



# Newsletter of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

"Promoting Leadership Through Collaboration"

April 2013 Issue

## Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds Coming to the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Study Area



In 2012, the [Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) (MPO) was designated by the Federal Highway Administration as a [Transportation Management Area \(TMA\)](#), which moved our current MPO to a different "status" among MPOs in Virginia. Along with this designation comes an allocation of federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for projects in the MPO's



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany  
**REGIONAL**  
commission

[rvarc.org](http://rvarc.org)

Study Area that meet certain criteria/ eligibility. The first year of funding for RSTP will be approximately \$8.2 million (double since it covers Fiscal Years 2013 & 2014 -- thereafter approximately \$4.1 million per fiscal year).

**NOTE:** See side panel for more information on the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Eligible recipients for RSTP funds in our region include the local governments who have all or a portion of their territory in the Roanoke Valley Area MPO Study Area (the Counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Montgomery and Roanoke, the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, and the Town of Vinton); the Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro); the Unified Human Services Transportation Systems, Inc. (RADAR); the Virginia Department of Transportation; the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (for planning studies only); and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (for planning studies only).

To get the selection process started, the [Transportation Technical Committee](#) (TTC), a technical advisory group to the [Roanoke Valley Area MPO Policy Board](#), has been requesting candidate projects from eligible recipients to be considered for RSTP funding in the next fiscal year. A document entitled [Regional Surface Transportation Program Development and Selection Procedures](#) will be used to review and recommend projects to the MPO Policy Board. It contains the application, details on what kind of projects are eligible for funding, etc. The TTC will score the candidate projects based on criteria, such as regional benefit, safety, increased mobility options, etc., and communicate those scores to the Policy Board. The Policy Board takes the scores under advisement, but is free to make decisions that deviate from the scores. **The final decision rests with the Roanoke Valley Area MPO Policy Board.**

**All applications must be submitted by one of the above-mentioned agencies/ governments to [Mark McCaskill](#), Senior Planner and lead MPO staff at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (313 Luck Ave., SW, Roanoke, VA 24016) by COB (5:00 pm) on Friday, April 19, 2013.**

It is anticipated that projects will be decided at the May 23, 2013 meeting of the Roanoke Valley Area MPO Policy Board. The MPO's selections are then forwarded to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for approval as part of the State's Six-Year Improvement Program (at June CTB meeting).

## IN THIS ISSUE

MPO Receives RSTP Funds

Revised MPO Bylaws

RIDE Solutions Update

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW  
YOUR REGION?

Quick Links

## Meeting Calendar

Thursday, April 25

1:00 pm -- Roanoke Valley  
Area Metropolitan Planning  
Organization (MPO) Policy  
Board

3:00 pm -- Roanoke Valley-  
Alleghany Regional  
Commission

*NOTE: Unless otherwise notified, all meetings are held at the Regional Commission office (upstairs conference room), 313 Luck Avenue, SW in downtown Roanoke.*

## Quick Links

[Roanoke Valley-Alleghany  
Regional Commission](#)

For more information or questions about the process, contact Mark McCaskill at [mmccaskill@rvarc.org](mailto:mmccaskill@rvarc.org) or 540-343-4417.

## Amendments to the Bylaws of the Roanoke Valley Area MPO Reflect New Voting Members and Meeting Schedule/Time Change

Newly revised [Bylaws](#) for the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board were approved at the March 28, 2013 meeting. The two major revisions to the Bylaws included:

### The addition of two new voting entities to the Policy Board --

Montgomery County (1 member)  
Virginia Dept. of Rail & Public Transportation (1 member)

**A new meeting schedule and time change --- MPO Policy Board meetings will now be held monthly and begin at 1:00 pm** (meeting date and location remain the same - fourth Thursday of each month at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office - Upstairs Conference Room, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, downtown Roanoke).

### Questions or Additional Information:

Mark McCaskill, Senior Planner & Lead MPO Staff  
[mmccaskill@rvarc.org](mailto:mmccaskill@rvarc.org) or 540-343-4417

## RIDE Solutions Expands, Unveils & Gears Up --- Be a Part of All the Exciting Changes

Lots of things are happening with the Regional Commission's [RIDE Solutions](#) program. RIDE Solutions provides alternative transportation options - ridesharing (carpooling and vanpooling), biking, public transit, walking, and guaranteed ride home services - to residents living within the greater New River and Roanoke Valleys and Region 2000 regions of southwestern Virginia. Through its free

[Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\)](#)

[RIDE Solutions](#)

Partnership for a Livable  
Roanoke Valley

[Contact Info & Directions](#)

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## FAQs Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

### WHAT IS AN MPO?

The U. S. Congress passed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, which required the formation of an MPO for any urbanized area with a population greater than 50,000. Urbanized areas with populations greater than 200,000 are classified as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) MPO.\* TMA MPOs have additional responsibilities such as producing a Congestion Management Process Plan

services, it partners with citizens and businesses to connect them with commuting options - beyond the single-occupancy vehicle - to access work and school.

RIDE Solutions is a grant-funded program made possible through the partnership agencies of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, the New River Valley Planning District Commission, and the Region 2000 Local Government Council.

## Expands to Greater Lynchburg Area

RIDE Solutions has expanded to [Region 2000](#) and is now available as the "one-stop-shop" for alternative transportation information to commuters and employers in that region.

## Area Coordinators for RIDE Solutions

### Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Region

Jeremy Holmes, Program Director  
P.O. Box 2569, Roanoke, VA 24010  
(866) 424-3334 / (540) 342-9393  
Email: [jholmes@rvarc.org](mailto:jholmes@rvarc.org)

### New River Valley

Christy Straight, NRV Coordinator  
6580 Valley Center Dr., Ste 124, Radford, VA 24141  
(540) 639-9313  
Email: [cstraight@nrvpdc.org](mailto:cstraight@nrvpdc.org)

### Region 2000

Kelly Hitchcock, Region 2000 Coordinator  
828 Main St., 12th Floor, Lynchburg, VA 24504  
(434) 845-5678 Ext. 218  
Email: [khitchcock@region2000.org](mailto:khitchcock@region2000.org)

## Unveils New Website

Don't forget to check out RIDE Solutions newly revamped website at [www.ridesolutions.org](http://www.ridesolutions.org) which provides easier access to its customers and the general public.

## Gears Up for "May" Bike Month

and obligating Regional Surface Transportation Planning funds. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs are channeled through this planning process. Congress created MPOs in order to ensure that existing/future expenditures of governmental funds for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive ("3-C") planning process. Statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes are governed by federal law (23 U.S.C. §§ 134-135). In essence, MPOs are part of a "check and balance" system between the federal, state and regional (local government) levels of government with regards to federal surface transportation funds.

## WHO STAFFS THE MPO?

The Roanoke Valley Area MPO is staffed by the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, who also serves as fiscal agent.

May is Bike Month and activities are rolling. Get ready to celebrate bikes, bike people, and bike culture in southwest Virginia. From the Bike Shorts Film Festival to the Clean Commute Challenge to the Night Riders Ball, there is something going on for everyone this spring. <http://ridesolutions.org/bikemonth/>



If you would like more information, or have questions,  
contact the RIDE Solutions Roanoke Staff  
Jeremy Holmes [jholmes@rvarc.org](mailto:jholmes@rvarc.org) or Tyler Godsey [tgodsey@rvarc.org](mailto:tgodsey@rvarc.org)



## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR REGION?

### HOW IS THE MPO GOVERNED?

The MPO is governed by a 17 (voting) member Policy Board composed of representatives from the member governmental subdivisions contained in the Roanoke urbanized area and other transportation-related organizations as required by federal and state statute --- the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, the Counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Montgomery and Roanoke, the Town of Vinton, the Greater Roanoke Transit Company (*Valley Metro*), the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and the Virginia Department of Transportation. The Board also includes two non-voting organizations - the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Transportation Technical Committee (TTC) serves as the technical advisory group to the Policy Board.



**Where is this site found? Here is a clue - The person who grew up on this site had a "T" for their middle initial which stood for Taliaferro. If you are stumped, contact [jpace@rvarc.org](mailto:jpace@rvarc.org)**

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 PO Box 2569, Roanoke, VA 24010  
 Ph: 540-343-4417 Fax: 540-343-4416 [rvarc@rvarc.org](mailto:rvarc@rvarc.org)

Direct Questions or Comments to:  
 Tyler Godsey, Communications Manager, [tgodsey@rvarc.org](mailto:tgodsey@rvarc.org)  
 Jackie Pace, Office Manager, [jpace@rvarc.org](mailto:jpace@rvarc.org)

## HOW MANY MPOs ARE IN VIRGINIA?

Currently, there are 12 MPOs fully located within the Commonwealth of Virginia: Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery MPO, Central Virginia MPO, Danville MPO, Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO, Fredericksburg Area MPO, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO, Richmond Area MPO, Roanoke Valley Area MPO, Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO, Tri-Cities Area MPO (Petersburg), and Winchester-Frederick MPO. Three multi-state MPOs that have portions in Virginia --- the Bristol MPO, Kingsport MPO, and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

**To learn more about the Roanoke Valley Area MPO [roanokempo.org](http://roanokempo.org)**

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