



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

FY 2005 Comprehensive Work Program

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OVERVIEW

The Annual Comprehensive Work Program is the basis for achieving the objectives and strategies as outlined in the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission's Strategic Plan. The Commission strives to maximize its limited staff and resources by developing a comprehensive work plan based on current needs and priorities of our region.

This work program is a compilation of projects presented by local elected officials, Commission members, MPO members, regional economic development-related organizations and staff. The Regional Commission and the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) review and rank projects according to importance to the region. Projects are selected by: balancing importance of the project to the region, funding availability, staff time and other constraints to arrive at the projects, the intent is to obtain the most benefit from the least direct cost to the local governments. Requests not included in this year's work program are added to a list of potential projects for future work programs. These potential projects may be included in next year's work program if the need still exists and funding is available.

The work program is revised annually and may be amended as deemed necessary by the member governments that we serve.

ACRONYM DESCRIPTIONS:

ARC	Appalachian Regional Commission
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
EAP	Early Action Plan
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRTC	Greater Roanoke Transit Company
ITS	Intelligent Transportation System
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PL	Planning funds (<i>Virginia Department of Transportation</i>)
RVARC	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
RVAMPO	Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
SPR	State Planning Research funds (<i>Virginia Department of Transportation</i>)
TE	Transportation Enhancement
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
VCPA	Virginia Citizens Planning Association
VDEQ	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VTRANS	Virginia Statewide Multimodal Long-Range Transportation Plan

(INSERT SERVICE AREA MAP)

URBAN TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Long-Range Transportation Planning

Completion of the Constrained Long-Range Plan 2025 Technical Document. Conduct public outreach concerning planning assumptions, environmental justice analysis and other activities in preparation of the next revision of the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Survey recently adopted comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances concerning their effect on land-use transportation assumptions for the Travel Demand Model.

Project Manager: Mark McCaskill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL - 1245 hrs., FTA – 220 hrs.

Transportation Improvement Program

As required by federal planning regulations, the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for the Roanoke Valley area is a three-year program of highway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, safety and transportation enhancement projects receiving federal funds. The TIP is updated every two years and must be approved by the MPO's policy board and the governor of Virginia. Some major activities that will be undertaken include amending the current TIP as needed, preparation of the of the RVAMPO Self-Certification Statement and activities to assure that the Statement is being followed, and the preparation of an annual listing of projects for which federal funds have been obligated in the previous year. It is anticipated that development and adoption of FY 2004-06 TIP will be completed in FY 2005.

Project Manager: Angeline Marsh

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL - 496 hrs. FTA - 105 hrs.

Seminars and Special Events (VTRANS 2025 Assistance)

To address transportation related issues the RVARC planning area is facing, or will be facing, RVARC staff will host educational seminars and workshops on urban transportation related issues to enhance citizen, board member and local official education on transportation planning issues. Example topics include environmental justice, safety and security, management and operations, air quality and transportation and/or public participation. Assist VDOT with outreach meetings and events concerning the VTRANS 2025 Statewide Long-Range Plan. *(See counterpart in Rural Transportation Projects)*

Project Manager: Erin Hofberg

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 395 hrs.

Urban Transportation Technical Support Activities

RVARC staff will research, develop, maintain, and analyze data for use in a variety of technical support and planning support activities. Work activities will be organized around the following:

- ***Technical Support Activities*** – Provision of a variety of planning support activities to support work program projects and/or the general planning process.
- ***General Technical Assistance*** – Provision of assistance to local governments, planners and citizens as requested.
- ***Safety Conscience Planning*** – Collection, analysis and presentation of available safety (accident) related data to support the long-range planning process.
- ***Regional Greenways Mapping Assistance*** – Provision of GPS and mapping assistance to the Regional Greenway Commission.
- ***Travel Time Surveys*** – Completion of surveys conducted on corridors to establish trends for integration into a future Congestion Management System.
- ***Demographic Profile Activities*** – Continued maintenance and enhancement of demographic analysis and framework for integration of environmental justice related analysis in major planning products.

(See counterpart in Rural Transportation Projects)

Project Managers: Matt Miller and John Hull

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 565 hrs., FTA – 180 hrs.

Freight Strategies Implementation

Continue support for regional freight forum as a freight advisory group to the planning process. Continue working with staff of localities to integrate freight-planning concepts such as warehousing and logistics zoning, freight staging areas etc. into comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances revisions. Integrate freight planning concepts into Long-Range Transportation Plan revision.

Project Manager: Angeline Marsh

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 550 hrs.

Bikeway Plan Update

Using the model and analysis from Bicycle Suitability Study Phase I (FY 2003) and Phase II (FY 2004), update the 1997 Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley, which covers the MPO service area. (Rural update is planned for 2006). Update will focus on interconnections between activity centers, greenways and existing bicycle facilities to advance bicycle travel as a viable means of transportation.

Project Manager: Shane Sawyer

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 900 hrs.

Intelligent Transportation System Planning – Regional Architecture

Work with VDOT and their consultant in the development of the Concept of Operations and ITS Architecture for the I-81 Corridor. Present final ITS Architecture to the MPO policy board as the regional ITS architecture. (*See counterpart in Rural Transportation Projects*)

Project Manager: Angeline Marsh

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 200 hrs., FTA – 50 hrs.

Passenger Survey Project

Provide staffing and technical assistance to the Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro) in surveying ridership of the new Roanoke to Blacksburg bus service. Design, administer and analyze the ridership survey.

Project Manager: Erin Hofberg

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: FTA - 300 hrs.

Growth Management Transportation Policies for Botetourt County

The Virginia Transportation Research Council is currently working with County leaders to address the link between growth, land-use and transportation in the area around Exit 150 in Botetourt County. Staff will extend these results and adapt them as a set of suggested policies for the growing southern portion of Botetourt County.

Project Manager: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 190 hrs.

Ozone Early Action Plan

Implementation of transportation strategies to support the adopted Early Action Plan (EAP) as it applies to the RVAMPO's service area. (*See counterpart in Rural Transportation Projects*)

Project Manager: Mark McCaskill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 400 hrs.

Regional Thoroughfare Plan Framework

Conduct a survey into the practices employed nation-wide in developing transportation thoroughfare plans. Implement thoroughfare planning in the planning process of the RVAMPO.

Project Manager: John Hull

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 200 hrs.

Transportation Planning for the Elderly and Disabled

Staff will lead focus groups to identify issues, patterns and indicators of transportation access, safety, mobility and demand issues among elderly and disabled stakeholders. The information from the focus groups will be used to develop transportation strategies (short, medium and long term) to assist these groups. Staff will work with organizations such as the Council of Community Services, Area Agency on Aging and Blue Ridge Independent Living Center to address the short-term strategies. The medium and long-term strategies will serve as inputs into the Long Range Transportation Planning Process.

Project Manager: Shane Sawyer

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 200 hrs.

Transportation Services Guide Update

Staff will update the Transportation Services Guide that will be distributed directly to citizens to assist in their day-to-day transportation decisions. This guide will be an excellent practical complement to other transportation planning documents, which tend to be more long-range in nature. (See counterpart in *Rural Transportation Projects*)

Project Manager: Shane Sawyer

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 335 hrs., FTA 20 hrs.

Regional Transportation Web Page

Staff will redesign MPO-related web pages to greater facilitate public input and participation in the planning process.

Project Manager: Erin Hofberg

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 150 hrs., 50 hrs.

Coordination with Neighboring MPOs

The study areas of the Blacksburg-Christiansburg MPO and the Central Virginia MPO (Lynchburg) are within 60 miles of the RVAMPO study area. This geographic proximity allows for coordination between the MPOs on issues of regional significance. RVARC staff will coordinate with staff counterparts of nearby MPOs to identify and address areas of mutual concern.

Project Manager: Wayne G. Strickland

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 48 hrs.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Seminars and Special Events (VTRANS 2025 Assistance)

To address transportation related issues the RVARC planning area is facing, or will be facing, RVARC staff will host educational seminars and workshops on urban transportation related issues to enhance citizen, board member and local official education on transportation planning issues. Example topics may include safety and security, management and operations, air quality and transportation and/or public participation and environmental justice. Assist VDOT with outreach meetings and events concerning the VTRANS 2025 Statewide Long-Range Plan. (*See counterpart in Urban Transportation Projects*)

Project Manager: Erin Hofberg

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: SPR – 150 hrs.

Rural Transportation Technical Support Activities

RVARC staff will research, develop, maintain, and analyze data for use in a variety of technical support and planning support activities. Work activities will be organized around the following:

- ***Technical Support Activities*** – Provision of a variety of planning support activities to support work program projects and/or the general planning process.
- ***General Technical Assistance*** – Provision of assistance to local governments, planners and citizens as requested.
- ***Safety Conscience Planning*** – Collection, analysis and presentation of available safety (accident) related data to support the long-range planning process.
- ***Regional Greenways Mapping Assistance*** – Provision of GPS and mapping assistance to the Regional Greenway Commission.
- ***Transportation Enhancement Assistance*** – Provision of assistance to local governments with the preparation of Transportation Enhancement (TE) grants as needed.

(*See counterpart in Urban Transportation Projects*)

Project Managers: Matt Miller and John Hull

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: SPR- 350 hrs

Intelligent Transportation System Planning – ITS Architecture

Work with VDOT and their consultant in the development of the Concept of Operations and ITS Architecture for the I-81 Corridor. Present final ITS Architecture to the MPO policy board as the regional ITS architecture. (*See counterpart in Urban Transportation Projects*)

Project Manager: Angeline Marsh

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: SPR – 24 hrs.

Ozone Early Action Plan

Implementation of transportation strategies to support the adopted Early Action Plan (EAP) as it applies to the rural portion of the EAP service area. *(See counterpart in Urban Transportation Projects.)*

Project Manager: Mark McCaskill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: SPR – 275 hrs.

Strategic Long-Range Plan follow-up

Follow up on long-range plan strategies developed in FY 2003 in the Alleghany Highlands Strategic Long Range Transportation Plan. Provide staff assistance to appropriate committees and local governments.

Project Manager: Mark McCaskill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: SPR – 200 hrs.

RIDESHARING/ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Ridesharing/Alternative Transportation Projects

Continue to operate the Region's RIDEsolutions Program. Continue to seek opportunities to create a greater public awareness of commuting options. Work with large employers to encourage employees to use alternative modes of transportation, such as car-pooling, bus and vanpooling. Work with employers to offer transit and/or van pool benefits to employees. Will use employers as communication channels to educate employees about ride sharing and its benefits.

Project Manager: Erin Hofberg

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Rideshare – 784 hrs.

Alternative Transportation Demand Survey

Conduct a survey of potential ridership demand of alternative transportation/transit links between Roanoke and Rocky Mount (in Franklin County).

Project Manager: Erin Hofberg

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Rideshare – 40 hrs.

Data Collection

Collect preliminary data in Franklin County to be used in possible rural bicycle plan update scheduled for 2006.

Project Manager: Erin Hofberg

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Rideshare – 40 hrs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Support for Economic Development:

- Regional Tourism Strategy --
Assist the Alleghany Highlands, Roanoke Valley and Franklin County in tourism-related activities.

Project Manager: Wayne Strickland
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 24 hrs., ARC - 48 hrs.

- Support for Regional Leadership Collaboration --
Coordinate and facilitate monthly meetings of city/town Mayors and Chairs of the Boards of Supervisors in the region.

Arrange and facilitate quarterly Regional Summit meetings among all local elected officials and local government administrators.

Project Manager: Wayne Strickland
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 125 hrs., ARC – 60 hrs.

- Regional Planners Meetings --
Coordinate and facilitate monthly meetings of local government planners and economic development specialists in the region.

Project Manager: Angeline Marsh
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 40 hrs., ARC – 20 hrs.

- Fifth Planning District Regional Alliance **--
Support the Regional Alliance in implementing the Regional Economic Strategy. Continue gathering needed information related to the study and identify funding sources for implementation. Continue to serve as fiscal agent and staff the Regional Alliance.

Project Manager: Wayne Strickland
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 96 hrs.

*** Possible project – dependent upon the recommendation of the Alliance board.*

Brownfields/Grayfields Education Initiative-

Begin education initiative on Brownfields/Grayfields by identifying available grants for reclaiming these sites, facilitate discussions about reclaiming brownfields and review environmental concerns associated with redevelopment of brownfields.

Project Manager: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC - 24 hrs., ARC 24 hrs.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Regional Water Resources:

- Monitor Roanoke River Basin Commission and James River Basin Study --
Keep local governments apprised of activities related to the Roanoke River Basin Commission and James River Basin Study.

Project Manager: Wayne Strickland

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 60 hrs.

- Total Maximum Daily Load Report for Roanoke River and Tributaries --
Coordinate Total Maximum Daily Load analysis of stream segments of the Roanoke River and its tributaries in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Project Manager: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: DEQ 70 hrs.

- Regional Storm Water Activities --
Assist local governments with storm water related activities including the NPDES II process in the areas of outreach, public education and regional coordination of implementation efforts.

Project Manager: Shane Sawyer

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 24 hrs.

- Water Quality Management --
Develop an approach to water quality management and flooding reduction that focuses on land use issues, zoning requirements and storm water management regulations.

Project Manager: Shane Sawyer

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC –24 hrs.

- Long Range Water Supply Plan --
Results of water supply study completed by Black & Veatch will be evaluated and outcomes to be used in future water supply planning.

Project Manager: Shane Sawyer

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 24 hrs.

Botetourt County Ridgeline Character Preservation Project

Provide statistical research, mapping support and technical assistance as needed to support ongoing consultant work on a ridgeline protection project for the County.

Project Manager: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC – 40 hrs.

Outdoor Lighting Standards

Provide technical assistance with environmental study of “sky glow” or light pollution and possible solutions for reduction.

Project Manager: John Hull

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 40 hrs.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Regional Planning Academy

Continue support of the Regional Citizens Planning Academy. The Academy offers specialized courses to citizens on all aspects of planning and development with a special emphasis on regionalism. This program would be similar to VCPA's Certified Planning Commissioner Program.

Project Manager: Shane Sawyer

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 100 hrs.

Water/Sewer Infrastructure Planning

Regional summary of needed water and sewer projects based on existing studies, engineering reports and capital improvement plans in order to identify multi-jurisdictional opportunities for issuing bonds.

Project Manager: John Hull

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 75 ARC – 80 hrs.

Alleghany Highlands Telecommunications Initiative

Continue to work with the Alleghany Highlands as they work to improve broadband Internet capabilities. Project scope could be based on a spring 2004 grant request to ARC.

Project Manager: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Arc- 120 hrs.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation Technical Assistance

RVARC staff will assist the City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation Department with a variety of services, including research of the historical features of Carvins Cove and map them in relation to a trail network.

Project Manager: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC - 100 hrs.

Craig County Tourism Strategy

Assist Craig County in the development of appropriate tourism activities. (This project could also utilize time from the Commission's Rural Transportation funds for development of grant applications to the VDOT Transportation Enhancement Program)

Project Manager: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC - 80 hrs.

Franklin County Workforce Training Center

Research and identify potential grant opportunities to construct a new Workforce Training Center and provide technical support to pursue funding.

Project Manager: John Hull

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC - 24 hrs.

Franklin County Comprehensive Plan Update

Provide technical support and mapping assistance with Comprehensive Plan Update.

Project Manager: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC 48 hrs.

Iron Gate CDBG Grant Administration

Assist the Town of Iron Gate with project management/coordination of CDBG funded 20-unit housing rehabilitation project.

Project Manager: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: CDBG 80 hrs.

Grant Writing and Research

The Commission will continue to provide assistance to localities in writing grant applications and researching funding opportunities for regional and local development projects.

Project Manager: Staff

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 230 hrs., ARC – 422 hrs.

State Data Center

Continue role as regional clearinghouse for demographic, transportation and economic development information and related data. Reply to demographic data requests, publish newsletter, and maintain web page and library.

Project Manager: Staff

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: RVARC – 605 hrs., ARC – 372 hrs.

GIS Conference

Plan, coordinate and manage 2004 statewide GIS Conference for 500 attendees to be held in the City of Roanoke.

Project Manager: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: VAPDC– 420 hrs.