



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

# REGIONAL commission

rvarc.org

313 Luck Avenue, SW | Roanoke, Virginia 24016 | P: 540.343.4417 | F: 540.343.4416 | rvarc@rvarc.org

## MINUTES

Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) Board on April 23, 2020 and 2021 Virginia General Assembly legislation SB1271 passed February 27, 2021, the June meeting of the RVARC was held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, June 24, 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

Steve Clinton	Botetourt County
Billy Martin, Sr.	Botetourt County
Lorie Smith	Franklin County
Dan O'Donnell	Roanoke County
Phil North, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Roanoke County
David Radford	Roanoke County
Dean Martin	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
James W. Wallace III	City of Salem
John Saunders	City of Salem
Chuck Unroe	Town of Clifton Forge
Pam Marshall	Town of Clifton Forge
Mayor Bradley Grose, <i>Chair</i>	Town of Vinton
Richard "Pete" Peters	Town of Vinton

### VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT

Shannon Cox	Alleghany County
Jon Lanford	Alleghany County
Joan Vannorsdall	Alleghany County
Erin Henderson	Botetourt County
Gary Larrowe	Botetourt County
Dan Collins	Craig County
Jesse Spence	Craig 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)**

Ronald Mitchell	Franklin County
Mike Carter	Franklin County
Roy Enslow	Franklin County
Chris Whitlow	Franklin County
Kevin Hutchins	Roanoke County
Krystal Onaitis	City of Covington
Robert Jeffrey	City of Roanoke
Frederick Gusler	City of Roanoke
Peter Volosin	City of Roanoke
Denise King	City of Salem
Mark Newbill	Town of Rocky Mount

**NON-VOTING LIAISON MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Joyce Waugh	Roanoke Regional Chamber
John Hull	Roanoke Regional Partnership

**Others:** Dr. Paula Prince, BRICH Chair; Matt Crookshank, BRICH Vice-Chair; Gwen Mason, Senator's Tim Kaine's office; Josh Hess, Congressman Griffith's office.

**Staff:** Sherry Dean, Jeremy Holmes, Tim Pohlads-Thomas; Cristina Finch, Amanda McGee, Matt Miller, Virginia Mullen, Gabriel Irigaray, William Long and Wayne Strickland.

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

Chairman Grose called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and asked Vice Chairman North to read the following opening statement...*"Pursuant to the City of Roanoke Emergency Ordinance adopted by the RVARC on April 23, 2020 and 2021 Virginia General Assembly legislation SB1271 passed February 27, 2021, the June meeting of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission is being held virtually on Thursday, June 24, 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.*

Chairman Grose 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. May 27, 2021 Minutes
- C. Financial Reports Ending May 31, 2021

**MOTION:** by Billy Martin to approve items (A), (B), and (C) under the consent agenda,

as presented. The motion was seconded by Allan Tucker.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 17 (Clinton, B. Martin, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Bestpitch, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Wallace, Saunders, Unroe, Marshall, Grose); Nays – 0; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

- On April 3, 2019 Governor Northam signed into law Chapter 837 and 846 of the 2019 Acts of the Assembly, establishing the Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Program. The legislation created the I-81 Corridor Improvement Fund, which is used for capital, operating, and other improvements identified in the I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan that was approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). The legislation also established an I-81 Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the CTB regarding development of the Corridor Improvement Program, including prioritization of projects outlined in the Plan. The Committee is composed of: The Chairs (or their designees) of Planning Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7; Four members of the House of Delegates; Three members of the Senate; and Three members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, representing Bristol, Salem and Staunton Districts. Commission member Bill Bestpitch was appointed by the chair at the June 2019 Regional Commission meeting to represent the Commission on the I-81 Committee. Since Mr. Bestpitch is leaving the Commission on June 30<sup>th</sup>, Chair Martin appointed Mr. Phil North to replace Mr. Bestpitch.
- With the end of the Commonwealth's State of Emergency order on June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Regional Commission will return to in-person meetings for all meetings held after July 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff will continue to monitor state and federal guidance concerning social distancing, masking, and vaccination rates to determine if future meetings will need to be held at locations other than the Regional Commission board room. Board members and the public will be notified of any location changes when agenda packets are sent out. The lifting of the State of Emergency also means an end to the remote participation by Commission members in our public meetings except under very limited circumstances, including: (1) an illness by a Board member, and (2) if a Board member's primary residence is 60 or more miles away from the meeting location. Such remote participation is limited to four times a year and requires notification to and approval from the Chair prior to the meeting.
- The Regional Commission's Annual trip to the Salem Redsox game is set for Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. The event is for Commissioners and their guests as well as the Commission Staff. Staff will be sending out invitations soon. The Commission expresses its gratitude to Salem for hosting again this year.
- The Regional Commission is pleased to welcome Mr. William Long III to its staff. Mr. Long holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Tech and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from North Carolina State

University. He was previously a transportation planner for the Rock Hill-Fort Mill TPO in South Carolina and most recently worked for Total Action for Progress here in Roanoke. Mr. Long will be assisting with the regional transportation planning and programming efforts including the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, SMART SCALE, STBG, corridor studies and other initiatives.

- Chair Grose noted that the Commission will recognize Mr. Strickland's official retirement at the Commission's annual dinner in October, where the RVARC members will have a chance to congratulate Mr. Strickland on his retirement.
- Chair Grose recognized commission members Mr. Bill Bestpitch and Mr. Frederick Gusler by presenting certificates of appreciation for their service.

**4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Mr. Strickland noted that the audit engagement letter was distributed with the agenda packet for informational purposes of the upcoming annual audit in August.
- Mr. Strickland provided a brief update on the federal msa designation.
- Mr. Strickland thanked the member governments in the region for recognizing his retirement by passing resolutions and proclamations in his honor.

**5. BLUE RIDGE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS PRESENTATION**

Dr. Paula Prince, BRICH Chair, presented a "2021 Point-in-Time" report (The PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes.)

**6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Grose reported that the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission's Executive Committee met on May 13, 2021 to discuss the proposed FY2022 Budget. Distributed with the agenda packet is a staff report that outlines the changes in revenues and expenses. Chair Grose stated that the Executive Committee is recommending that the Regional Commission adopt the proposed FY2022 Budget, as presented.

**MOTION:** by Moon Reynolds to approve the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission's FY2022 Budget, as presented. The motion was seconded by Billy Martin.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 16 (Clinton, B. Martin, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Wallace, Saunders, Unroe, Marshall, Grose); Nays – 0; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. 2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

In April 2021, Chair Grose appointed Bill Bestpitch, Billy Martin, and Lee Osborne to serve on the Nominating Committee for the purpose of recommending individuals to serve as the next Chair and Vice Chair of the Regional Commission.

Billy Martin, who served as Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss candidates for Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee is recommending the following slate of nominees to be considered to serve as Regional Commission officers for the upcoming two years (October 2021- October 2023):

Chair: Phil North (Roanoke County representative)

Vice Chair: Mayor Pam Marshall (Town of Clifton Forge representative)

The floor was opened for additional nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. None were voiced and the nominations were closed.

Article V, Section 9 of the Commission's Bylaws states that the appointed officers of the Commission shall be a Treasurer and Secretary. These officers shall be appointed by the Commission membership for terms of two years to run concurrently with those of the elected officers. Currently, Dean Martin serves as Treasurer and Wayne Strickland as Secretary.

**MOTION:** by Lorie Smith to appoint Mr. Phil North as Chair; Mayor Pam Marshall as Vice Chair; Dean Martin as Treasurer and Jeremy Holmes as Secretary of the Regional Commission for the upcoming two-years term (October 2021-October 2023). The motion was seconded by Allan Tucker.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 16 (Clinton, B. Martin, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Wallace, Saunders, Unroe, Marshall, Grose); Nays – 0; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2021 ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs) BACKGROUND ON THE 2021 REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ANNUAL UPDATE**

**(Background:** *The Regional Commission staff and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Committee developed the initial CEDs document in 2008. The CEDs planning process is a continuous process that enhances regional economic competitiveness and facilitates the implementation of regional priorities for investment. The CEDs establishes regional goals and objectives and includes a regional data profile, prioritized projects, performance measures, and an action plan for project implementation, which is to be updated annually.*)

The 2021 Annual Update of the Roanoke Valley–Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) was reviewed by the CEDs Committee at their May 5, 2021 meeting. The Committee recommended forwarding the document to the Regional Commission for action at their June 24, 2021 meeting. After adoption

by the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, the update will be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for their approval. An EDA-approved CEDS is required to maintain the designation as an Economic Development District (EDD).

**PUBLIC HEARING** -- Chairman Grose opened the public hearing on the 2021 Annual Update of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and asked for comment(s) by the public. No comments were voiced on the CEDS document. Chairman Grose declared the public hearing closed.

**MOTION:** by Stephanie Moon Reynolds to recommend the approval of the 2021 Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Update, as presented, and adoption of the presented resolution. The motion was seconded by Allan Tucker.

**Regional Commission Action:** Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 16 (Clinton, B. Martin, Smith, O'Donnell, D. Martin, Radford, North, Osborne, Tucker, Moon Reynolds, Dr. Stanco Downey, Wallace, Saunders, Unroe, Marshall, Grose); Nays – 0; Nays – 0; Abstentions – 0. Motion carried unanimously.

(The PowerPoint presentation is included with the Minutes.)

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

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

Mayor Pam Marshall read a resolution from the Town of Clifton Forge, honoring the service and career of Wayne Strickland of his retirement as Executive Director of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.

Mr. Billy Martin read a proclamation from Botetourt County recognizing Mr. Strickland on his retirement. Mr. Martin and Chair Grose surprised Mr. Strickland in his office and presented him with a plaque and "42-year of service" engraved pen.

Adjournment at 4:07 p.m.



Jeremy Holmes, Secretary  
Secretary to the Regional Commission

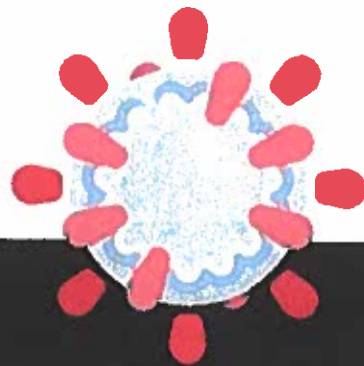
# 2021 Point-in-Time Report



1

## Methodology

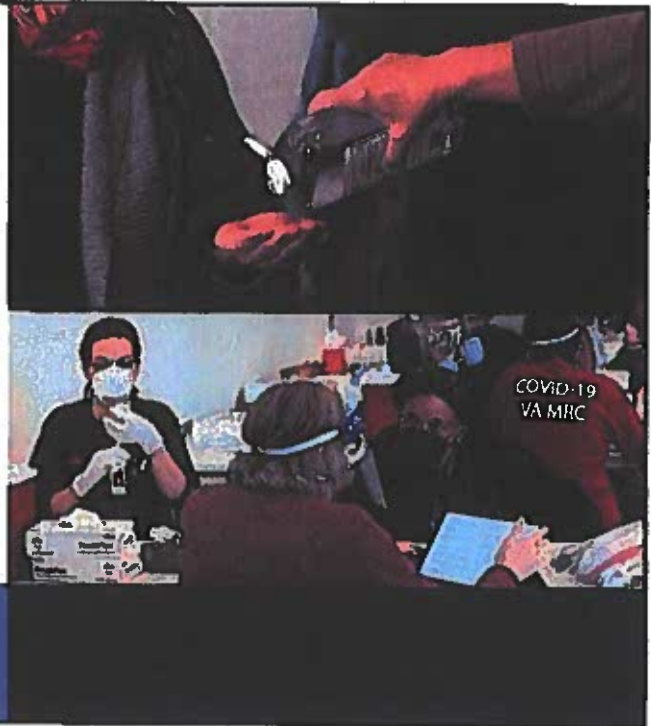
- This year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the full, voluntary survey, including the use of the Vulnerability Index and Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT), was not conducted in an effort to minimize close contact between individuals being surveyed and volunteers.
- Instead, an abbreviated survey was used by the two street outreach teams conducting the unsheltered count. The teams visited the same number of sites as in previous years but with limited staff and no volunteers.
- A copy of the survey has been included in the full report.



2

## PIT Count Key Findings

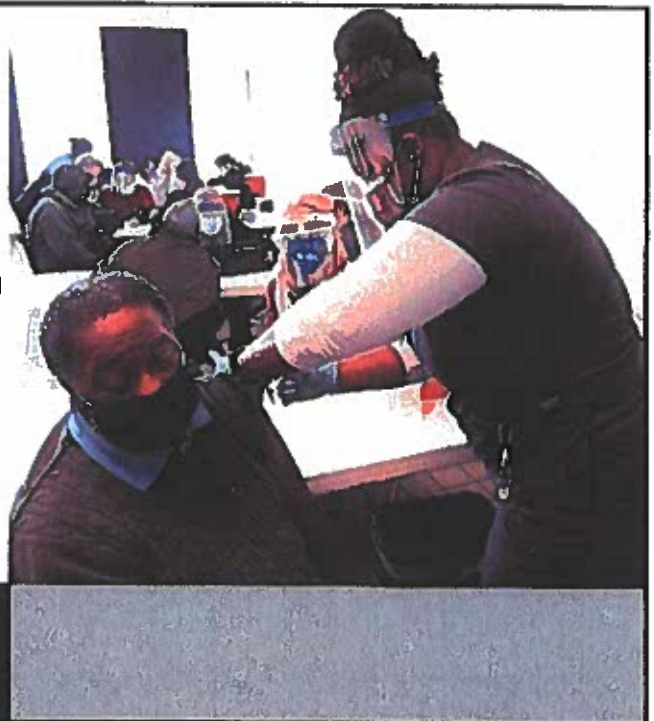
- 250 people were experiencing homelessness in the Blue Ridge CoC.
- A majority, 95.2%, (238) were staying in emergency shelters; 4.8% (12) were in unsheltered locations.
- Of those experiencing homelessness, 14% (35) were children, 84.4% (211) were over the age of 24; 1.2% (3) were between the ages of 18 and 24.
- The number of people experiencing homelessness in the Blue Ridge CoC has decreased by 55.4% since 2012.



3

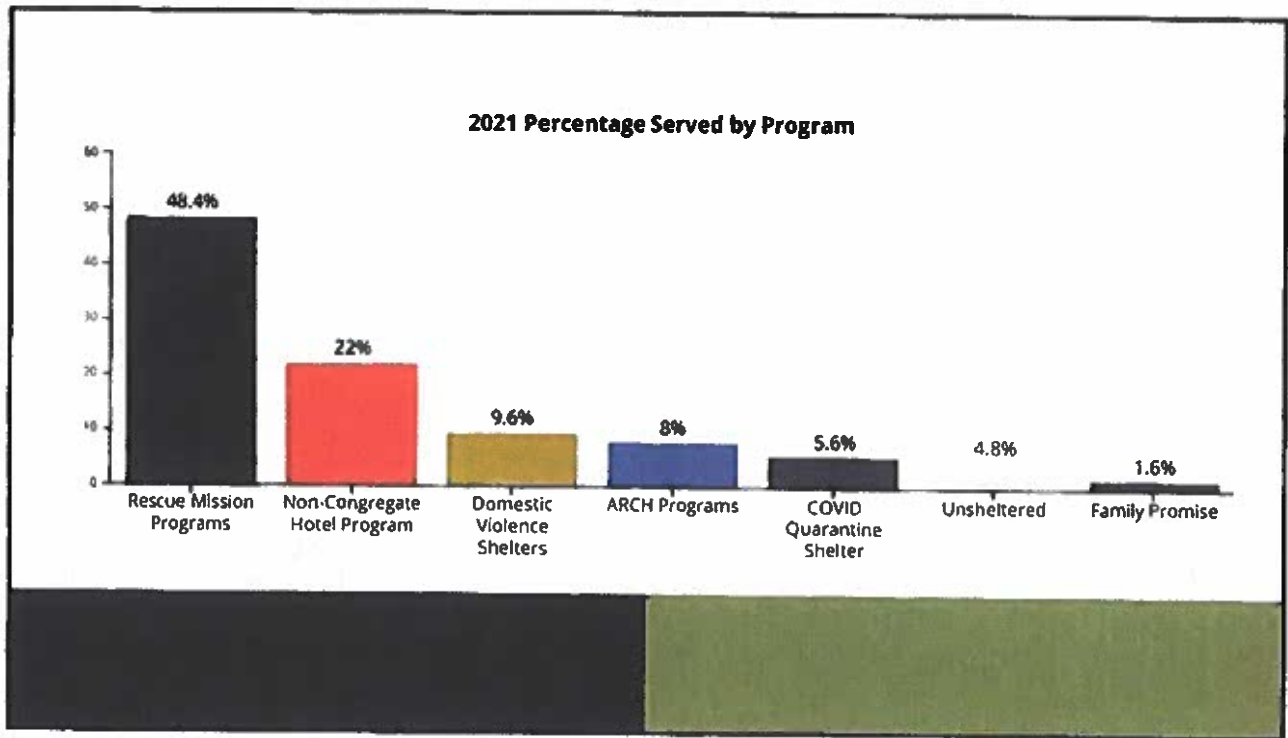
## Homeless by Subpopulation

- 27 veterans were experiencing homelessness, representing a decrease of 6.9% over 2020.
- All veterans were homeless in households without children (as individuals), two were unsheltered and seven were identified as chronically homeless.
- Fifty-six individuals were identified as chronically homeless in the 2021 count.
- In 2021, there were 17 families experiencing homelessness, a decrease of 66% from 2012.



4





5

### The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

The Blue Ridge Continuum of Care's alignment with and progress against goals and priorities set forth in the Federal plan to end homelessness: 2012-2021.

6

## Strategic Goals and Results Achieved 2012 – 2021

### Goal One: To end homelessness among Veterans:

62.5% reduction in Veteran homelessness – from 72 to 27

### Goal Two: To end chronic homelessness among people with disabilities

62.4% reduction in chronic homelessness from 149 to 56

### Goal Three: To end homelessness among families with children

66% reduction – from 50 families to 17

### Goal Four: To end homelessness among all other individuals

55.4% reduction – from 561 to 250



7

## Conclusion

Homelessness in the Roanoke Region decreased by 9.4% in 2021. The overall count has decreased by 55.4% since 2012 (561).

Several significant achievements: the number of homeless families decreased by 29.2% this year over last; the number of homeless children under age 18 decreased 5.4%; the number of Veterans decreased by 10.0%; the number of unaccompanied homeless youth decreased by 81.3%; homelessness among African-Americans decreased by 17.2% (homelessness among White individuals decreased by 4.5%).

Chronic homelessness increased by 27.3% in 2021, likely the result of individuals staying in the homeless services system longer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

8

## Current Community Focus Points

- COVID-19 Response
- Increase in lengths of stay in shelter programs; decrease in shelter numbers
- New resources (Emergency Housing Vouchers, other American Rescue Plan funding)
- Need for increase in affordable housing stock
- Pending eviction crisis?

9

## Questions?

### **Paula Prince, PhD**

Chair, Blue Ridge Interagency Council on Homelessness  
Assistant Professor  
Radford University Carilion  
[p prince2@radford.edu](mailto:p prince2@radford.edu)

### **Matt Crookshank**

Chair, Blue Ridge Continuum of Care  
Human Services Administrator  
City of Roanoke  
(540) 312-8301  
[matthew.Crookshank@roanokeva.gov](mailto:matthew.Crookshank@roanokeva.gov)

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE AT:**  
[www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org](http://www.endhomelessnessblueridge.org)

10

# Roanoke Valley-Alleghany CEDS



June 24, 2021

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

1

## What is a CEDS?

- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Revised every 5 years with annual demographic and project listing updates
- Regional strategy which reflects local economic development needs and priorities
- Designed to diversify and strengthen regional economies
- Analyze regional economy, establish regional goals and objectives, and outline an action plan
- Required to qualify projects for EDA funding
- Required for continued designation as an Economic Development District (EDD)



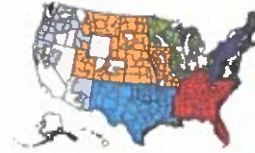
[WWW.RVARC.ORG](http://WWW.RVARC.ORG)



2

## Economic Development District Designation

- Roanoke Valley-Alleghany region was designated an EDD in January 2017
- More opportunities to work with EDA and other Federal partners such as HUD, EPA, ARC and FHWA on initiatives
- Impact on other grant applications
- *Franklin County and the towns of Boones Mill and Rocky Mount are covered by the West Piedmont EDD*



WWW.RVARC.ORG



3

## EDA Investments

Valleys Innovation Council received \$982,442 in grant funds as part of a \$2.08 million project in partnership with RAMP to scale up current accelerator and startup assistance programming under the *Growing our Innovation Ecosystem: Scaling the Success of the Regional Accelerator and Mentoring Program*.

Alleghany County received a \$1.1 million EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to extend the *Jackson River Scenic Trail* and to bolster the local tourism economy. This EDA grant, to be matched with \$600,000 in state funding, is expected to create more than 30 jobs.

Franklin County awarded a \$4.7 million grant to support business growth by improving roadway infrastructure within the *Summit View Business Park*. The EDA grant will be matched with \$9.15 million in local funds and is expected to create 83 jobs, retain 53 jobs, and generate more than \$43 million in private investment.

WWW.RVARC.ORG



4

# 2021 CEDS Annual Update

## 2021 Document Revisions

- Updated Demographics
- Summarized the housing studies for the Alleghany Highlands, Botetourt County, and the Roanoke Valley regions
- Updated Project Listings
- Added Regional Priority Projects List as selected by the CEDS Committee in April



# 2021 Proposed Projects

## Items considered during project list development

- "Ongoing Projects" such as industrial site development, transportation, tourism, workforce, etc.
- Existing projects from SMART SCALE, GO Virginia, and Opportunity Zones
- Funding sources other than EDA such as ARC, CDBG, VHDA, VDOT, and USDA
- Project list has over 100 projects
- New Regional Priority list has 7 projects



# 2021 Priorities

Project Description
Expand broadband access across the greater region
Implementation of recommendations from Regional Career and Technical Education Center Study
Additional flights and runway capacity at Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport
Alleghany Co & Covington site development under Joint Revenue Sharing agreement
Wood Haven Technology Park development and related Transportation Network Improvements
Explore Park (joint efforts by Roanoke County and Bedford)
Implementation of recommendations from Regional Housing Studies

# Public Review and Comment

Required 30-day public review and comment period  
from May 14 to June 13

Added the following projects:

- Groendyke Site Redevelopment/Reuse in Buchanan
- Glowarama Site Redevelopment/Reuse in Buchanan
- Former Buchanan High School Site Redevelopment/Reuse in Buchanan

# Roanoke Valley-Alleghany CEDS



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