

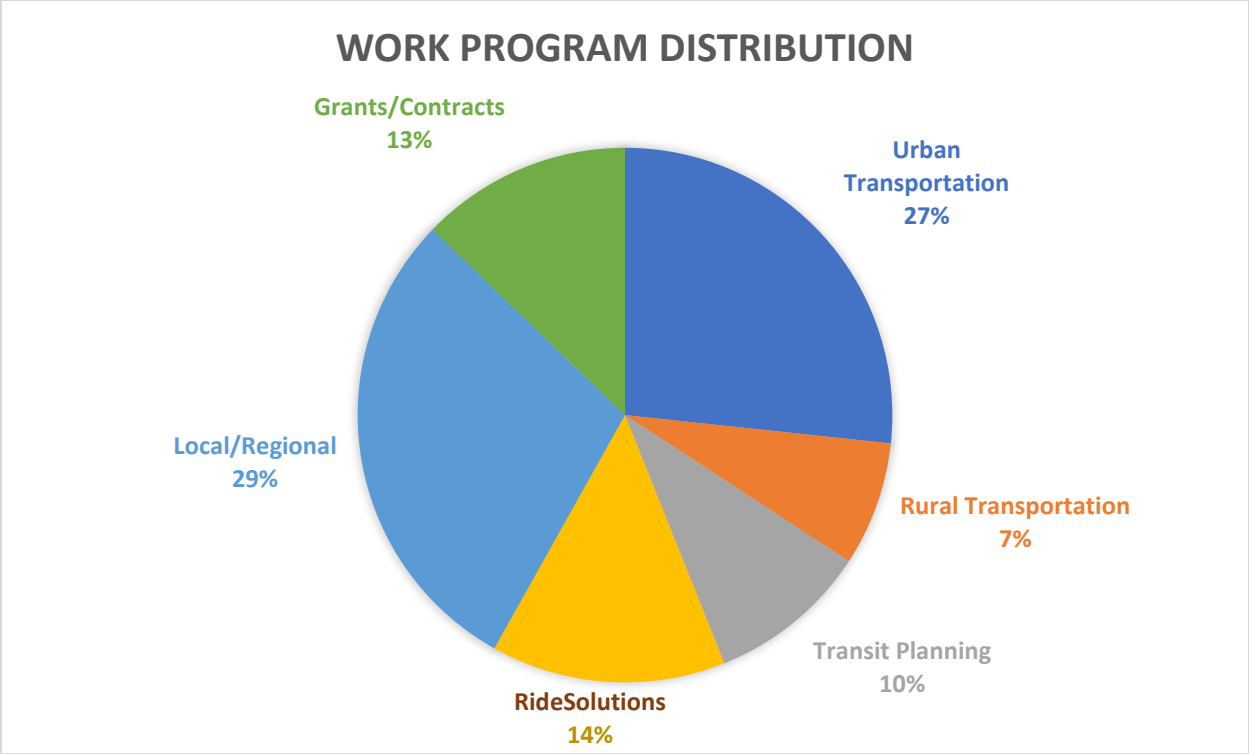


Annual Work Program Development Process

The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) was established in 1968 as a planning district commission by the Virginia General Assembly. The **Virginia Regional Cooperation Act** outlines the purpose of a Planning District or Regional Commission -- to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on issues greater than local significance. Functional areas warranting regional cooperation may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) economic and physical infrastructure development; (ii) solid waste, water supply and other environmental management; (iii) transportation; (iv) criminal justice; (v) emergency management; (vi) human services; and (vii) recreation. The **Code of Virginia** also notes that planning district commissions shall also promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social, and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan, for the future.

The authority of the planning district commission includes the power, to the extent the commission may from time to time determine, when requested to do so by a member locality or group of member localities, (i) to participate in the creation or organization of nonprofit corporations to perform functions or operate programs in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter; (ii) to perform such functions and to operate such programs itself; (iii) to contract with nonprofit entities, including localities, performing such functions or operating such programs to provide administrative, management, and staff support, accommodations in its offices, and financial assistance; and (iv) to provide financial assistance, including matching funds, to interdistrict entities which perform governmental or quasi-governmental functions directly benefiting the commission's district and which are organized under authority of the Commonwealth or of the federal government.

Beyond the regional cooperative activities it undertakes, the Commission also serves as the staffing agent for the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO), the fiscal agent for the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board (WVRIFA), and the administrator of the RIDE Solutions program, which is the Transportation Demand Management program for the region). The RVARC's Work Program is guided by its funding sources, as seen in the following chart.



The expertise of the Commission staff lies in the areas of conducting studies on issues and problems of regional significance, identification and study of potential opportunities for local cost savings through coordinated local government efforts, provision of technical assistance to local planning/public works departments, collection and maintenance of transportation, demographic, economic and other data concerning the region and the localities. The Commission’s goal is to provide assistance that will improve the economic, physical, and social development of our member governments. To do this, the Commission must have input from our member governments.

Within the Annual Work Program, there are many tasks that are fundamental to the operation of the organization and are done on an annual recurring basis. However, within the budget, there is room to provide requested technical assistance. Member local governments, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and the Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro) are invited to submit a letter and the completed Work Program Suggestion Forms requesting RVARC staff to work on regional or local projects.

A Work Program Committee of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission reviews all proposed project. Urban transportation projects are referred to the RVTPO. Urban transportation projects are reviewed and approved by the RVTPO Policy Board as part of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP is incorporated into the Work Program approved by the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Board. Below is the schedule for developing the FY19 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) Work Program:

Mid-January 2018: RVARC sends invitation to submit project requests to local administrators.

January-April 2018: RVARC Work Program Committee guides the Work Program development

February 9, 2018: Recommended projects due to local administrators.

February 16, 2018: Submittal response due to RVARC from local administrators.

March 22, 2018: RVTPO Policy Board reviews the draft Roanoke Valley Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – the urban transportation element of the RVARC Work Program

RVARC Board approves Rural Transportation Work Program

April 26, 2018: RVTPO Policy Board approves the Roanoke Valley UPWP

April 26, 2018: RVARC Board reviews the draft RVARC Work Program

May 26, 2018: RVARC reviews and approves the complete RVARC Work Program, inclusive of the UPWP