

**ROANOKE VALLEY-  
ALLEGHANY  
REGIONAL  
COMMISSION**

**FY 2006  
Comprehensive  
Work Program**

Adopted April 28, 2005

**Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission**  
**FY 2006 Comprehensive Work Program**

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Overview .....	1
Service Area .....	2
Urban Transportation Projects .....	3
Rural Transportation Projects .....	8
Ride Sharing /Alternative Transportation Projects.....	10
Economic Development Projects .....	11
Environmental Projects .....	13
Technical Support Activities .....	14
Regional Support Activities .....	15

Executive Director

Wayne G. Strickland

Administrative Staff

Olivia Dooley, Director of Finance  
 Jackie L. Pace, Office Manager

Planning Staff

Erin Hofberg, Transportation Alternatives  
 Coordinator  
 John Hull, Regional Planner  
 Philip Kempf, Regional Planner  
 Mark McCaskill, AICP, Senior Planner  
 Matt Miller, Director of Information Services  
 Shane Sawyer, Regional Planner II  
 Eddie Wells, AICP, Senior Planner

## 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.

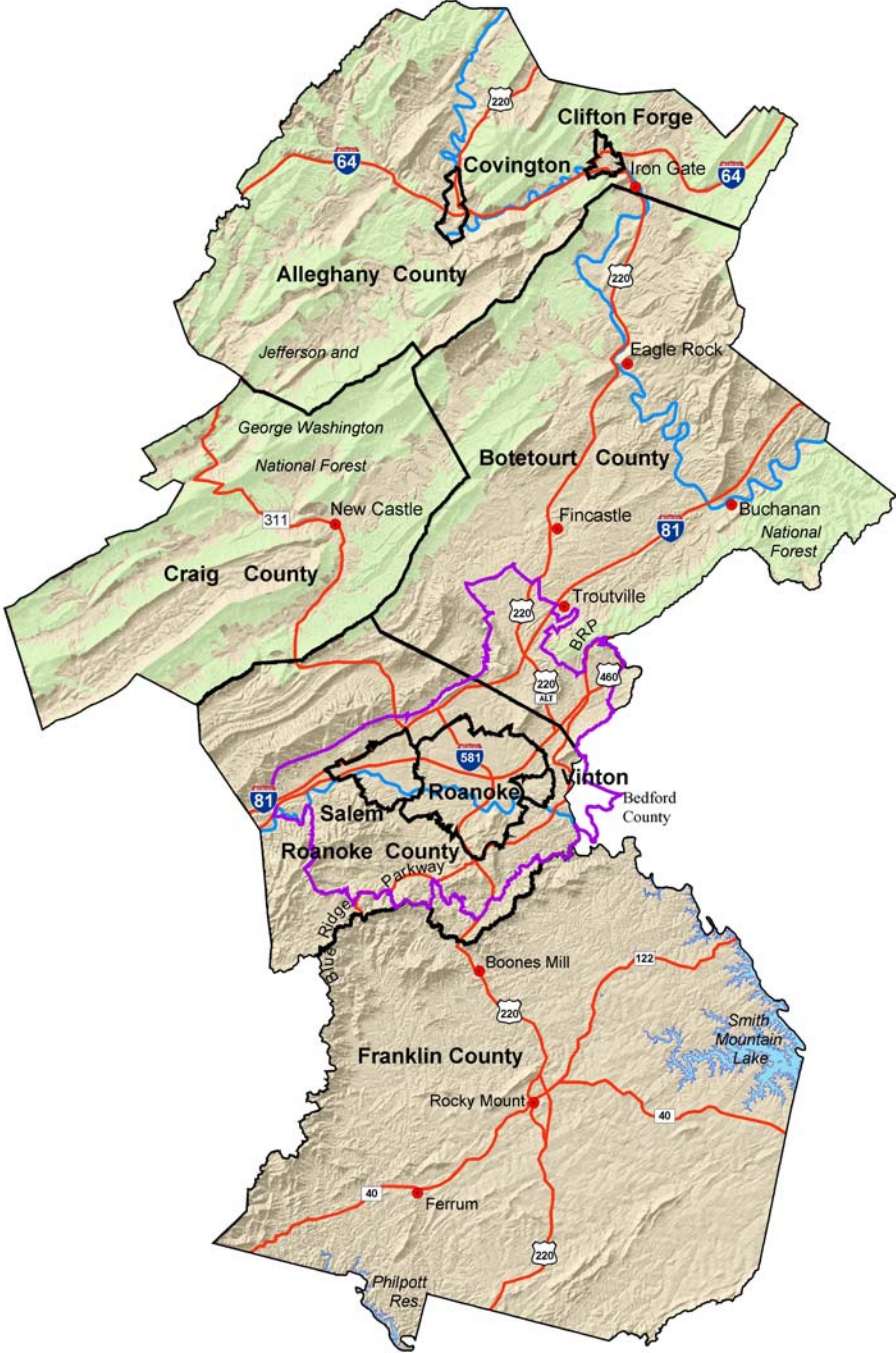
This work program is a compilation of projects presented by local elected officials, Commission members, the Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVAMPO) members, regional economic development-related organizations and staff. The Commission and RVAMPO reviews and ranks projects according 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
CTST	Community Traffic Safety Team
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
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

**Service Area**



## **URBAN TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

### **Long-Range Transportation Planning**

The primary task of the FY2006 long-range planning project is a compilation of socioeconomic data to be used in the next long-range plan update. Additional activities include conducting public outreach (see public participation section below) concerning planning assumptions, environmental justice analysis and other activities in preparation of the next revision of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, and surveying recently adopted comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances concerning their effect on land-use transportation assumptions for the Travel Demand Model. Staff will also investigate and apply innovative techniques such as “Scenario Planning” and various safety related initiatives to the long-range planning process.

*Project Leader:* Mark McCaskill

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL - 785 hrs., FTA – 171 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 RVAMPO’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 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 the FY 2006-08 TIP will be completed in FY 2006.

*Project Leader:* Philip Kempf

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL - 460 hrs. FTA -112 hrs.

### **Public Participation–Environmental Justice**

Continue to find ways to incorporate Environmental Justice concerns in the long range planning process using demographic data and detailed evaluation methodologies. Continue the Public Participation Process for the Long Range Transportation Plan update, TIP document, and other plans of regional significance. Acquire a computerized kiosk and software to gauge public opinion on transportation issues. Plan seminars and special events aimed at education and outreach.

*Project Leader:* John Hull

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL - 552 hrs., FTA -120 hrs.

### **Ozone Early Action Plan Coordination**

Coordination of transportation strategies to support the adopted Early Action Plan (EAP) as it applies to the RVAMPO's service area. The summer of 2005 is the first ozone season that will comprise a "three year rolling average" which will determine our compliance with the federal 8-hour ozone standard in 2007. Staff will be responsible for communication of the Ozone Alert messaging and educational outreach.

*Project Leader:* Mark McCaskill

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL – 400 hrs., FTA – 90 hrs.

### **Intelligent Transportation System Planning**

Staff will represent MPO goals and values focusing ITS coordination with the goals and objectives in the recently adopted Long-Range Transportation Plan.

*Project Leader:* Philip Kempf

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL – 100 hrs., FTA – 50 hrs.

### **Mobility Maps**

The maps of the Roanoke Valley would show the following mobility features: public transit routes, greenways, and existing bicycle facilities. Staff would assemble the data and contract with a publishing company to print approximately 500 maps for free public distribution.

*Project Leader:* Matt Miller

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL – 300 hrs.

### **Bikeway Plan Coordination**

Continue to coordinate and facilitate bikeway planning and activities to advance bicycle travel as a viable means of transportation using the updated Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley and the Bicycle Suitability Study. Emphasis will be placed on creating the foundation of a bicycling network that provides interconnections between activity centers, greenways, existing bicycle facilities, and public transit as part of a multimodal transportation network.

*Project Leader:* Shane Sawyer

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL – 289 hrs.

### **Regional Thoroughfare Plan**

Using data from the VDOT Thoroughfare System model, staff will prepare a regional thoroughfare plan, an unconstrained long range planning tool for highways and arterials. It is expected that this document will be integrated into the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan planning process in the future.

*Project Leader:* John Hull

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL – 756 hrs.

### **Regional Signage Study**

The focus on the study would be on recreational and cultural interest signs (brown) and tourist oriented directional signs (blue) and emergency management signs. Except for hospitals, service signs will not be examined. Staff will review existing signage and make recommendations about any possible improvements. Staff will use the Federal Highway Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

*Project Leader:* Matt Miller

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL – 398 hrs.

### **Freight Strategies**

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

*Project Leader:* Mark McCaskill

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL – 250 hrs.

### **Regional Safety Team-Safety Analysis**

Staff will form a committee composed of various community representatives to act as a community advisory team and clearinghouse for traffic safety information and best practices. The committee shall include representatives from law enforcement agencies, municipal traffic engineers/planners, Valley Metro, Radar and other interested parties. The Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) will encompass all modes of transportation including, bicycle, pedestrian, public transportation and vehicular traffic.

*Project Leader:* Philip Kempf

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL – 400 hrs., FTA 47 hrs.

### **General Technical Assistance & 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:

- **General Technical Assistance** – Provision of assistance to local governments, planners and citizens as requested
- **Technical Support Activities** – Provision of a variety of planning support activities to support work program projects and/or the general planning process.
- **Transportation Enhancement Assistance** – Local government assistance with the preparation of Transportation Enhancement (TE) grants as needed.

*Project Leader: Staff*

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 495 hrs., FTA 90 hrs.*

### **Regional Pedestrian Walkway Inventory**

RVARC staff will inventory pedestrian walkways at major retail and employment concentrations. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying locations for new pedestrian accommodations that connect retail, employment and/or housing land uses.

*Project Leader: Eddie Wells*

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 320 hrs.*

### **Regional Greenway Plan Update**

This project will update and expand upon the *Roanoke Valley Conceptual Greenway Plan* completed in 1995 by the Fifth Planning District Commission, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem, and the Town of Vinton. Since the completion of the last plan, there have been many changes regarding greenway facilities, local, regional, and neighborhood plan updates. A document is needed to address these developments and to develop a scheduling and implementation process for the greenway network comparable to VDOT's Six Year Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.

*Project Leader: Shane Sawyer*

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours: PL – 1002 hrs.*



### **Transit Route Maps**

Staff will generate custom transit route maps as requested by the Greater Roanoke Transit Company.

*Project Leader:* Matt Miller

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* FTA – 100 hrs.

### **Greater Roanoke Transit Company Financial Capacity Analysis**

Staff will update the analysis of financial strengths and weaknesses and depict GRTC's future financial needs.

*Project Leader:* Olivia Dooley

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* FTA – 132 hrs.

### **Model Brownfield Redevelopment Project**

Staff create a model brownfield redevelopment plan that can be used to demonstrate the relationship between transportation and brownfield redevelopment. The RVAMPO redevelopment plan will utilize an existing "brownfield" site within the MPO area and take it through a master plan process. The process will focus on related transportation issues of the site redevelopment for multiple future use scenarios chosen by the MPO.

*Project Leader:* Eddie Wells

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* PL – 370 hrs.

## RURAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

### **Rural Demographic Profiles and Public Participation**

Continue to find ways to incorporate Environmental Justice concerns in the planning process using demographic data and detailed evaluation methodologies. Continue the Public Participation Process as it relates to rural transportation planning activities.

*Project Leader:* John Hull

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* SPR - 155 hrs.

### **Rural Safety Team-Safety Conscious Planning**

Staff will develop a committee to investigate the traffic safety hazards that address rural areas and act as an information clearinghouse for rural traffic safety issues and best practices.

*Project Leader:* Philip Kempf

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* SPR – 250 hrs.

### **Ozone Early Action Plan Coordination**

Staff will coordinate transportation strategies to support the adopted Early Action Plan as it applies to the rural portion of the EAP service area.

*Project Leader:* Mark McCaskill

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* SPR – 30 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.
- **Regional Greenways Mapping Assistance** – Provision of assistance to local governments, planners and citizens as requested.
- **Transportation Enhancement Assistance** – Provision of assistance to local governments, planners and citizens as requested.

*Project Leader:* Eddie Wells

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* SPR- 220 hrs

**Strategic Long-Range Transportation Plan**

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. Staff time will focus on encouraging implementation of the strategies.

*Project Leader:* Mark McCaskill

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* SPR – 100 hrs.

**Rural Bicycle Plan Update-Interconnectivity**

Staff will update the 1997 Rural Bicycle Plan using recently developed methodology. Staff will also review various on and off-road connections between adjoining cities and counties and RVARC planning area.

*Project Leader:* Shane Sawyer

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* SPR - 220 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. Use employers as communication channels to educate employees about ride sharing and its benefits. Ride Solutions also provides survey and statistical analysis for the region's public transportation and park and ride systems.

*Project Leader:* Erin Hofberg

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* Rideshare – 922 hrs.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

### **Botetourt County Tourism Strategy**

Assist Botetourt County in development of a Tourism Plan.

*Project Leader:* Eddie Wells

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* ARC – 96

### **Craig County Tourism Strategy**

Assist Craig County in tourism-related activities.

*Project Leader:* Eddie Wells

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* ARC – 96

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

Provide assistance to Allegheny County, the City of Covington and towns of Clifton Forge and Iron Gate to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in order to meet U.S. Economic Development Administration guidelines and qualify for EDA funds.

*Project Leader:* Eddie Wells

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* ARC – 340 hrs.

### **Allegheny Highlands Enterprise Zone Maps**

Provide updated enterprise zone maps for the Allegheny Highlands Enterprise Zone. In particular, the updated map will be completed if new digital parcel maps are available for each jurisdiction.

*Project Leader:* Matt Miller

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* ARC – 40 hrs.

### **Regional Viticulture Study**

Assess opportunities for cooperative marketing for wineries in the RVARC planning region and surrounding communities. Prepare a summary of existing research and promotional materials that could be used by localities to encourage entrepreneurial wine production in the region.

*Project Leader:* John Hull

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 40 hrs.

**Regional Excursion Train Research**

Research opportunities for development of an excursion train in the region.

*Project Leader:* Eddie Wells

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 47 hrs.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

### **Regional Water Issues:**

Assist local, state, and federal agencies with water resources planning as requested. Water resources-related issues and activities in the region include storm water, water supply, wastewater, water quality/quantity, TMDL's, tributary strategies, or other issues that may arise.

*Project Leader:* Shane Sawyer

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 150 hrs.

### **Total Maximum Daily Load Report for Jackson River and Tributaries**

Coordinate Total Maximum Daily Load analysis of stream segments of the Jackson River and its tributaries in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

*Project Leader:* Eddie Wells

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* DEQ 152 hrs.

### **Franklin County Open Space Inventory**

Provide mapping support and technical assistance to Franklin County in developing an open space inventory. Using input from local government staff and citizens, staff will inventory public land, sensitive areas and selected private parcels.

*Project Leader:* Matt Miller

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 150 hrs.

### **Outdoor Lighting Standards**

Provide technical assistance to Franklin County in regards to writing an outdoor lighting ordinance.

*Project Leader:* John Hull

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 60 hrs.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

### **Alleghany Highlands Telecommunications**

Assist the Alleghany Highlands with telecommunication initiatives if requested. Continue to provide support to the Alleghany Highlands Telecommunications Committee. Provide available grant information to the region.

*Project Leader:* Matt Miller

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* ARC - 20 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 Leader:* Staff

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 50 hrs., ARC – 404 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.

*Project Leader:* Staff

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 205 hrs., ARC – 200 hrs.



## **REGIONAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**

### **Regional Leadership Collaboration**

Coordinate and facilitate regular meetings of city/town Mayors and Chairmen of the Boards of Supervisors as well as chief administrative officials in the region. Arrange and facilitate Regional Summit meetings among all local elected officials and local government administrators as such meetings are called for.

*Project Leader:* Wayne Strickland

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 212 hrs., ARC – 75 hrs.

### **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 and specific activities and projects in which the Regional Commission is involved.

*Project Leader:* Shane Sawyer

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 100 hrs.

### **Regional Planners Meetings**

Coordinate and facilitate quarterly meetings of local government planners and economic development specialists in the region.

*Project Leader:* Philip Kempf

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC – 55 hrs.

### **Regional Planning Library**

Continue to maintain and improve library organization and operation to increase its usefulness to Commission members, businesses, and citizens in the region.

*Project Leader:* Shane Sawyer

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC - 60 hrs.

### **Regional Intern Program**

Manage the Commission's internship program. Additionally, begin formulating formal procedures and policies regarding application to the program, attendance, and supervision.

*Project Leader:* John Hull

*Funding Source & Estimated Hours:* RVARC - 40 hrs.

