



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
REGIONAL
commission

FY 2022

Work Program

Approved May 27, 2021

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

FY 2022 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

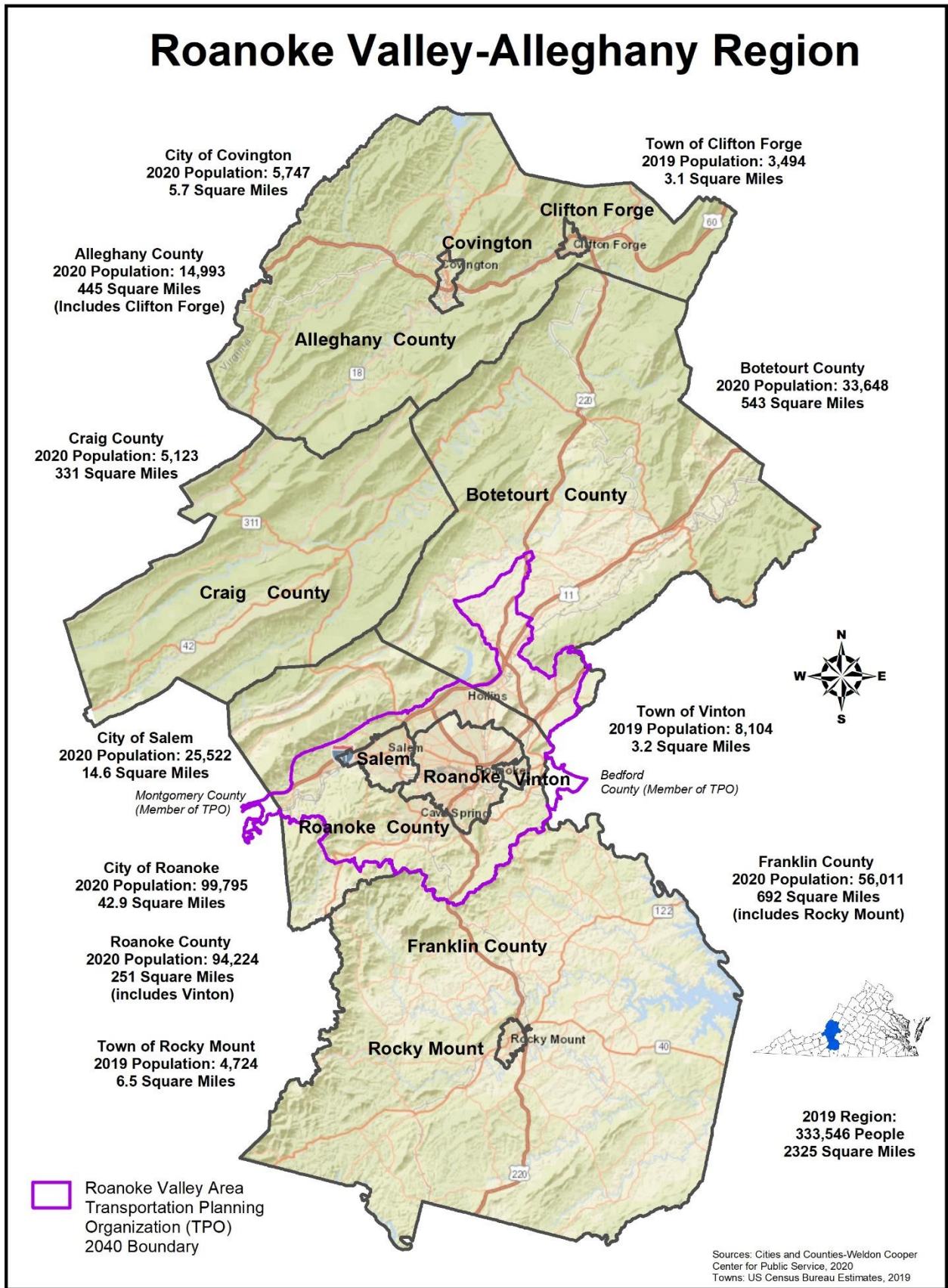


Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
REGIONAL commission

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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)

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.

Commuter Assistance Program (RIDE Solutions)

Staff will operate the regional Commuter Assistance Program, RIDE Solutions, providing carpool matching, transit assistance, walking and bicycle transportation support, to commuters and employers in the region. Staff will also coordinate with the Telework!VA and Vanpool!VA program to offer employer telework program support and vanpool startup services.

Deliverable: Ongoing commuter and employer support services

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: Jeremy Holmes

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: DRPT CAP – 2,236 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 – 1,315 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 - 564 hrs., ARC - 225 hrs., EDA-630 hrs.

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 - 150 hrs.

Redistricting Support

Staff will provide redistricting analysis and maps per the 2020 census data.

Deliverables: mapping

Localities Served: Cities of Covington; Counties of Alleghany, and Craig

Project Leader: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local – 230 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 maintain 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 - 140 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 - 150 hrs.

Roanoke River Public Blueway Mapping & Promotion

Staff will continue development and promotion of the Roanoke River Blueway.

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: Local - 120 hrs., EDA – 124 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 – 30 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 - 100 hrs., ARC – 120 hrs., EDA -100 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: EDA-100 hrs.

RVARC Strategic Plan Implementation

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: Jeremy Holmes

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 100 hrs.

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 – 169 hrs.

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 – 60 hrs., Local – 20 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 research and build a new website for RVARC and RVTPO. 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 Pohlada-Thomas

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 265 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 - 60 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 – 72 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 - 362 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: Local - 498 hrs. ARC – 100 hrs.

LOCAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

(Non-transportation projects involving individual localities)

Alleghany County HazMat Plan Update

Revise, update, and make current the Local Emergency Planning Committee Hazardous Materials Response Plan.

Deliverables: Completed plan

Locality Served: Alleghany County

Project Leader: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC - 150 hrs.

Alleghany County Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation

Inventory and analyze existing outdoor recreational amenities, determine impact on tourism and broader local economic impact, leading to the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan to strengthen and take advantage of existing amenities and develop new ones.

Deliverables: Outdoor recreation plan

Locality Served: Alleghany County

Project Leader: Matt Miller

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC - 220 hrs.

Botetourt County Greenfield Preservation Support

Regional Commission staff will provide grant writing and technical assistance to Botetourt County and the Historic Greenfield Advisory Council to support efforts to preserve and interpret the historic structures located at the Greenfield and Courthouse Square sites.

Deliverables: Staff support

Locality Served: Botetourt County

Project Leader: Eddie Wells

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC - 120 hrs.

Town of Clifton Forge Pine St./Rose St. Planning Grant

Assistance on a CDBG grant application to upgrade housing and infrastructure along Rose and Pine Streets.

Deliverables: Grant writing and technical assistance

Locality Served: Town of Clifton Forge

Project Leader: Bryan Hill

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 50 hrs.

Jefferson School and Industrial Park Reuse Plan

Evaluation of the Historic Jefferson School Building and an industrial park for possible renovation and future use. Identify barriers to redevelopment/reuse, potential uses, and marketing plan.

Deliverables: Grant writing and technical assistance
Locality Served: Town of Clifton Forge
Project Leader: Eddie Wells, Bryan Hill
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC - 50 hrs.

Covington Downtown Revitalization

Staff will continue to 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: Grant writing and technical assistance
Locality Served: City of Covington
Project Leader: Eddie Wells
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC - 60 hrs.

Craig County Zoning Ordinance

Identify and recommend potential zoning ordinance changes regarding housing and solar farms.

Deliverables: Grant writing and technical assistance
Locality Served: Craig County
Project Leader: Eddie Wells, Amanda McGee
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: ARC - 120 hrs.

Franklin County Housing Comprehensive Plan Chapter

Housing Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan to be updated and implement findings from the Regional Housing Study and the Ferrum Housing Study.

Deliverables: Chapter to be incorporated into Comprehensive Plan.
Locality Served: Franklin County
Project Leader: Bryan Hill
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 100 hrs.

Franklin County Housing Survey

Follow up to the Regional Housing Study with a regional survey concerning community housing needs.

Deliverables: Survey design, implementation, collection and analysis.
Locality Served: Franklin County
Project Leader: Bryan Hill
Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 75 hrs.

Franklin County Trail Counters

Staff will be responsible for data collection from trail counters on Franklin County trails and assist county staff with data provision and analysis.

Deliverables: trail counts

Locality Served: Franklin County

Project Leader: Amanda McGee

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: Local - 75 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 - 223 hrs.

Rocky Mount Commuter Assistance

Provide focused commuter and employer support for commuters traveling along Routes 220 and 40 into and out from Rocky Mount, with a focus on provision of transportation for job access.

Deliverables: Technical Assistance for Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

Locality Served: City of Rocky Mount

Project Leader: Jeremy Holmes

Funding Source & Estimated Hours: DRPT CAP - 50 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 - 50 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
- Greater Roanoke Valley Asthma and Air Quality Coalition
- I-81 Corridor Coalition
- PATH Community Coalition
- Pathfinders for Greenways
- Regional Stormwater Management Committee
- 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

Local

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