018. The focus area included downtowns in Mecklenburg County, the Town of Lawrenceville in Brunswick County and the City of Emporia. A total of 8 communities were evaluated with recommendations for a number of short and mid-term activities to improve the region's physical appearance and attractiveness, to more effectively market the district to locals and visitors, to help businesses expand, and to develop new businesses.

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC)

I-64 Corridor Plan

TJPDC, in its role as staff to the Charlottesville Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), completed the Interstate 64 Corridor Plan in partnership with the Staunton Augusta Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO). The project was made possible by funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Strategic Highway Research Program II (SHRP2). The planning process utilized FHWA's PlanWorks corridor planning decision guide as the foundation for improving inter-regional communication between two MPOs and groups of stakeholders who infrequently collaborate on a corridor wide scale. The corridor includes 40 miles of Interstate 64 between Staunton and Charlottesville, Route 250, connector roads and multimodal transportation components. The route passes through Albemarle County, Augusta County, and the City of Waynesboro and crosses the Blue Ridge Mountains at Rockfish Gap. The project involved working with five local governments, three VDOT districts, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), Virginia Transportation Research Council (VRTC), the National Park Service, two MPOs, the Buckingham Branch Railroad, and transit operators. The Plan Works Corridor Study decision guide was used to inform the corridor planning process. Project recommendations are moving forward as part of Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) consideration through the Smart Scale process. TJPDC/MPO staff provided an overview of the Corridor Study as a featured project at the Peer Exchange held in Washington, DC, on April 25-26, 2018. Staff also presented to the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VRTC) on June 26.

Ruckersville Area Plan

This plan addresses the planning and development needs in the Ruckersville Area - the fastest growing part of Greene County and the primary location for shopping, retail, and employment related activities. A need for the area plan was identified in the County Comprehensive plan and is in keeping with the County's desire to promote economic development and encourage appropriate development along the Route 29 Corridor. As a community focused plan, the process included ample opportunities for the

public to be involved in the process. Three public meetings held were held throughout the planning process. An extensive community survey was undertaken in September and October 2017, with over 450 responses. A working group was established early in the process to provide guidance, expertise, and local knowledge to incorporate into the planning work. The 12-member Working Group met monthly, and included elected officials, planning commissioners, business owners, neighborhood associations, local staff and citizens from within the project area. The Ruckersville Are Plan is a ten-year to-do list for Greene County officials and the Ruckersville community, including residents and businesses. The plan included 25 recommendations in the areas Community, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Land Use, and Transportation. Recommendations included one-time initiatives, recurring programs, Capital Improvements, Codes and Ordinance changes, and changes in Local Policies. The plan was approved by the Greene County Board of Supervisors on June 12, 2018.

West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC)

INFRA Grant Assistance to Henry County for Proposed Interstate 73 Segment

In November 2017, the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) developed and submitted an Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant application to the U.S. Dept of Transportation on behalf of Henry County and seven co-applicants. The requested funding was to construct a 10-mile segment of the proposed I-73 highway from the VA/NC state line to the existing U.S. Route 58 Bypass, just south of Martinsville. Eventually, linking I-73 in NC to WV as part of the I-73 Corridor that will traverse multiple states from MI to SC. The I-73 location in VA was established by Congress in P.L. 104-59 and generally parallels U.S. Route 220 from the VA-NC border to I-581 south of Roanoke.

The high accident rates on U.S. Route 220 are a major concern, particularly this segment at Ridgeway (Henry County) as one of the highest in crashes. The highway was designed and built according to 1940's standards, not to today's standards, and was not designed to safely handle a high level of trucks. The new interstate corridor will build capacity and address the need for an interstate network to create connectivity to communities and major employment centers.

This truly was regional collaboration, as the applicants consisted of the I-73 Coalition in VA (counties of Franklin, Henry, and Roanoke and the cities of Martinsville and Roanoke), as well as Rockingham County in NC. In addition, WPPDC and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, the regional organizations who serve these localities, were co-applicants. Although the grant application was unsuccessful, it is believed to be the impetus for initiating VDOT's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the *Martinsville Southern Connector* in this area of Henry County. The EIS is expected to be complete by 2020. In the interim, the PDC remains available to assist the collaborative partners and VDOT in developing safer transportation and connectivity for the region it serves.

West Piedmont Local Foods Guide Update

Virginia's West Piedmont Local Foods Guide, originally published in August 2017, was recently updated with more than 60 new listings for local restaurants, bed and breakfasts, nurseries, and others. While

the updated guide is currently available on the West Piedmont Planning District Commission website, hard copies will be printed, with the assistance of Go Healthy West Piedmont. Printing will include 500 guides and 1,000 rack cards, placed at various venues around the region to help promote awareness of the region's agricultural heritage - further developing a network of producers and consumers, and support the area's economy. According to a recent study by Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, local food production is responsible for more than \$1 billion in economic impact, supporting over 7,000 regional jobs.

A notable feature of the Guide is an interactive map displaying information about each of the establishments. The guide and map may be found at <http://www.wppdc.org/documents-publications/economic-development>.

V. 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 2017 and 2018 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 2017 & FY 2018

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	X		ADOPTED
2	Cumberland Plateau	X							X			X	X				ADOPTED
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	X	ADOPTED
5	Roanoke Valley Alleghany									X		X	X				ADOPTED
6	Central Shenandoah						X		X			X	X				ADOPTED
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley			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	X		X		ADOPTED
10	Thomas Jefferson			X			X						X				ADOPTED
11	Virginia's Region 2000	X			X		X	X	X			X	X				ADOPTED
12	West Piedmont		X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		ADOPTED
13	Southside				X		X	X	X			X	X				ADOPTED
14	Commonwealth Regional				X		X		X		X	X	X			X	ADOPTED
15	Richmond Regional	X					X		X			X	X				ADOPTED
16	George Washington Regional		X	X	X		X		X			X	X				ADOPTED
17	Northern Neck					X	X	X	X			X	X	X			ADOPTED
18	Middle Peninsula	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	ADOPTED
19	Crater			X		X	X	X	X			X	X				IN PROGRESS
22	Accomack-Northampton		X	X			X		X			X	X		X		ADOPTED
23	Hampton Roads	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		ADOPTED

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 2017 & FY 2018**

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	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	X	X	X		X	
6	Central Shenandoah			X	X		X		X			X				
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley	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	X	X	
10	Thomas Jefferson			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	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	X	X
15	Richmond Regional					X				X			X			
16	George Washington Regional			X	X				X				X	X		
17	Northern Neck	X		X			X					X	X	X	X	
18	Middle Peninsula	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
19	Crater	X			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	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 2017 & FY 2018**

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	
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	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
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley			X	X		X					X	X		X	
8	Northern Virginia		X				X		X			X	X			X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan	X		X	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	
12	West Piedmont	X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
13	Southside	X			X			X		X		X	X	X	X	X
14	Commonwealth Regional				X		X	X	X			X	X		X	X
15	Richmond Regional						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			
18	Middle Peninsula	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19	Crater	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
22	Accomack-Northampton	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X		X	
23	Hampton Roads		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 2017 & FY 2018

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	
2	Cumberland Plateau	X			X	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	X	X	X		X	
6	Central Shenandoah	X	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	X			X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan	X		X	X	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	X		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
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
16	George Washington Regional	X	X	X			X		X			X	X			
17	Northern Neck				X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	
18	Middle Peninsula	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
19	Crater				X		X		X			X		X	X	
22	Accomack-Northampton	X	X	X	X	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 2017 & FY 2018**

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
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	X		X
4	New River Valley	X	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
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley						X					X	X		X		X
8	Northern Virginia						X						X			X	X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	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
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		X
16	George Washington Regional		X				X		X			X	X				X
17	Northern Neck				X		X					X	X				X
18	Middle Peninsula	X	X	X	X	X	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	X
23	Hampton Roads	X		X	X		X		X				X				X

Appendix F

Functional Plans Developed

Appendix F: Develop Regional Functional Area Plans

FY 2017 & FY 2018

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		X	
2	Cumberland Plateau	X							X	X		X	X			
3	Mount Rogers	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			
6	Central Shenandoah								X	X		X	X			X
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley			X												
8	Northern Virginia						X									X
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan			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	
12	West Piedmont		X				X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
13	Southside				X		X		X			X	X			
14	Commonwealth Regional						X		X				X			
15	Richmond Regional					X	X		X				X			
16	George Washington Regional			X			X		X			X	X			X
17	Northern Neck						X	X	X			X				
18	Middle Peninsula			X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
19	Crater					X	X		X			X	X			
22	Accomack-Northampton								X			X			X	
23	Hampton Roads						X		X				X			

Appendix G

Other Activities

**Appendix G: Other activities
FY 2017 & FY 2018**

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
					Wytheville

* These jurisdictions are currently inactive

** Jurisdictions belonging to more than one PDC.

*** Virginia Tech and Radford University are also members of NRVRC

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

* These jurisdictions are currently inactive

** Jurisdictions belonging to more than one PDC.

*** Virginia Tech and Radford University are also members of NRVRC

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>Rappahannock - Rapidan Regional Council</i>			<i>West Piedmont Planning District Commission</i>		
Culpeper		Culpeper	Franklin**	Danville	Rocky Mount**
Fauquier		Gordonsville	Henry	Martinsville	
Madison		Madison	Patrick		
Orange		Orange	Pittsylvania		
Rappahannock		Remington			
		Warrenton			
		Washington			

* These jurisdictions are currently inactive

** Jurisdictions belonging to more than one PDC.

*** Virginia Tech and Radford University are also members of NRVRC

Appendix I

FY 2017 and FY 2018 State Funding and Population Served

Appendix I: FY 2017 and FY 2018 State Funding and Population Served

#	PDC	FY 2017	FY 2018	2010 Pop.
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
	Total	\$ 1,785,321	\$ 1,785,321	