



## **MINUTES**

The May meeting of the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission was held on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission office, 313 Luck Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA.

### **1. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair North called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. A quorum was present.

#### **VOTING MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Steve Clinton, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Botetourt County
Billy Martin, Sr.	Botetourt County
Dean Martin, <i>Treasurer</i>	Roanoke County
Phil North, <i>Chair</i>	Roanoke County
Lee Osborne	Roanoke County
Allan Tucker	City of Covington
Joseph Cobb	City of Roanoke
Dawn Erdman	City of Roanoke
Stephanie Moon Reynolds	City of Roanoke
Peter Volosin	City of Roanoke
John Saunders	City of Salem
Jim W. Wallace III	City of Salem
Denise King	City of Salem
Debbie Laudermilk	Town of Clifton Forge
Chuck Unroe	Town of Clifton Forge
Robert Wood	Town of Rocky Mount
Mayor Bradley Grose	Town of Vinton

#### **VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT**

Shannon Cox	Alleghany County
Reid Walters	Alleghany County
James Griffith	Alleghany County
Gary Larrowe	Botetourt County
Erin Henderson	Botetourt County
Dan Collins	Craig County
Jesse Spence	Craig County
Ronald Mitchell	Franklin County
Mike Carter	Franklin County
Roy Enslow	Franklin County
Lorie Smith	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



Chris Whitlow	Franklin County
Kevin Hutchins	Roanoke County
Richard Caywood	Roanoke County
David Radford	Roanoke County
Krystal Onaitis ( <i>remotely</i> )	City of Covington
Mark Newbill	Town of Rocky Mount
Richard "Pete" Peters	Town of Vinton

**Others:** Alleyn Harned (via zoom), Virginia Clean Cities; Jay Taliaferro, City of Roanoke, Tommy Miller, City of Salem.

**Staff:** Gabriel Irigaray, Robin Bruns, Jeremy Holmes, Alison Stinnette, Jonathan Stanton, Sherry Dean, Niles Comer, Emma Howard-Woods, and Amanda McGee.

**2. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The Consent Agenda items were as follows:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. April 28, 2022, RVARC Minutes
- C. Financial Reports Ending April 30, 2022

Chair North reported that City of Salem requested to reverse the order of items 5 and 6 on today's agenda so that Salem's presenters can attend a 4 PM meeting.

**MOTION:** by Billy Martin to approve the following items: (A), as amended, (B) and (C), as presented. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Moon Reynolds.

**Regional Commission Action:** Motion carried unanimously.

**3. REMARKS BY THE CHAIR**

- Chair North thanked everyone who came out to speak at the May 12th VDOT public hearing on the Six Year Improvement Program. Regional representation from elected officials, administrators, and citizens that spoke passionately about the transportation needs for the region – including advocacy for some projects with significant price tags. According to Secretary Miller, this meeting had both the highest overall turnout and the largest number of folks signed up to speak than any meeting in the state, including Northern Virginia.
- Chair North congratulated the new Alleghany County administrator Mr. Reid Walters, who has been newly appointed as the County's citizen representative to the Commission. Mr. North also expressed his appreciation for the service and dedication of interim administrator Mr. Pete Huber.

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



- Chair North recognized both Mr. Robert Wood and Mr. Mark Newbill of Rocky Mount, who were both recently reappointed to serve on the Commission.
- Chair North commented that today, the Thursday before Memorial Day, is recognized as Celebrate Transportation Day in the Commonwealth. At the TPO meeting that took place earlier this afternoon, Chair Billy Martin offered some words recognizing the importance of the day. Chair North echoed his celebration not just of transportation, but of all the planning staff, engineers, VDOT employees, and everyone else who works hard every day to keep our transportation systems safe, running smoothly, and expanding when they need to.

#### **4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Mr. Holmes reminded members that May is National Bike Month, and Commission's staff member Andrea Garland has been hard at work organizing a celebration of National Bike to Work Day and related events. There are still a handful of days to participate.
- Mr. Holmes extended his appreciation to Gary Larrowe and his staff at Botetourt County, and the staff of Virginia's Blue Ridge. The Commission was invited to develop and lead a special bicycle safety forum in response to the February death of Botetourt resident and cyclist Tabitha Thompson on Route 11. Route 11's importance as a recreational facility is only growing as a number of key events, including the Ironman and training rides for VBR Team TWENTY24, rely on the road. The County hosted the event at the Greenfield center, and the forum included attendees from locality staff, law enforcement, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and more from across the region. Jessie Singer, author of There Are No Accidents, offered an opening keynote remotely, and a panel representing the League of American Bicyclists, the Virginia Bicycling Federation, and VDOT. This is just the first step in a critical and ongoing conversation, and the support and participation of Botetourt and VBR is much appreciated.
- Mr. Holmes highlighted a story in the online Cardinal News that reported on a little-seen study out of DRPT looking at a possible east-west train connecting Christiansburg to Newport News via Charlottesville and Richmond. The feasibility study identifies a \$416 million project, 98% of which would be spent on a 49-mile section of track and related improvements between Charlottesville and Doswell. Connecting the New River and Roanoke Valleys is only a small incremental cost.

#### **5. LOCALITY HIGHLIGHTS – CITY OF SALEM**

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



Jay Taliaferro, Salem City Manager, and Tommy Miller, Economic Development Director, presented a video highlighting Salem's sports marketing, entertainment options, award winning utilities, downtown revitalization, innovative school divisions, and much more. Mr. Miller also spoke about the economic development in the City of Salem.

## **6. UPDATE ON ELECTRIC CAR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

Chair North introduced Mr. Alleyn Harned, the Executive Director of Virginia Clean Cities, a member of the U.S. Department of Energy-affiliated Clean Cities Coalitions program. Mr. Harned serves as the President of the Transportation Energy Partners Board of Directors and has served twice as the Mid-Atlantic representative to the Clean Cities Coordinator Council. Mr. Harned has led the coalition through numerous successful projects, including Virginia's 2010 Get Ready EV effort, and 2012 Richmond Electric Vehicle Initiative.

Mr. Alleyn Harned, Virginia Clean Cities, provided an update on electric car infrastructure funding (the PowerPoint presentation is included in the Minutes).

## **7. 2021 TRAIL AND GREENWAY COUNTS**

Amanda McGee presented a presentation on the 2021 traffic trends and greenway and trail counts (the PowerPoint presentation is included in the Minutes).

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

## **9. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS AND/OR THE PUBLIC**

Chair North noted that Franklin County will be presenting in July and Botetourt County in September.

Mr. Joe Cobb commented that the City of Roanoke will present in October.

Chair North noted that the T-Rex Trail at Explore Park is starting this Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Joe Cobb reminded that Ironman is coming up on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Grose reminded members that there is live music in Vinton every second and fourth Saturday in June, July, and August. In addition, there are cruise nights on the first Saturday in June, July, and August.



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

Mr. Chuck Unroe commented that the farmers market in Clifton Forge is getting ready to open in the first week of June. There will be several summer festivals as well.

Mr. Billy Martin noted that Botetourt farmers market is getting ready to open as well.

Adjournment at 4:26 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Holmes', is written over the text 'Adjournment at 4:26 p.m.' and extends slightly below it.

Jeremy Holmes, Secretary  
Secretary to the Regional Commission

## Virginia Clean Cities at JMU



- Vehicles and Driver Choices that Increase Fuel Economy
  - Right-size, Idle Reduction – Bikes, Land Use, Transit
- Advanced Vehicles (e.g., HEVs, PHEVs)
- Alternative (non-petroleum) Fuels & Vehicles



- Lower fuel use \$33 million to \$15 million per day
- Lower cost fuels at scale \$2.50 Gasoline to \$1 Renewable Fuel
- Fuel our economy \$20 million recirculating – daily

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## Local Partnerships: Clean Cities Coalition



- National network of nearly 75 local coalitions
- 82% of the total U.S. population lives inside coalition boundaries
- 500,000 alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs)
- VA Coalition DC Coalition MD, WV, VA closely aligned with energy offices



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## Why Clean Cities?



### Clean Cities

advances the energy, economic, and environmental security of the United States by supporting local actions to cut petroleum use in transportation.



Reduced petroleum consumption

Reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Reduced dependence on imported petroleum

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## Charging EVs and PHEVs



	Current Type	Voltage (V)	Charging Time	Primary Use	Connector	
Level 1	Alternating Current (AC)	120V	2-5 miles of range per hour of charging	Residential		
Level 2	AC	208-240V	10-80 miles of range per hour of charging \$-\$\$\$	Residential Commercial		
DC Fast	Direct Current (DC)	208-480V	60-400 miles of range per 20 minutes of charging \$\$\$\$\$	Commercial		
Wireless	AC	240V	10-20 miles of range per hour of charging	Residential Commercial		

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## Some Funding Right Now!



- EVgo and DEQ 80-100 new charger sites \$16m
  - State funded program
- Electrify America – Expanded network –
  - Bruhs Mill EV charger a good example
- Blink 200 19.2 kWh L2 chargers
  - Hotel Roanoke underway, State Dept of Energy Award
- Greenspot E-mobility hub curbside 6 L2 chargers 24 hubs
  - Highly visible, State Dept of Energy Award
- Volta free charging stations at shopping centers
- Virginia Clean Cities fleet vehicle pilot
  - Single J1772 L2 charger from state contract bid

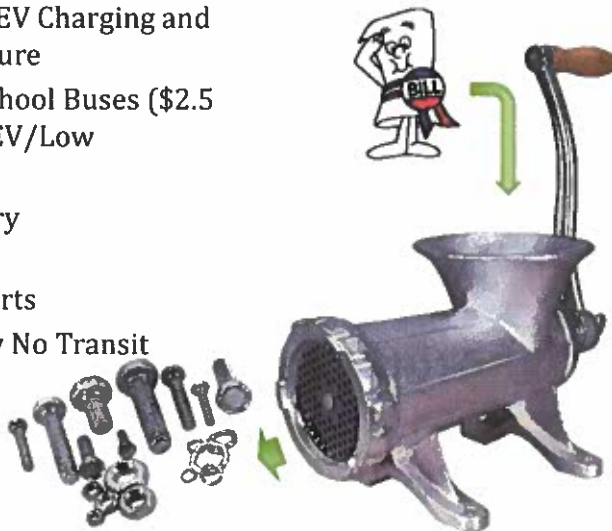
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## Infrastructure Bill



- \$7.5 Billion for EV Charging and AFV Infrastructure
- \$5 billion for School Buses (\$2.5 Electric + \$2.5 EV/Low Emission)
- \$6 billion battery manufacturing
- \$250 million Ports
- \$5.6 billion Low No Transit
- +++



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## Infrastructure Bill FHWA Corridors



- **FHWA Formula: \$5 Billion for EV Charging on Corridors**
  - DOT and DOE Collaboration
  - State Plans, 5 years, VA is \$106 Million
  - Corridor emphasis
- **FHWA Competitive \$2.5 Billion Alt Fuel Communities**
  - EV, H2, CNG/LNG, LPG
  - 50% set aside for community grants
  - 50% Set aside for corridors Competitive
  - DOT Rural Transportation Grant Program \$2 B set aside
- **CMAQ can fund clean fuel vehicles and infrastructure**
- **DOT State Carbon Reduction Program Formula**
- **DOT AFV Trends Study**

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## Infrastructure Bill - Transit



- **FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Formula:**
  - \$ 3.2B
- **FTA Transit Accessibility Formula**
  - \$ 2.2 Billion
- **FTA Competitive Bus and Bus Facilities:**
  - \$ 2B
- **FTA Low and No Emission Competitive**
  - \$ 5.625 Billion

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# Funding Opportunities



## DOT FUNDING AND FINANCING PROGRAMS WITH EV ELIGIBILITIES\*

### LEGEND

Construction and installation of EV charging infrastructure including parking facilities and utilities.	Workforce development and training related to EV infrastructure.	EV operations and engine conversions - cars or trucks.	Planning for EV charging infrastructure activities and projects.	Construction and installation of EV charging infrastructure to support operational, residential, national energy, safety, environmental, and community goals for freight transportation.	Installation of EV charging infrastructure as part of transit capital projects eligible under chapter 51 of title 45, Virginia State Code.

	FY 2022* AMOUNT						
<b>FORMULA PROGRAMS</b>							
National Highway Performance Program (NHPP)	\$28.4 BP						
Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)	\$12.5 BP <sup>1</sup>						
Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)	\$2.5 BP						
National Highway Freight Program (NHFP)	\$1.4 BP						
State Planning and Research (SPR)	\$983.3 MP						
Metropolitan Planning (PL)	\$438.1 MP						
Carbon Reduction Program	\$1.2 BP <sup>2</sup>						
National Electric Vehicle (NEV) Formula Program	\$685 BP <sup>3,4</sup>						

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# Funding Opportunities




<b>DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS</b>							
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) (formerly known as BUILD)	\$1.5 B						
Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (IRFRA) Grant Program	\$1.64 BP <sup>1</sup>						
Advanced Transportation and Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment	\$60 MP						
Discretionary Grant Program for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure	\$300 MP <sup>2</sup>						
Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program	\$300 MP <sup>3</sup>						
Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Program	\$80 MP <sup>4</sup>						
<b>OTHER ALLOCATED PROGRAMS</b>							
Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Program (FLTTP)	\$1.3 BP <sup>5</sup>						
Puerto Rico Highway Program (PRHP)	\$173 MP						
Territorial Highway Program (THP)	\$46 MP						
<b>INNOVATIVE FINANCE PROGRAMS</b>							
State Infrastructure Banks (SIBs)	Varies						
Transportation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (TIFIA)	\$250 MP						

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## Infrastructure Bill – EPA School Buses



- EPA: \$5 Billion for Clean School Buses 
  - \$2.5 Billion Dedicated to Electric School Buses
    - Program offered Environmental Justice communities \$300,000 per bus, now \$500 million - \$375,000 w/ \$20,000 infrastructure
      - Roanoke City, Covington City, Craig County
    - \$250,000 per bus \$13,000 per charger
    - “SIMPLE” WEB FORM – Contact info, vehicle detail old diesel
  - \$2.5 Billion Low Emission
  - 5 year program is \$1B Annual funding each year 22-26
- EPA : Diesel Emissions Reduction Act 25-60% funding

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## Infrastructure Bill – Energy Office



- State Energy Offices \$250 Million for states to offer loans and grants through State Energy Program
- \$500 Million State Energy Program can now fund alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure
- Weatherization Assistance
  - \$3.5 billion (can AFV infrastructure be eligible energy savings measure)
- Public School Energy Program \$500m
  - (includes AFV fueling charging including school, students, or public)
- Energy conservation at federal facilities \$250 M
- Energy conservation Block Grants
  - \$550m for local govt energy efficiency including renewable energy and AFVs/EVs

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## Infrastructure Bill R&D Programs

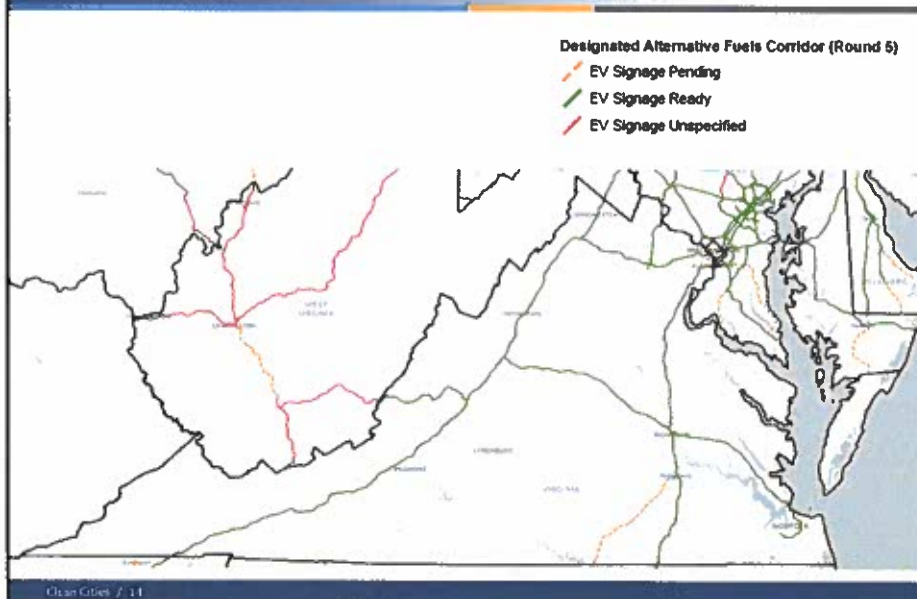


- Clean Hydrogen Hubs
  - \$8 Billion for Four Hubs
- Pumped Storage Hydropower Wind and Solar Integration and System Reliability Initiative
  - \$2 million
- Office of Clean Energy Demonstration
  - \$21.46 Billion for states / tribes
- Grid Reliability and Resilience
  - DOE \$5 billion for states etc to demonstrate innovative approaches to transmission storage and hardened infrastructure
- Deployment technologies to enhance grid flexibility –
  - DOE \$3 billion for reliability resilience and smart grid investments
- Vehicle Technologies Office Pilots often 50% cost share

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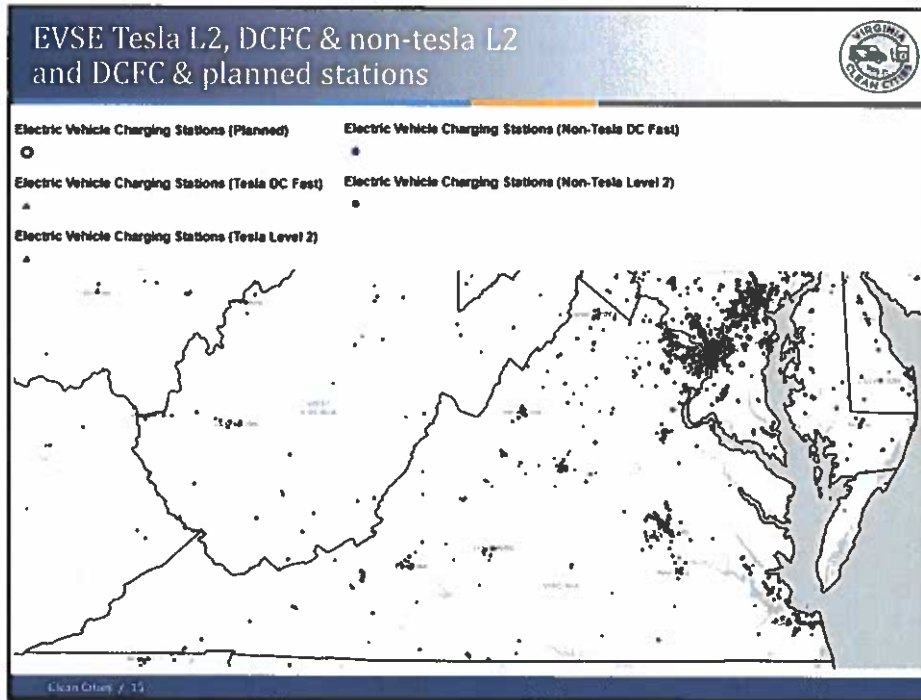
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## Designated Alternative Fuel Corridors

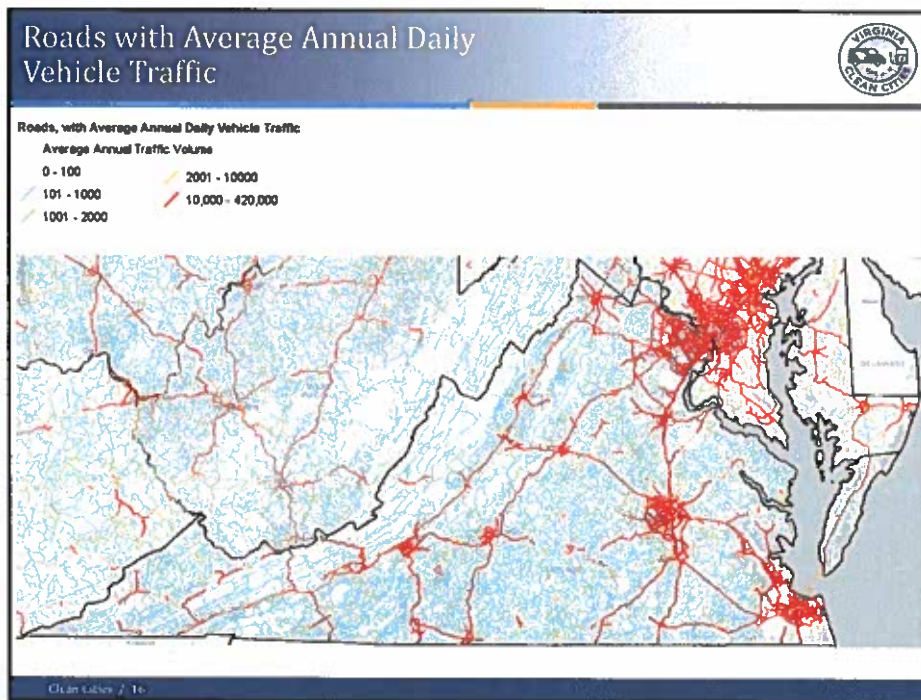


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# ELECTRIC



<b>\$12.8</b> Surface Transportation Block Grant Batteries for EVs and PHEVs for vehicles	<b>\$118</b> Congressional Budgeting & Accounting Control Act (CBO) - Energy and Climate Change and Energy Administration Programs	<b>\$100</b> Multiple Grants for Updates	<b>\$7.08</b> Energy for Charging and Testing Infrastructure	<b>\$19</b> Surface Energy, Vehicle Infrastructure Program	<b>\$250M</b> Funding for Fuel Efficiency at Port Facilities	<b>\$305M</b> Energy Storage Commercial Grants	<b>\$10M</b> New Research for Battery Technology and Energy Storage
Carroll Reauthorization Program	<b>\$15M</b> Air Quality Research Program for Residential Construction	<b>\$50M</b> National Energy Efficiency Partnership Program for State and Local	<b>\$1M</b> America's Infrastructure Jobs Act Energy and Climate Infrastructure Program	<b>\$11</b> Investment in Infrastructure to Deliver and Restore	<b>\$100M</b> State Energy Programs	<b>\$6.658</b> Energy Efficiency and Weatherization	<b>\$100M</b> Research and Development and Innovation and Energy
Energy Efficiency Research and Development Program	<b>\$8</b> Energy and Climate Innovation Programs	Energy Efficiency Grants for State and Local Energy Programs	<b>\$45.02</b> DOE Energy Efficiency Integration with the Infrastructure Jobs	<b>\$100</b> Low Income Weatherization Programs Integration with the Infrastructure Jobs	<b>\$100</b> Low Income Weatherization Programs Integration with the Infrastructure Jobs	<b>\$100</b> Low Income Weatherization Programs Integration with the Infrastructure Jobs	<b>\$100</b> Low Income Weatherization Programs Integration with the Infrastructure Jobs
	<b>\$2.234</b> Participatory Innovation Program	<b>\$1.746</b> Energy Efficiency Partnership Program and Energy	<b>\$28</b> Energy Efficiency Partnership Program	<b>\$70M</b> Energy Efficiency Partnership Program			

## IIJA and BBB ELECTRIFICATION PROVISIONS

<b>\$58</b> Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles	<b>\$3.825B</b> Grants to Reduce Air Pollution at Ports	<b>\$28.98</b> Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	<b>\$90M</b> Clean Emissions Reductions	<b>\$18</b> Zero Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Subfund	<b>\$1.88</b> DOE Loan and Grant Programs	<b>\$30</b> Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program (ATVMP)	<b>\$3.88</b> Grants Related to Domestic Production of Hydrogen, BEV and FCV
<b>\$38</b> Energy Community Renewable Financing Program	<b>\$9.75B</b> Affordable Housing Access Program	<b>\$150M</b> Research, Technical Assistance, and Training	<b>\$70</b> Community Climate Grants	<b>\$1.88</b> OEA Clean Ports	<b>\$2.48</b> Electric Vehicles for USPS	<b>\$3.48</b> EV Infrastructure for USPS	<b>\$975M</b> OEA - Emerging Technologies
<b>\$3.125B</b> OEA - Procurement and Technology	<b>\$18</b> DOE EPRS RISA Projects	Subsidizable New Qualified Plug-In Electric Vehicle Sales Incentive Credit	Alternative Fuel Refueling Property Credit	Previously-Used Qualified Plug-In Electric Vehicle Sales Incentive Credit	201 Rethink Incentive Credit	Qualified Fuel Cell Vehicle Credit	Extension of the Advanced Energy Project Credit
							Qualified Commercial Electric Vehicle Credit

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# Greenway and Trail Counts

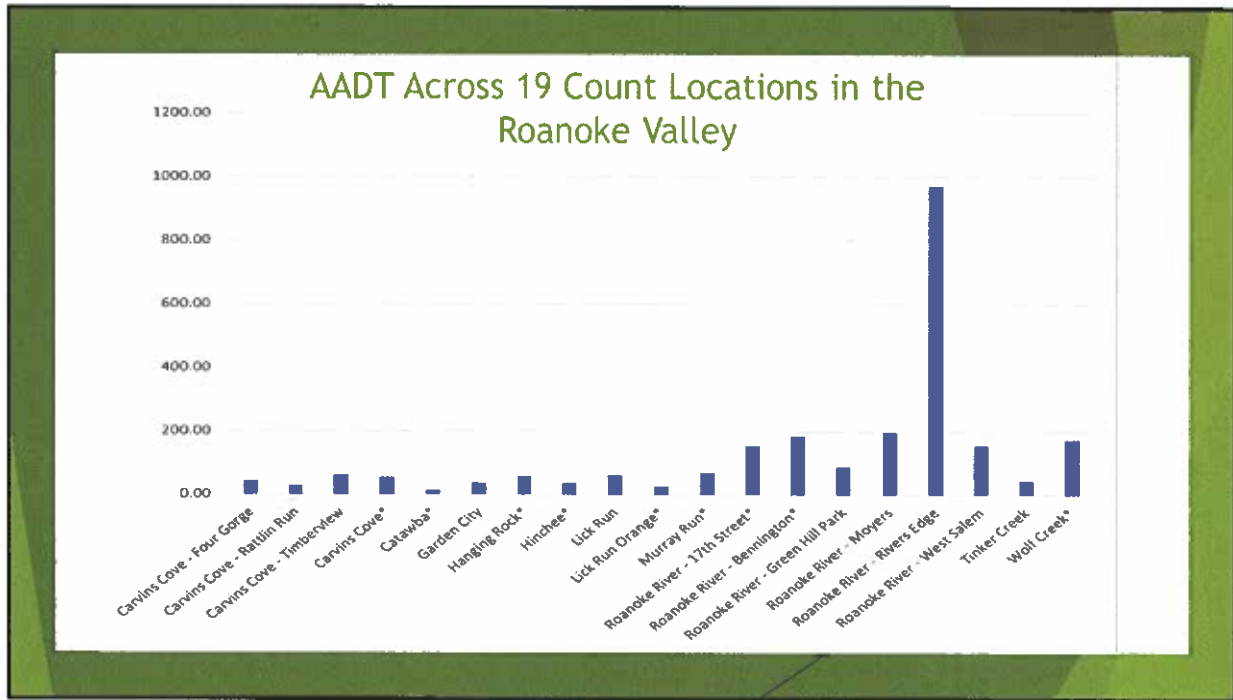
Traffic trends in 2021

Prepared by Amanda McGee  
Roanoke Valley - Alleghany Regional Commission  
Presented 5/26/22

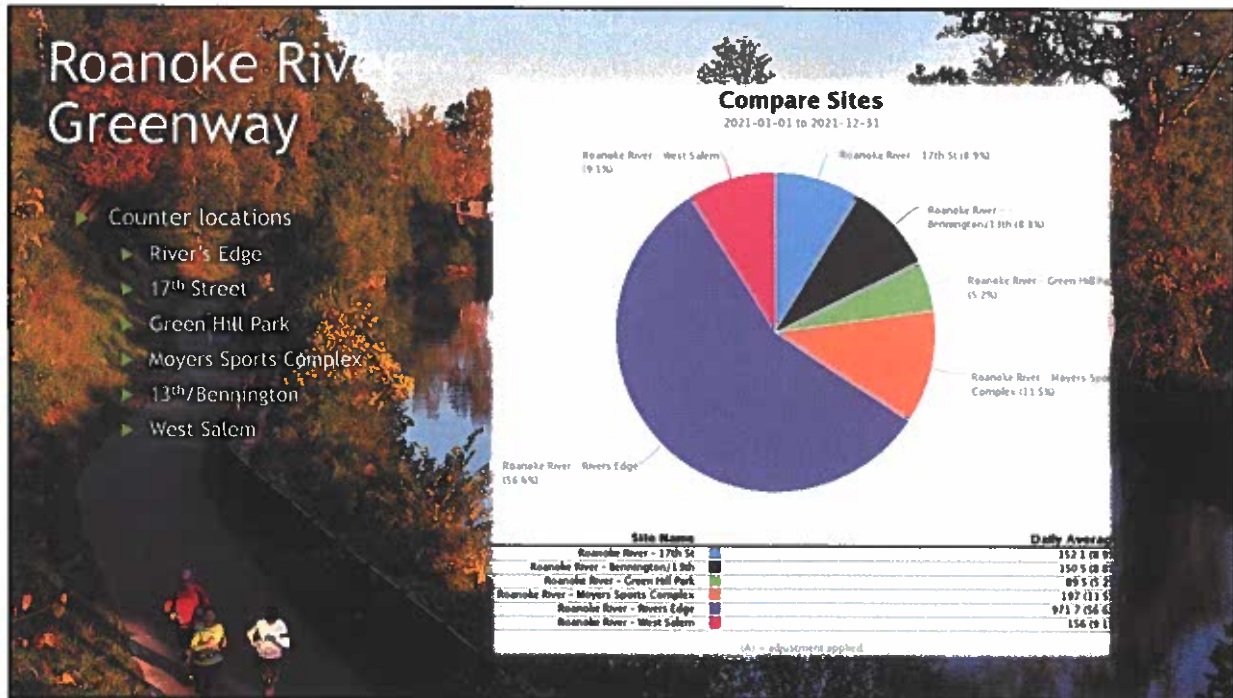
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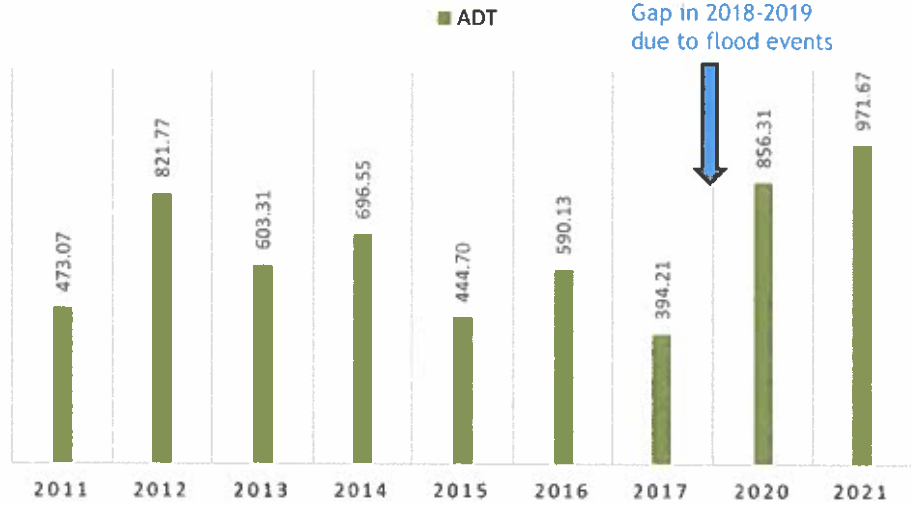
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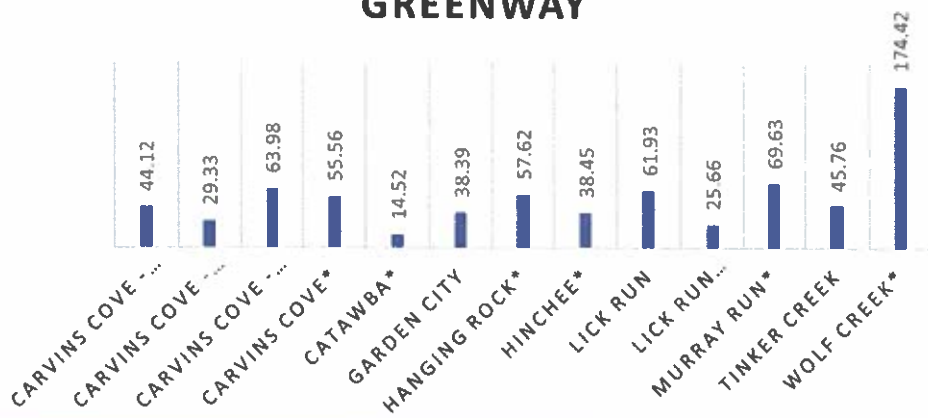
River's Edge,  
ADT Year over Year

**HISTORICAL AVERAGE DAILY  
TRAFFIC, RIVER'S EDGE**



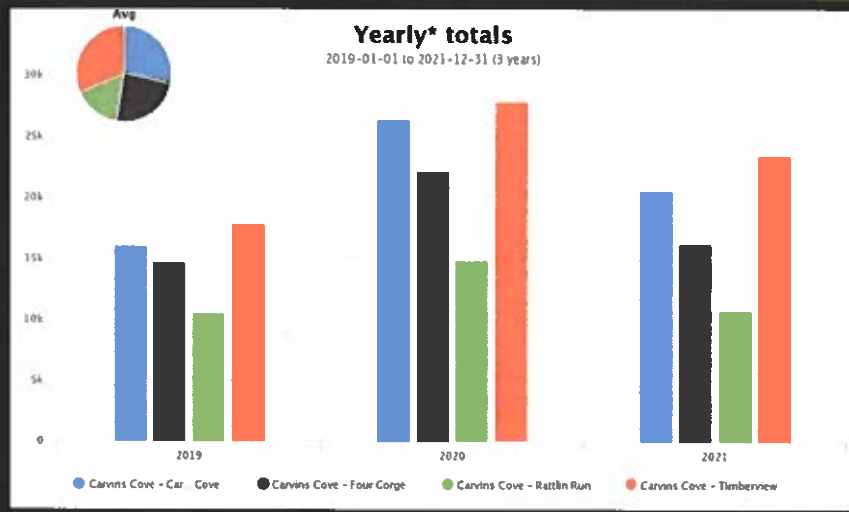
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**ROANOKE VALLEY LOCATIONS  
EXCLUDING ROANOKE RIVER  
GREENWAY**



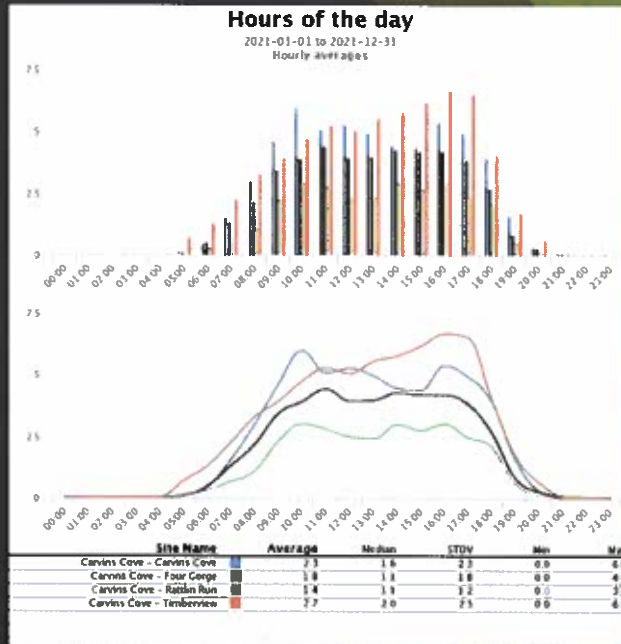
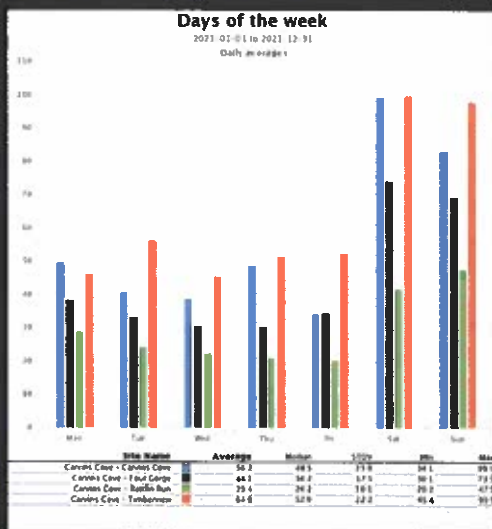
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# Carvins Cove



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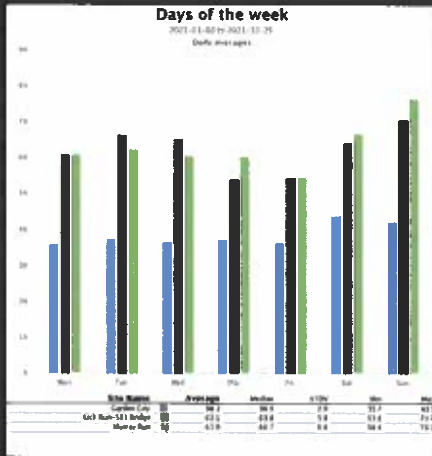
# Carvins Cove



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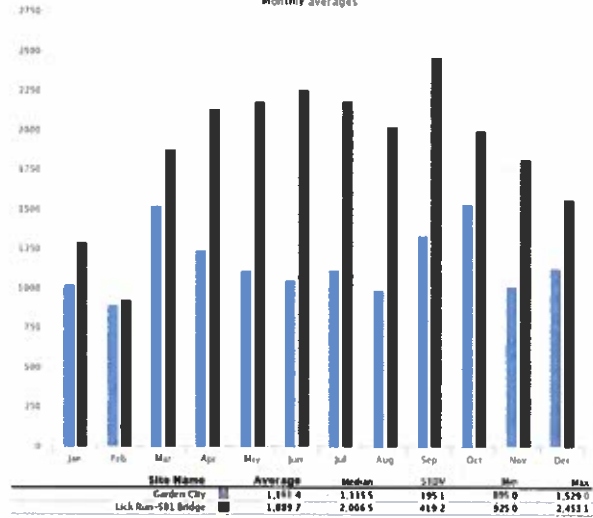
## Other Roanoke City Greenways



## Months of the year

2021-01-01 to 2021-12-31

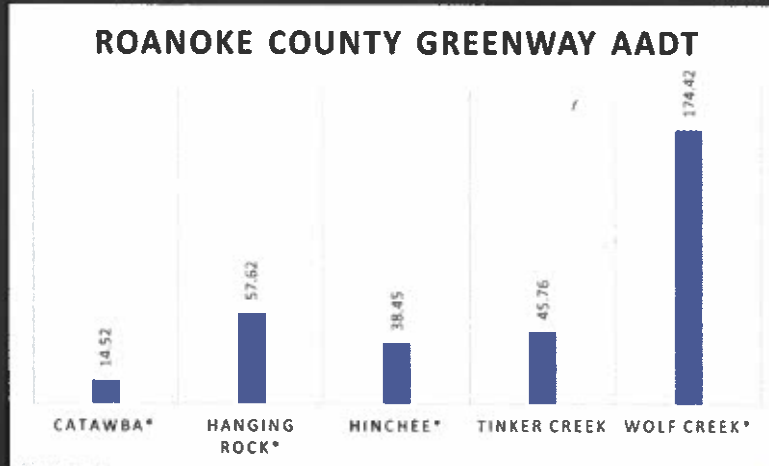
Monthly averages



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## Greenways in Roanoke County

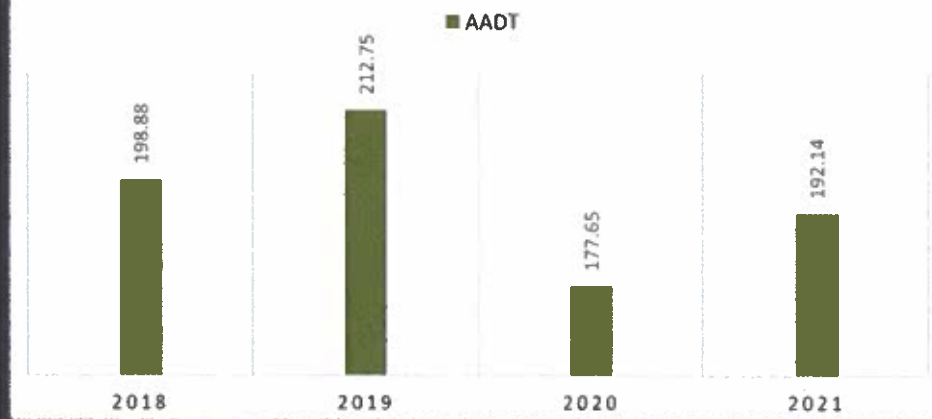
### ROANOKE COUNTY GREENWAY AADT



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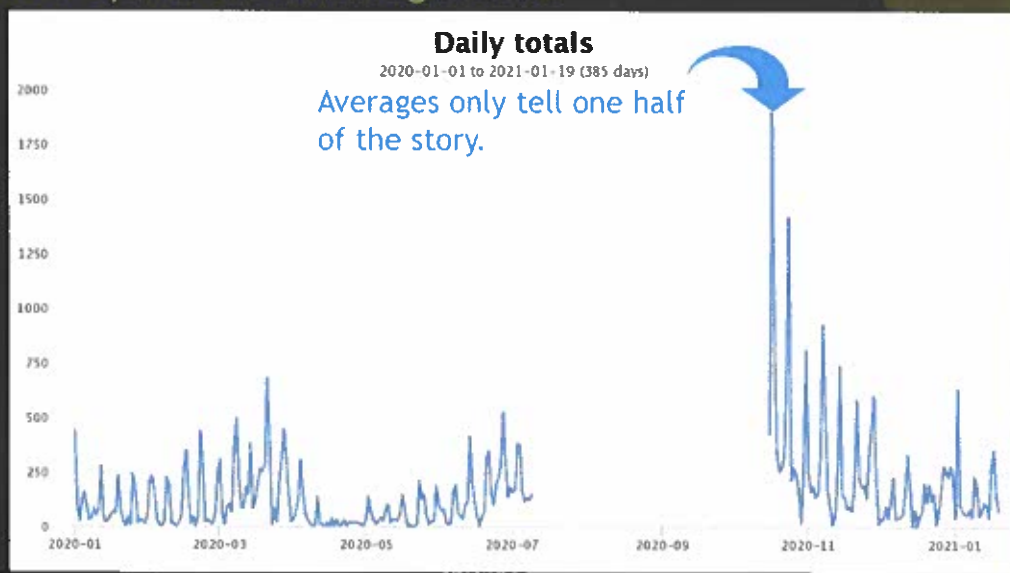
## Appalachian Trail

### MCAFEE KNOB AADT YEAR OVER YEAR



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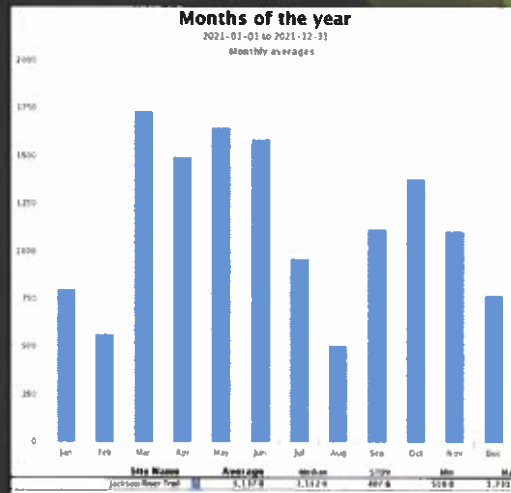
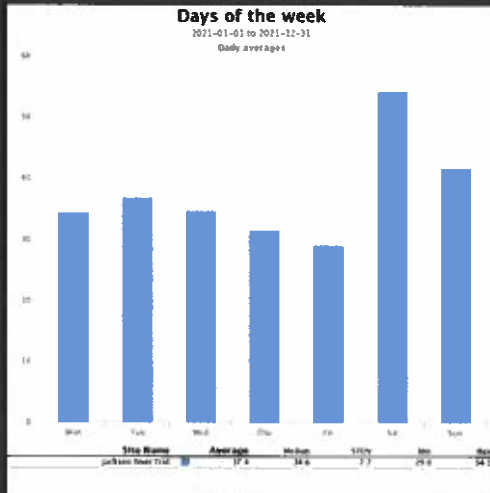
## 2020 Spike and Management



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## Jackson River Trail



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## Franklin

- ▶ Full year of data, but not a full calendar year
- ▶ Locations:
  - ▶ Summit View
  - ▶ Smith Mountain Lake
  - ▶ Waid Park (2 sites)
- ▶ Suspicion around counters - education needed



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## Major Takeaways

- ▶ Usership remains high across all trails
- ▶ 2022 will show us if higher year over year counts at River's Edge are "new normal"
- ▶ Upcoming infrastructure changes may change user volume on certain facilities
- ▶ Quality control on data allows us to make more useful comparisons and plug gaps when counters fail

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## Going Forward

- ▶ Counters are aging
- ▶ Reference counts versus rotating locations - is this feasible?
- ▶ Meeting rural locality requests
- ▶ Better quality control of data (there's more we can do!)

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Questions?

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