



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

REGIONAL commission

2025 Legislative Priorities

Approved July 23rd, 2024

Airport Investments Support the Regional Economy

- Support runway safety improvements and expansions at the Roanoke Blacksburg Regional Airport, including securing necessary federal, state, and local funding.

Equitable and Sustainable Transportation Funding

- Modernize the secondary road funding formula to meet rural needs without competing with or drawing from the existing SMART SCALE program.
- Support innovative funding strategies for I-81 which will sustain investment beyond 2033 and account for inflation-related shortfalls.
- Support targeted capacity investments along the Route 220 corridor between Roanoke and the North Carolina border to support the growth of freight and commuter transportation.
- Continue existing investment in Amtrak service from Southwest Virginia to DC and explore the feasibility of a Roanoke to Richmond connection.

Economic Development Focused on Jobs and Housing

- Continue regional economic development investments focused on industrial site development and the reduction of regulatory burdens.
- Consider economic development programs and incentives to expand affordable housing options for the region's workforce.
- Continue investment to enhance and expand the region's growing bio-medical and life sciences research programs and related spin-off ecosystem.

Equitable Education Investments

- Support sufficient and equitable school construction funding, focusing on a locality's composite index, level of distress, and site readiness for new school projects.
- Provide workforce grants for career and technical education capital projects, with a targeted focus on investment in construction fields to address affordable housing shortages