

Roanoke Valley Area METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Allocates \$28.2 million for Regional Transportation Projects

Localities receive \$12.7 million to complete the Roanoke River Greenway by 2017

May 23, 2013 Roanoke, VA- The Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board (MPO) approved over \$28 million in funding for 15 transportation projects in the Roanoke urbanized area over the next six years. Local governments, Valley Metro, and other eligible transportation agencies submitted over \$33 million in project requests to be funded by the new cooperative program. The top three projects included \$12.7 million to finish construction of the Roanoke River Greenway and two studies: one to conduct a transportation and economic impact assessment of the proposed Norfolk Southern intermodal center in Elliston, and the other to look at the feasibility of a multi-modal transportation center in downtown Roanoke that would help evaluate the future needs of Valley Metro public transit service and passenger rail service.

“This is a thrilling day for all our greenway supporters, for citizens who love to be outdoors and for the business community which recognizes the importance of greenways to economic development,” said Liz Belcher, the Roanoke Valley Greenway Coordinator.

The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, which also staffs the Roanoke Valley Area MPO, performed an economic impact analysis of the 15 projects. The total economic impact of the 15 projects is estimated to be \$45 million for the regional economy and will help support 414 jobs over the next 6 years.

Projects Include (*Project Details and Specifics at www.rvarc.org/mpo/RSTP/index.html*):

- **Finish Roanoke River Greenway from Green Hill Park to the Blue Ridge Parkway-** *Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Botetourt and Roanoke, and the Town of Vinton*
- **Impacts of Freight Intermodal Center-** *Transportation and Economic Study - Roanoke MPO*
- **Downtown Roanoke Multimodal Transportation Study-** *City of Roanoke, Valley Metro*
- **Bus Replacement for Smart Way Commuter Service-** *Valley Metro*
- **Plantation Road, Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project-** *County of Roanoke*
- **Exit 140 Park and Ride Reconstruction-** *County of Roanoke*
- **West Main Street Pedestrian Improvement Project-** *County of Roanoke*
- **Walnut Avenue Phase I: Street Improvements-** *Town of Vinton*
- **Glade/Tinker Creek Greenway Bridge-** *Town of Vinton*
- **Walnut Avenue Phase II-** *Town of Vinton*
- **Downtown Roanoke Signal Coordination-** *City of Roanoke*
- **Tinker Creek Greenway Corridor Planning Study-** *City of Roanoke*
- **Botetourt and Roanoke Counties Greenway Connectivity Study-** *Botetourt County*
- **Street Resurfacing-** *City of Roanoke*
- **Route 24 (Dale Avenue) Bridge over Tinker Creek Reconstruction-** *City of Roanoke*

(continued next page)

Roanoke Valley Area METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



News Release Cont'd:

RVAMPO Allocates \$28 Million for Transportation Funding

The funding must be programmed for a six-year cycle and is flexible for use on a variety of federally qualifying projects. However, the projects are reviewed yearly and the MPO Policy Board can open the process up to new applications as needed.

“It is possible that projects not obligated in the first year of the six year cycle in the financial plan could be reassessed if a higher priority project comes along”, says Mark McCaskill, a senior planner with the Roanoke Valley Area MPO. Projects listed in the first year of funding are committed for full funding; projects listed in the remaining years of the financial plan are not guaranteed funding, due to the possibility of the MPO Policy Board deciding to call for new applications and re-prioritize in any future year.

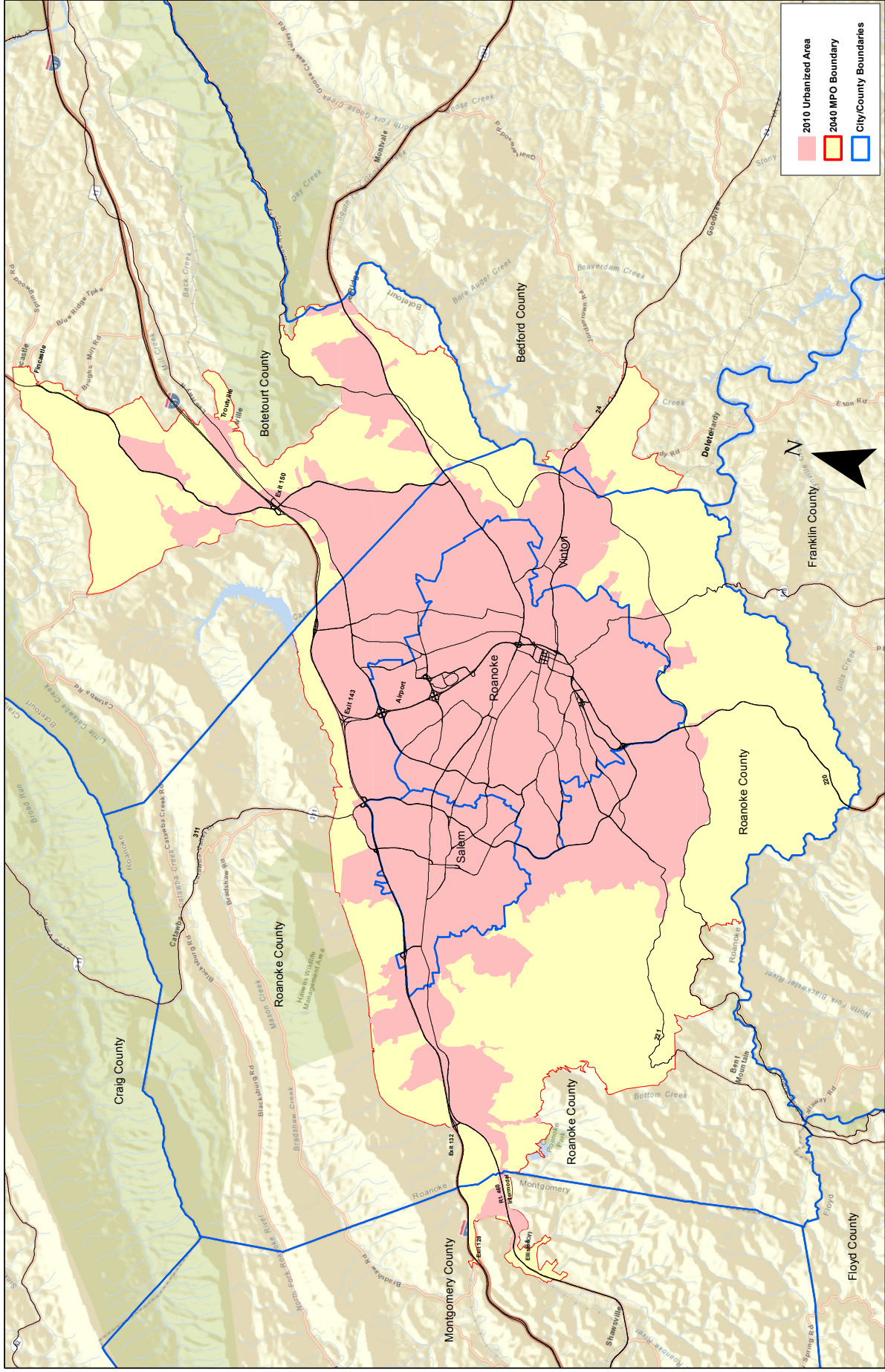
The funding is referred to as “RSTP” for Regional Surface Transportation Program, where Federal Highway Administration funds are allocated to urban areas with populations greater than 200,000. While the Roanoke Valley has been a federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for many decades, the region crossed the 200,000 population threshold after the 2010 US Census. At the same time, Montgomery County was also added to the Roanoke Valley Area MPO, since the 2010 urbanized area now includes the US Route 460 corridor towards Elliston.

All RSTP project applications background information can be found at www.roanokemppo.org.

Created in 1979, as mandated by federal law, the MPO plans and budgets federal transportation dollars in the Roanoke region. This region includes the cities of Roanoke and Salem, the town of Vinton, and the urbanized portions of the counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Montgomery and Roanoke. Serving approximately 210,111 people, the RVAMPO represents the fourth largest urbanized area in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Roanoke Valley Area MPO is staffed by the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission and provides long range transportation planning for the region as well as technical assistance and regional coordination assistance to local governments, Valley Metro, RADAR, and other participating members.

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Roanoke Valley Area MPO 2040 Study Area Boundary



Roanoke Valley Area METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



RSTP Timeline

DATE	MILESTONE
Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.	TTC MEETING: TTC decided that TTC voting members would score the applications.
Friday, April 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.	RSTP Applications were due
Monday, April 22, 2013	RVARC sent TTC copies of the applications and scoring materials/templates.
Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.	MPO Meeting: Board members received an overview summary of the information known to date.
Wednesday, May 1, 2013	TTC sent questions about the applications to RVARC Staff for distribution to applicants.
Friday, May 3, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.	TTC SPECIAL MEETING: Brief presentations on RSTP applications and questions & answers.
Tuesday, May 7, 2013	TTC individual scores were due to RVARC Staff.
Wednesday, May 8, 2013	RVARC sent the summary of project scores and project ranking by average score to TTC members.
Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.	TTC MEETING: Discussion of project prioritization based on average scores; determination of project funding and timing recommendations. RVARC staff notified MPO Board Members of the online availability of the project application and TTC RSTP Funding Recommendations.
Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.	MPO MEETING: Policy Board members take TTC information under advisement, discuss and make final RSTP funding decisions. RVARC staff forward the decision to the CTB for their incorporation of the projects into the SYIP.
Wednesday, June 19, 2013	COMMONWEALTH Transportation Board Meeting: Board members approve the FY 14-19 Six-Year Improvement Program.
Thursday, June 27, 2013	MPO MEETING: Policy Board members determine if new project applications will be solicited in the Fall 2013.
Yearly in April	MPO Policy Board reviews the status of RSTP projects, makes adjustments to the funding timeline as necessary, and if new project applications were solicited the previous Fall, Board members take action on a new project list and funding timeline.

RVAMPO RSTP Funding

RSTP Project Scores Summary

May 8, 2013

Rank	Project	Average Score	Total RSTP Funding Request
1	Finish Roanoke River Greenway from Green Hill Park to the Blue Ridge Parkway - Multiple Localities	96	\$12,775,000
2	Impacts of Freight Intermodal Center - Transportation and Economic Study - (Consultant Study)	92	\$200,000
3	Downtown Roanoke Multimodal Transportation Study - (Consultant Study)	88	\$300,000
4	Bus Replacement for Smart Way Commuter Service - 2007 Freightliner	87	\$560,000
5	Plantation Road, Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project	83	\$1,279,503
6	Exit 140 Park and Ride Reconstruction	83	\$1,608,244
7	West Main Street Pedestrian Improvement Project - Roanoke County	73	\$177,956
8	Walnut Avenue Phase I - Town of Vinton	71	\$100,000
9	Glade/Tinker Creek Greenway Bridge - Town of Vinton	68	\$1,800,000
10	Walnut Avenue Phase II - Town of Vinton	68	\$2,088,000
11	Downtown Roanoke Signal Coordination - (Study + Signal Replacement)	67	\$1,500,000
12	Tinker Creek Greenway Corridor Planning Study - (Consultant Study)	67	\$250,000
13	Botetourt and Roanoke Counties Greenway Connectivity Study - (Consultant Study)	64	\$85,000
14	Street Resurfacing - City of Roanoke	62	\$3,500,000
15	Route 24 (Dale Avenue) Bridge over Tinker Creek Reconstruction - City of Roanoke	59	\$6,975,000

**Transportation Technical Committee RSTP Six-Year Financial Plan Recommendations to
the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
May 9, 2013**

RVAMPO Policy Board will make the final funding decision.

Rank	Project	Average Score	Funding Request	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
1	Finish Roanoke River Greenway from Green Hill Park to the Blue Ridge Parkway	96	\$ 12,775,000	\$ 5,230,650	\$ 2,772,160	\$ 3,164,400	\$ 1,607,790	\$ -	\$ -
2	Impacts of Freight Intermodal Center - Transportation and Economic Study	92	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3	Downtown Roanoke Multimodal Transportation Study	88	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4	Bus Replacement for Smart Way Commuter Service - 2007 Freightliner	87	\$ 560,000	\$ 560,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Plantation Road, Bicycle, Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project	83	\$ 1,279,503	\$ 27,593	\$ 1,234,133	\$ 17,777	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Exit 140 Park and Ride Reconstruction	83	\$ 1,608,244	\$ 1,608,244	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	West Main Street Pedestrian Improvement Project	73	\$ 177,956	\$ 177,956	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
8	Walnut Avenue Phase I	71	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
9	Glade/Tinker Creek Greenway Bridge	68	\$ 1,800,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 824,116	\$ 975,884	\$ -	\$ -
10	Walnut Avenue Phase II	68	\$ 2,088,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 208,800	\$ 522,000	\$ 1,357,200
11	Downtown Roanoke Signal Coordination - (Study + Signal Replacement)	67	\$ 1,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,213,819	\$ 286,181	\$ -
12	Tinker Creek Greenway Corridor Planning Study	67	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ -
13	Botetourt and Roanoke Counties Greenway Connectivity Study	64	\$ 85,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,000	\$ -
14	Street Resurfacing	62	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,863,112	\$ 636,888
15	Route 24 (Dale Avenue) Bridge over Tinker Creek Reconstruction	59	\$ 6,975,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,012,205
Total Funding Allocated				\$ 8,204,443	\$ 4,006,293	\$ 4,006,293	\$ 4,006,293	\$ 4,006,293	\$ 4,006,293
Total Funding Available				\$ 8,204,443	\$ 4,006,293	\$ 4,006,293	\$ 4,006,293	\$ 4,006,293	\$ 4,006,293
Difference				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -