



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
REGIONAL
commission

FY 2021

Work Program

Approved May ##, 2020

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

FY 2021 Work Program

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NOTES:

AICP	American Institute of Certified Planners
CZA	Certified Zoning Administrator
LEED AP	Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Accredited Professional
LEED GA	Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design Green Associate



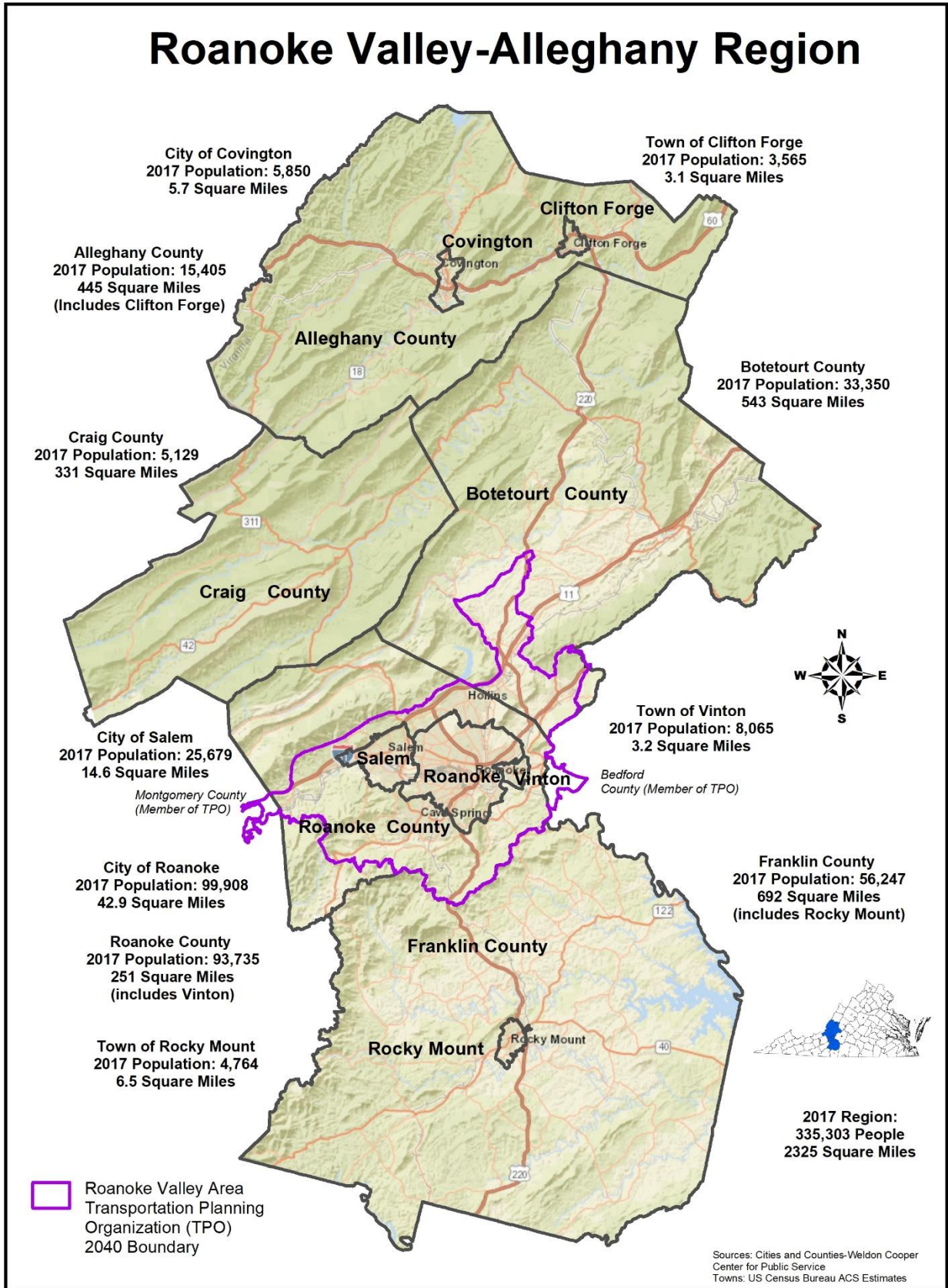
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Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Region



OVERVIEW

The annual Comprehensive Work Program is the basis for achieving the objectives and strategies 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 the region.

This Work Program is a compilation of projects presented by Commission members, Chief Administrative Officials, regional economic development-related organizations, and Commission staff. Projects are reviewed and ranked according to importance, funding availability, staff time and other constraints. 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.

To meet State and Federal requirements several program areas are required to have specially formatted work programs which are also submitted and approved separately from the RVARC work program. In most instances, these programs have already been approved by the time the RVARC adopts this work program document. These programs include, the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization Unified Planning Work Program, Rural Transportation Work Program, and the RIDE Solutions Work Program. These work programs are separate documents and their projects are not included in this work program document.

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

ACRONYM DESCRIPTIONS

AICP	American Institute of Certified Planners
APA	American Planning Association
ARC	Appalachian Regional Commission
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CLRMTP	Constrained Long Range Multimodal Transportation Plan
CMP	Congestion Management Plan
CTB	Commonwealth Transportation Board
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
DGA	Designated Growth Area
DHCD	Department of Housing & Community Development
EAC	Early Action Compact
EJ	Environmental Justice
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESG	Emergency Services Grant
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GHG	Green House Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRTC	Greater Roanoke Transit Company
IMPLAN®	Impact Analysis for Planning Software
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LRTDMP	Long Range Transportation Demand Management Plan
L RTP	Long Range Transportation Plan
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization (also see TPO)
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
NTD	National Transit Database
PBAC	Regional Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
PDC	Planning District Commission
PL	Planning funds (<i>Virginia Department of Transportation</i>)
RADAR	Roanoke Area Dial-a-Ride
RSTP	Regional Surface Transportation Program
RVARC	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
RVTPO	Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning
RVBA	Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority
SPR	State Planning Research funds (<i>Virginia Department of Transportation</i>)
STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program
SYIP	Six Year Improvement Plan
TA	Transportation Alternatives
TDM	Transportation Demand Management
TDP	Transit Development Plan
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TMA	Transportation Management Area
TPO	Transportation Planning Organization (also see MPO)
UDA	Urban Development Area
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
UHSTS	Unified Human Services Transportation System
VAPDC	Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions
VDEM	Virginia Department of Emergency Management
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VDRPT	Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation
VSTP	Virginia Surface Transportation Plan
VTRANS	Virginia Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan
WIB	Workforce Investment Board
WVWDB	Western Virginia Workforce Development Board

REGIONAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

(Non-transportation projects involving two or more localities)

Alleghany Highlands: Bridging the Gap

Staff will assist Alleghany Highlands localities in a data collection and mapping project to identify and address highly impoverished communities.

Deliverables: GIS Data and associated mapping.

Localities Served: City of Covington, Alleghany County, Town of Clifton Forge.

Project Leader: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC-100 hrs.

Assistance to the Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness

Staff will continue coordination of the BRICH and related tasks as needed to encourage and facilitate cooperation between local governments, service providers and community-based organizations to address homelessness in the Blue Ridge Continuum of Care region.

Deliverables: Continued coordination of the BRICH and technical support and assistance as needed.

Localities Served: Cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem; Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, and Roanoke; and Towns of Clifton Forge and Vinton.

Project Leader: Bryan Hill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-20 hrs.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Staff will work with the localities to promote economic development in the region, including updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy required by the Economic Development Administration; continue to support tourism initiatives with grant writing and coordination of project activities.

Deliverable: Updated CEDS

Localities Served: Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig and Roanoke and Towns of Clifton Forge and Vinton

Project Leader: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: EDA -580 hrs

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning

Staff will work with the Department of Environmental Quality, relevant Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and localities to undertake Phase III of the statewide Chesapeake Bay Watershed initiative. Focus will be on identifying effective combinations of DEQ best management practices and cost estimates for implementation.

Deliverable: to be determined

Localities Served: Chesapeake Bay Watershed within the RVARC region
Project Leader: Gabriel Irigary
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: DEQ-1330 hrs.

Economic Impact of the Arts in Alleghany Highlands

Staff will work with representatives of the Alleghany Highlands to determine the economic impact of the various arts organizations through the Alleghany Highlands region using the IMPLAN model.

Deliverable: Written report to participating jurisdictions
Localities Served: City of Covington, Alleghany County, Town of Clifton Forge.
Project Leader: Matt Miller
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-120 hrs.

General Technical Assistance

The staff will research, develop, maintain, and analyze data for use in a variety of technical and planning support activities, including issues related to federal and state legislation relevant to the region.

Deliverable: Technical assistance
Localities Served: Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke and the Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton
Project Leader: Staff
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-541 hrs., ARC -150 hrs., EDA-630

Grant Writing

The staff will continue to aid localities in writing grant applications and researching funding opportunities for regional and local development projects.

Deliverables: various grant applications
Localities Served: Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke and the Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton
Project Leader: Staff
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC-150 hrs., Local - 190 hrs.

Partnership for a Livable Roanoke Valley Technical Assistance

Staff will provide technical assistance and host meetings as needed.

Deliverables: technical assistance, organize and attend meetings as needed
Localities Served: Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke and Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton
Project Leader: Wayne Strickland
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-40 hrs.

Regional Community Health Assessments and Improvement Plans

Provide technical assistance to the Virginia Department of Health's Alleghany Health District as they develop the Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans for various regional localities.

Deliverables: meeting attendance and technical assistance as needed

Localities Served: Alleghany County, Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Roanoke County

Project Leader: Bryan Hill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-30 hrs.

Regional Greenway Technical Assistance (Recreational)

Staff will be responsible for data collection from trail counters on local recreational greenways and trails including the Appalachian Trail. Staff will work to maintenance materials, calibrate data, and expand count locations as needed. Staff will provide other assistance for greenways if feasible.

Deliverables: Trail counts, mapping and other data that will be used to support grant applications and justify expenditures on greenways and trails.

Localities Served: Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Botetourt and Roanoke, and Town of Vinton

Project Leader: Amanda McGee

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-170 hrs.

Regional Stormwater Management Technical Assistance

Staff will assist Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) localities in developing regional stormwater branding, education, and public outreach and continue coordination of the regional stormwater advisory committee.

Deliverables: Quarterly meetings, technical assistance to localities

Localities Served: Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Botetourt, Franklin, and Roanoke and the Town of Vinton.

Project Leader: Gabriel Irigaray

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-125 hrs.

Roanoke River Public Blueway Mapping & Promotion

Staff will continue development and promotion of the Roanoke River Blueway and management of the related Virginia Tourism Corporation promotional grant.

Deliverables: Marketing, grant writing, and mapping

Localities Served: Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Franklin and Roanoke and Town of Vinton

Project Leader: Amanda McGee

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Grant-120 hrs.

Roanoke Valley Urban Forestry Council, VOF and Arbor Day Grants

Staff will continue to serve on the Roanoke Valley Urban Forestry Council and conduct or assist with other urban forestry activities as requested, including the Annual Roanoke Urban Tree Health Care Workshop.

Deliverables: Technical assistance, grant writing

Localities Served: Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Roanoke County and Town of Vinton

Project Leader: Amanda McGee

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local—80 hrs.

Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Working Group

Staff will coordinate the Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Working Group to facilitate cooperation between local and state governments and to provide citizens with an opportunity to engage with government staff to address bicycling/pedestrian initiatives in the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany region.

Deliverables: Continued coordination of the Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Forum to meet approx. five times this fiscal year.

Localities Served: Cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem; Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke; and Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton.

Project Leader: Rachel Ruhlen

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-20 hrs. (also funded in Urban and Rural Transportation Work Programs)

Regional Housing Study

A study of the Roanoke Valley's housing needs by type, based on condition, demands, and shortages. Such a study and needs assessment will inform future economic development planning in the region.

Deliverables: A report identifying existing conditions, needs assessment and analysis indicating shortages and deficiencies, and recommended future housing demand types.

Localities Served: Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Franklin and Roanoke, and the Towns of Rocky Mount and Vinton.

Project Leader: Bryan Hill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: VHDA— 80 hrs.

Regional Leadership Collaboration

Staff will coordinate and facilitate regular meetings of the Mayors and Chairs, as well as Chief Administrative Officials in the region. Staff will continue to work with the Regional Coalition for Economic Development on future leadership trips.

Deliverables: organize and attend meetings

Localities Served: Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke and the Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton

Project Leader: Wayne Strickland

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 95 hrs., ARC – 120 hrs., EDA -110 hrs

Regional Food System Planning

Staff will continue to coordinate the Local Foods Committee to promote economic development, healthy living, environment and natural resources stewardship within the region. Staff will work with our member governments to promote regional agribusiness/agritourism initiatives, sites, and activities.

Deliverables: Regional food plan

Localities Served: Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke and Towns of Rocky Mount and Vinton

Project Leader: Amanda McGee

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-150 hrs., EDA-100 hrs.

RVARC Strategic Plan

The Regional Commission adopted a new Strategic Plan in FY 2020. Implementation of the plan will continue each year in FY 2021 and beyond until consideration of a new plan in FY 2025.

Deliverable: implementation of Strategic Plan

Localities Served: Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke and the Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton

Project Leader: Wayne Strickland

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local -166 hrs.

Rural Bikeway Plan

Staff will work to update the Region's Rural Bikeway Plan, last updated in 2006.

Deliverable: updated Rural Bikeway Plan

Localities Served: City of Covington, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke and the Town of Clifton Forge

Project Leader: Amanda McGee

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC-15hrs; (also funded in Rural Transportation Planning Work Program)

Rural Broadband Assistance

Continued technical support to the Alleghany Highlands and other rural areas on implementation of Broadband initiatives.

Deliverables: Ongoing technical assistance and attendance at meetings

Localities Served: City of Covington, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, and Craig; and the Town of Clifton Forge.

Project Leader: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC-50hrs.

Triple Crown Management Plan Technical Assistance

The proposed plan will address issues relating to management of the recreational assets associated with the Appalachian Trail, McAfee Knob, Dragons Tooth and Tinker Cliffs to promote sustainability and

responsible use. The project will be coordinated by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in partnership with local governments, RVARC, the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission, the National Park Service, Virginia's Blue Ridge, Virginia Tech, the US Forest Service and other key stakeholders.

Deliverables: Technical Assistance to a Visitor Use Management Plan

Localities Served: City of Roanoke and counties of Botetourt and Roanoke

Project Leader: Amanda McGee

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC-30hrs., Local – 30 hrs. (also Greenways and Local Gen Tech)

Public Relations and Outreach

The staff will continue with publication of brochures, newsletters, website update, social media and other outreach activities to promote activities and programs of the Commission. Staff will continue implementing the Public Relations and Communications Plan.

Deliverables: various newsletters, documents, news releases, and digital media products

Localities Served: Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke and the Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton.

Project Leader: Tim Pohlrad-Thomas

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 210 hrs.

Upper James Resource Conservation & Development Council

Staff will continue to serve on the Upper James RC&D Council and attend quarterly meetings.

Deliverables: Technical assistance to Upper James RC&D.

Localities Served: City of Covington, Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt and Craig and Town of Clifton Forge

Project Leader: Gabriel Irigary

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC-20 hrs.

Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority

Staff will assist the regional broadband authority by providing technical assistance for mapping, board meetings, and planning activities.

Deliverables: attend meetings, prepare meeting minutes, prepare meeting agendas

Localities Served: Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Botetourt and Roanoke

Project Leader: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority – 54 hrs.

Western Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority

Provide staff assistance for meetings, financial management and operations of the Western Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority.

Deliverables: staff support

Localities Served: Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Counties of Botetourt, Franklin and Roanoke; and the Town of Vinton.

Project Leader: staff

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: WVRIFA-378 hrs.

Workshops

The staff will continue to participate in various required workshops related to funding agencies, continuing education and outreach.

Deliverables: attend workshops

Project Leader: Staff

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC -200 hrs. Local-125 hrs.

Workforce Career and Technical Education

Staff will provide technical assistance to the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board on its Go Virginia funded study to examine a regional approach to Career and Technical Education.

Deliverables: technical assistance

Localities Served: RVARC Region

Project Leader: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local-20 hrs.

LOCAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

(Non-transportation projects involving individual localities)

City of Covington Jackson Street Planning Grant Assistance

Assist the CDBG management consultant in the development of a CDBG grant and serve on the Project Management Team for the project.

Deliverables: 2021 CDBG Community Improvement Grant application

Locality Served: City of Covington

Project Leader: Bryan Hill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC-50hrs.

City of Covington Downtown Revitalization

Staff will assist with a DHCD funded planning grant in cooperation the City of Covington and Olde Town Covington's Revitalization to address concerns and opportunities around the Downtown Business Core. Enhancements to this area would increase foot traffic; ameliorate blight and identify opportunities for historic preservation and/or restoration; address ADA compliance issues; and enhance building utilization both on the ground floor and upper levels to examine further "Main Street Living".

Deliverables: Data and mapping as necessary to support consultant project

Locality Served: City of Covington

Project Leader: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC-200 hrs.

Craig County Technical Assistance

Provide technical assistance on requested projects.

Deliverables: Technical assistance

Locality Served: Craig County

Project Leader: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC - 50 hrs.

Franklin County Mountain Bike Trails (Recreation)

Assist Franklin County Parks and Recreation in the identification of new, or expansion of existing, mountain bike trails.

Deliverables: Chapter to be incorporated into Parks and Recreation Plan.

Locality Served: Franklin County

Project Leader: Amanda McGee

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 100 hrs.

Franklin County Housing Comprehensive Plan Chapter

Staff will incorporate findings of Franklin County Housing Study, needs assessment, and market analysis into an amendment of the County's comprehensive plan.

Deliverables: Chapter to be incorporated into Comprehensive Plan.

Locality Served: Franklin County

Project Leader: Bryan Hill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 50 hrs.

City of Roanoke Bicycle/Pedestrian Support

Provide planning and outreach support for bicycle and pedestrian programs.

Deliverables: Technical Assistance for Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

Locality Served: City of Roanoke

Project Leader: Rachel Ruhlen

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: City of Roanoke - 280 hrs.

City of Roanoke Neighborhood to Park Connections

Assist with analysis of neighborhood connections to Roanoke City Parks facilities in formulating a Neighborhood Parks 10-Minute Access Plan for 26 City Parks.

Deliverables: Technical assistance for Neighborhood Parks 10-Minute Access Plan

Locality Served: City of Roanoke

Project Leader: Amanda McGee

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 270 hrs.

Town of Vinton Planning Grant

Provide technical and grant-writing assistance to the Town of Vinton on a CDBG planning grant and serve on the Project Management Team.

Deliverables: Grant writing and technical assistance

Locality Served: Town of Vinton

Project Leader: Bryan Hill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 65 hrs.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

National, State, Regional and Local Collaborative Efforts

Staff will promote and assist with regional planning initiatives by participating in the following local, regional, state and national organizations.

National

- Development District Association of Appalachia and Network Appalachia
- National Association of Development Organizations Board of Directors
- Southeastern Regional Directors Institute Board of Directors
- Rural Planning Organizations of America Council of Peers

State

- Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions
- Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association Legislative Affairs Committee
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Recreational Trails Advisory Committee

Regional

- Blue Ridge Interagency Council of Homelessness
- Blue Ridge Transportation Safety Board
- Council of Community Services Board of Directors
- Greater Roanoke Valley Asthma and Air Quality Coalition
- I-81 Corridor Coalition
- PATH Community Coalition
- Pathfinders for Greenways
- Regional Stormwater Management Committee
- Partnership for a Livable Roanoke Valley
- RADAR Advisory Committee
- Roanoke Refugee Dialogue Group – Transportation Committee
- Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce Board
- Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce – Transportation Advocacy Committee
- Roanoke Regional Housing Network
- Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority
- Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission
- Roanoke Valley Urban Forestry Council
- United Way Community Investment Council
- Upper Roanoke River Roundtable Advisory Committee
- Upper James River Resource Conservation and Development District (RC&D)
- Valley Metro Advisory Committee
- Virginia Western Community College-Integrated Environmental Studies Advisory Group
- Western/Central Virginia Chapter-National Aging in Place Council

Local

- City of Roanoke School System ROTEC Advisory Committee
- Roanoke County Public Schools Technology Advisory Committee