



**MINUTES**

Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) Board on April 23, 2020 and the 2020 Virginia General Assembly legislation H29 enacted April 24, 2020, the January meeting of the RVARC was held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Under the current State of Emergency, and until further notice, it has been deemed unsafe to assemble a quorum of a public body in one place.

**VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING**

|                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jon Lanford                   | Alleghany County      |
| Joan Vannorsdall              | Alleghany County      |
| Steve Clinton                 | Botetourt County      |
| Billy Martin, Sr.             | Botetourt County      |
| Chris Whitlow                 | Franklin County       |
| Lorie Smith                   | Franklin County       |
| Dan O'Donnell                 | Roanoke County        |
| Dean Martin                   | Roanoke County        |
| Phil North, <i>Vice Chair</i> | Roanoke County        |
| David Radford                 | Roanoke County        |
| Lee Osborne                   | Roanoke County        |
| Allan Tucker                  | City of Covington     |
| Bill Bestpitch                | City of Roanoke       |
| Stephanie Moon Reynolds       | City of Roanoke       |
| Dr. Elda Stanco Downey        | City of Roanoke       |
| Frederick Gusler              | City of Roanoke       |
| Robert Jeffrey                | City of Roanoke       |
| Peter Volosin                 | City of Roanoke       |
| James W. Wallace III          | City of Salem         |
| Denise King                   | City of Salem         |
| Pam Marshall                  | Town of Clifton Forge |
| James Ervin                   | Town of Rocky Mount   |
| Mark Newbill                  | Town of Rocky Mount   |

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Shannon Cox     | Alleghany County |
| Erin Henderson  | Botetourt County |
| Gary Larrowe    | Botetourt County |
| Dan Collins     | Craig County     |
| Jesse Spence    | Craig County     |
| Ronald Mitchell | Franklin County  |
| Mike Carter     | Franklin County  |

**Member Governments:** Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin, and Roanoke, Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont'd)**

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Roy Enslow                        | Franklin County   |
| Kevin Hutchins                    | Roanoke County    |
| Krystal Onaitis                   | City of Covington |
| John Saunders                     | City of Salem     |
| Mayor Bradley Grose, <i>Chair</i> | Town of Vinton    |
| Richard "Pete" Peters             | Town of Vinton    |

**NON-VOTING LIAISON MEMBERS ATTENDING**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Dr. John Rainone | Dabney S. Lancaster Community College                |
| Teresa Hammond   | Alleghany Highlands Chamber of<br>Commerce & Tourism |

**Others:** Chuck Unroe, Town of Clifton Forge.

**Staff:** Sherry Dean, Jeremy Holmes, Cristina Finch, Bryan Hill, Amanda McGee, Matt Miller, Virginia Mullen, Eddie Wells, Tim Pohlad-Thomas, Rachel Ruhlen, Gabriel Irigaray and Wayne Strickland.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, OPENING STATEMENT**

Vice-Chair North opened the meeting by noting that Chair Grose could not attend today's meeting due to an illness.

Vice Chair North called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and read the following opening statement... *"Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the RVARC on April 23, 2020 and 2020 Virginia General Assembly legislation H29 enacted April 24, 2020, the January meeting of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission is being held virtually on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. Under the current State of Emergency, and until further notice, it has been deemed unsafe to assemble a quorum of a public body in one place. Any members of the public may view and participate in the meeting through electronic means. Meeting details are listed on the second page of the agenda. All materials made available to the members will be made available to the public at the same time by posting on the RVARC website. This meeting is being recorded as always. Due to the virtual nature, video and audio will be recorded and provided on the website in place of written minutes. When the state of emergency ends, draft minutes from all meetings held during this time will be ratified at the next in-person meeting. As a way of ensuring that our meeting goes smoothly, Bryan Hill will serve as the Host for this meeting. All participants are asked to mute themselves to improve audio quality. If any voting Commission member wishes to make a motion, second it, or comment on a motion, please unmute yourself and ask to be recognized by the Chair."*

Vice Chair North asked Wayne Strickland to call the roll. Mr. Strickland stated that a quorum was in attendance.

**2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The Consent Agenda items were as follows:

A. Approval of Agenda

- B. December 10, 2020 Minutes
- C. Financial Reports Ending December 31, 2020

**MOTION:** by Bill Bestpitch to approve items A, B and C under the Consent Agenda, as distributed. The motion was seconded by Billy Martin.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 17 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Jeffrey, Gusler, Volosin, Wallace, King, Marshall, Ervin, Newbill); Nays – 0; Present – 6 (Clinton, Martin, Whitlow, Smith, O'Donnell, Martin). Motion carried.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Vice Chair North welcomed the two new RVARC members, representing the City of Roanoke, Council Members Stephanie Moon Reynolds and Robert Jeffrey Jr. Ms. Moon Reynolds and Mr. Jeffrey replaced Mr. Joe Cobb and Ms. Djuna Osborne.

Vice Chair North announced that the FY22 Work Program Committee will have its first meeting today following the conclusion of the RVARC meeting. The Committee members will be introduced to the process of developing the annual work program. Vice Chair North thanked the following members for serving on the FY22 Work Program Committee:

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Joan Vannorsdall                          | Alleghany County      |
| Billy Martin, Sr., <i>Committee Chair</i> | Botetourt County      |
| Dan Collins                               | Craig County          |
| Christopher Whitlow                       | Franklin County       |
| Phil North                                | Roanoke County        |
| Allan Tucker                              | City of Covington     |
| Bill Bestpitch                            | City of Roanoke       |
| James Wallace                             | City of Salem         |
| Pam Marshall                              | Town of Clifton Forge |
| James Ervin                               | Town of Rocky Mount   |
| Richard "Pete" Peters                     | Town of Vinton        |

Vice Chair North noted that each year RVARC staff creates a website that tracks legislations of interest to our member local governments. The link to the website is [www.rvarc.org/community/legislative-bills/](http://www.rvarc.org/community/legislative-bills/). Mr. Bryan Hill handles the development of the website. If members have specific items that are not covered in the tracking system, they can contact staff or Mr. Hill.

**4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Vice Chair North noted that the revised FY2021 Budget was previously distributed with the agenda packet. The RVARC Executive Committee met on December 10, 2020 and reviewed the proposed revisions to the FY21 Budget. The revised budget is only 1% less than the original budget. Overall, the revenues and expenses have remained stable during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive Committee is recommending that the RVARC approve the FY21 Budget Revisions.

**MOTION:** by Billy Martin to approve the FY21 Budget Revisions, as distributed. The motion was seconded by Allan Tucker.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 23 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, Clinton, B. Martin, Whitlow, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Jeffrey, Gusler, Volosin, Wallace, King, Marshall, Ervin, Newbill); Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Wayne Strickland was pleased to announce Jeremy Holmes has accepted the position of Associate Executive Director. Mr. Holmes will take on additional administrative duties at the Commission, including managing the development of the annual work program along with other special projects and management duties. Mr. Holmes will retain his position as Director of RIDE Solutions.

Mr. Wayne Strickland reported that the process of developing the FY22 Work Program has been initiated. All county administrators, city and town managers have received information on how to request transportation projects for next year's work program. Proposed projects should be submitted no later than February 5, 2021. Vice Chair North encouraged members to submit their projects.

**6. RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Mr. Lee Osborne, Chair of the Restructuring Committee, presented the Staff Report of the Restructuring Committee, which was previously distributed with the agenda packet. The report outlined the recommendations of the Restructuring Committee regarding the changes to the Board Membership (reducing the board size from 38 to 30 members with a cap of 4 members per jurisdiction) and the draft language for the changes in the Charter. Mr. Osborne noted that the amended Charter will need to be submitted to each local government member of the Regional Commission to be voted upon and approved by its governing body. Changes to the Charter must be approved by all member jurisdictions. Mr. Osborne also noted that the transition provisions are not addressed in the proposal, distributed with the agenda packet. The Committee looked at several options- board membership changes to be effective immediate, as of July 1, 2021 or July 1, 2023 (considering the current members terms do not extend past that date). The Committee has not made a specific recommendation and is looking for input from the group.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Ervin asked if Rocky Mount and Franklin County will be voting on the Charter change and ultimately impacted by it since Rocky Mount and Franklin County are volunteer members and not members by the statute or boundary based on the original legislation that established Planning Districts. Mr. Wayne Strickland clarified that when Franklin County and the Town of Rocky Mount petitioned to join the Commission the agreement was for them to be a full voting member. Mr. Bestpitch noted that the chart on page 55 of the agenda is slightly off by one line. Mr. Volosin asked if the changes to the Charter must be approved unanimously or by majority

vote. Mr. Osborne clarified today's vote can be approved by majority, however if the Commission approves the changes to the Charter, all member governments must unanimously support the changes. Mr. O'Donnell requested if the proposed changes are approved today, staff to distribute to all members a red line version of the Charter.

**MOTION:** by Peter Volosin to table the approval of the recommended changes for further discussion at the next RVARC meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Jeffrey.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 23 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, B. Martin, Whitlow, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Jeffrey, Gusler, Volosin, Wallace, King, Marshall, Ervin, Newbill); Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ervin requested that a red line version of the proposed changes to the Charter are included in the next month's agenda packet.

Mr. Osborne commented that if there are representatives of a local government, that may think this proposal is not going to work, they should contact the Restructuring Committee so appropriate revisions are made.

Mr. Lanford thanked the Restructuring Committee for their work.

**7. SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION UPDATE**

Jeremy Holmes provided an update on the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission development process. (The PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes.)

**8. FY21 WORK PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT**

Cristina Finch, Amanda McGee, Eddie Wells, Bryan Hill, Gabriel Irigaray, Matt Miller, and Jeremy Holmes presented the FY21 Work program progress report. (The PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes.)

**9. COMMUTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION**

**A. Consideration of Resolution**

Jeremy Holmes reported a Resolution, authorizing the application for State Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance and Mobility Program Grant, had to be approved by the Commission. The resolution was distributed with the agenda packet. The total program funding sought is \$232,136 with matching funds of \$39,227. In addition, the Resolution covers authorization to support a Mobility Programs Grant that will seek funding to subsidize vanpools.

**MOTION:** by Stephanie Moon Reynolds to approve the Resolution, authorizing the application for State Commuter Assistance Program Operating

Assistance and Mobility Program Grant, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Stanco Downey.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 22 (Lanford, Vannorsdall, Clinton, B. Martin, Whitlow, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Jeffrey, Gusler, King, Marshall, Ervin, Newbill); Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

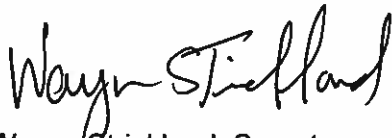
No other business was discussed.

11. **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND/OR THE PUBLIC**

Jon Lanford was pleased to announce that the Allegheny County Board of Education approved the merger between City of Covington Public Schools and Allegheny County Public Schools.

James Ervin announced the VACo Steering Committee approved an agreement with APCo. Each locality should be receiving a revised contract from APCo. Localities may be entitled to a \$5.9 million short credit. This agreement is also opening the pathway to all the milestones that are in the Virginia Clean Energy Act.

Adjournment at 4:36 p.m.



Wayne Strickland, Secretary  
Secretary to the Regional Commission

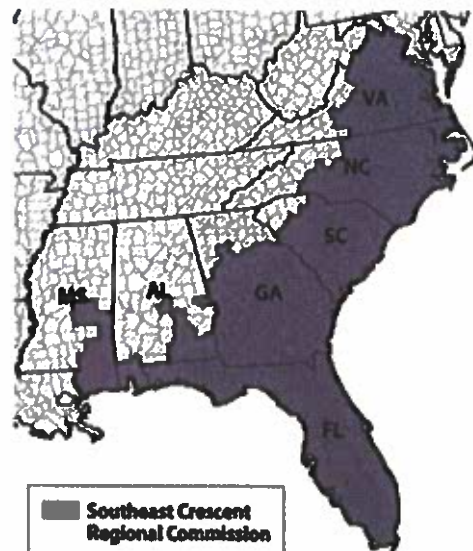


Roanoke Valley-Alleghany  
**REGIONAL**  
commission

## Update on the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission development process

### Background

- First authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill
- Modeled after the Appalachian Regional Commission, Northern Border Regional Commission, Denali Commission
- Covers, VA, NC, SC, GA, AL and MS
- In our region, would cover much of what isn't covered by ARC



## Status

- Since authorized, has received appropriation of \$250,000 a year to start up operations
- However, funds cannot be accessed until the President appoints a federal co-chair. This has not yet happened. As a result, SECRC has existed in name only.
- In 2019, advocacy began by the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Coalition to lobby for the appointment of a federal co-chair.
- Initial effort ended in 2020 with a presentation at Virginia State University in Petersburg, attended by many Virginia PDC reps as well as VAPDC.
- COVID-19 suspended planned lobbying efforts after that

## Now

- Most recent activity by the Coalition was to lobby the Biden transition team to prioritize appointing the federal co-chair, as well as to solicit names for possible appointees from stakeholders across the SECRC area.

- Upcoming virtual session, 2/10, hosted by U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

4:00 - 5:30 pm

**Building  
Resilience**

Wealth Creation and  
Regional Readiness for  
a Federal Commission  
in the South

<https://federalcommissionsbuildresilience.eventbrite.com>



End

Questions?

## Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission FY21 Projects



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany  
**REGIONAL**  
commission

### Transportation

- **Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization federally required and stakeholder requested activities:**
  - Congestion Management Process update complete
  - Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funding
  - Study on Transportation / Economic Development
  - RVTPO Bikeway Plan update
- Urban and Rural Long-Range Transportation Plans
- Botetourt County Community Mobility Design
- SMART SCALE project applications



**Roanoke Valley Transportation  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
affiliated by the  
REGIONALcommission



## Roanoke River Blueway

- Independently funded by Roanoke County, the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, the Town of Vinton
- Work to promote and improve the existing Roanoke River Blueway
- Current projects include improved kiosks, improved access points at 13th Street and Wayside Park, stakeholder for Niagara Dam FERC re-licensing
- Also working to prioritize future projects for improvement



## Community Development Technical Assistance

- **Finished Projects:**
  - Roanoke Valley Local Food Plan
  - Rural Bikeway Plan
  - Arbor Day 2020
- **Ongoing Projects:**
  - Roanoke City Neighborhood Walk Efforts
  - Franklin County Mountain Biking and Trail Support
  - Arbor Day 2021
  - Valley-to-Valley Trail Planning Support (through VDOT)
  - 311 Shuttle Evaluation
  - Triple Crown Visitor Use Management Support and 311 Pedestrian Bridge Support
  - Regional Greenway and Trail Counter Program
  - Craig County Tourism and Road Map



## Community Development Technical Assistance

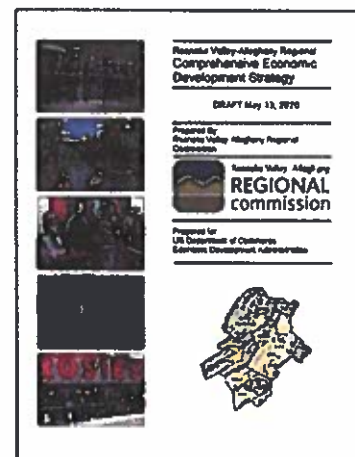
- Allegheny County Wrightsville Neighborhood Project Management Team
- City of Covington Downtown Revitalization Project Management Team
- Town of Vinton Housing Rehab Project Management Team
- Greenfield Historic Preservation



Figure 6. Boundary Improvements

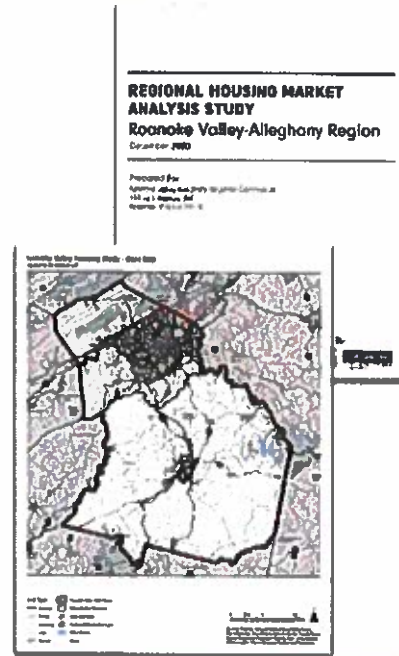
## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 5-Year Update

- Required to qualify projects for EDA funding
- Required for continued designation as an Economic Development District (EDD)
- Review of CEDS Committee bylaws
- Changes and updates to CEDS Committee membership



## Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Housing Study Analysis

- December 2020
  - Draft study completed.
  - Staff presentation to RVARC Board at December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, where study was adopted
  - Staff and consultants made final edits
- January-February 2021
  - Staff development of professional and graphically-friendly version of the Study
  - Official press release of the Study
- February 2021
  - Completion of miscellaneous requirements to satisfy Community Impact grant from Virginia Housing (VH)
  - Submission of final housing study product to VH
  - Request final reimbursement from VH



## Water Quality Efforts

- Chesapeake Bay Implementation
  - Stakeholder Group Meetings
  - SWCD Collaboration
    - Eagle Rock Library Rain Garden
    - Upper James River Riparian Buffer Program
  - Septic System Maintenance Education and Pumpout Reporting
  - Public Outreach
  - Grant Research and Targeting
- Stormwater Advisory Council
  - Quarterly Meetings



## Information Services and Technical Assistance

- Alleghany Highlands "Bridge the Gap" mapping
- Alleghany Highlands economic impact of arts and cultural organizations
- Broadband mapping and support to the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority
- Broadband mapping support to Botetourt County
- Staff support to the Western Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority
- Economic impact analysis for DSLCC and Total Action for Progress
- COVID data and demographic dashboard



## Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Commuter Assistance

- Many programs and marketing still suspended due to COVID-19.
- Partnered with DRPT on Transit Appreciation Month
- Virtual Tweed Ride and Holiday Lights Tour; development of new self-guided tour platform
- Planning for Earth Day and National Bike Month
- FY22 DRPT Commuter Assistance Program Operating Assistance grant now underway; assuming return to normal operations Fall of 2021.

