



(Official Name: Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization)

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 2026

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FINAL May 22, 2025

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Prepared on behalf of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) by the staff of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission through a cooperative process involving the cities of Roanoke and Salem, the counties of Botetourt, Bedford, Montgomery and Roanoke, the town of Vinton, the Greater Roanoke Transit Company, the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport Commission, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.

The preparation of this program was financially aided through grants from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The RVTPO will strive to provide reasonable accommodation and services for people who require special assistance to participate in its public involvement opportunities. Contact the Public Engagement Manager or the Transportation Public Engagement Coordinator at (540) 343-4417 for more information.

The RVTPO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information or to obtain a Discrimination Complaint Form, see www.rvarc.org or call (540) 343-4417.

FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
Program Administration, Activities, and Budget

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RVTPO - FY 2026 UPWP FINAL
May 22, 2025

RESOLUTION

I. Introduction

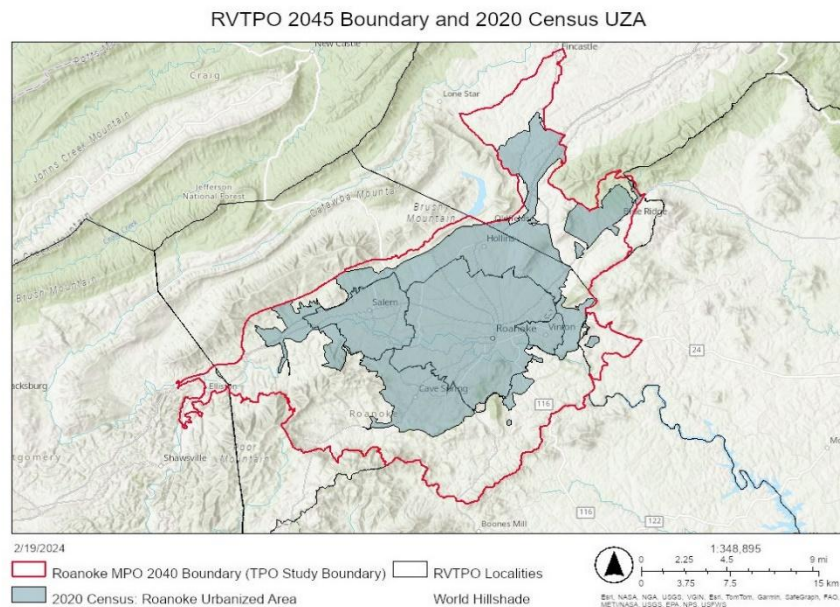
The Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) is the metropolitan planning organization for the Roanoke urbanized area. The unified planning work program (UPWP) for transportation planning, required to be updated annually,¹ provides a mechanism for the coordination of transportation planning activities in the region and is required as a basis and condition for all federal funding assistance for transportation planning by the joint metropolitan planning regulations of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

II. Metropolitan Planning Area

The RVTPO study area includes the parts of the Roanoke Valley region expected to be urbanized by the year 2045, including the cities of Roanoke and Salem, the towns of Fincastle, Troutville, and Vinton, and portions of the counties of Bedford, Botetourt, Montgomery, and Roanoke. See figure 1 for an illustration of the RVTPO study area.

Following the 2010 census, the Roanoke Urbanized Area boundary (UZA) contained a population of 210,111, and the RVTPO was subsequently classified as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) MPO. Based on the 2010 census, the RVTPO 2045 study area population was 231,337 and encompasses a land area of 247 sq. Miles. The latest census 2020 data released in FY23 shows that the RVTPO UZA has grown to 217,312, and an updated 2050 study area is under development.

Figure 1: RVTPO 2045 Study Area and 2020 Census Urbanized Area



¹ Per the requirements of 23 CFR Part 420 and 23 CFR Part 450, the RVTPO, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and the Greater Roanoke Transit Company, is responsible for the development of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This UPWP identifies and describes all regional transportation planning activities anticipated in the Roanoke Valley area in the next fiscal year that will utilize federal funding. The UPWP also identifies state and local matching dollars for these federal planning programs.

III. Responsibilities For Transportation Planning

The Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) is the organization responsible for conducting the continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated (3-C) planning process for the Roanoke Valley area in accordance with requirements of Section 134 (Title 23 U.S.C.) of the Federal Highway Act of 1962, and Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act. The RVTPO – Doing Business As (DBA) name (official name: Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization) is the official Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Roanoke Valley area, designated by the Governor of Virginia, under Section 134 of the Federal Aid Highway Act, and the joint metropolitan planning regulations of FHWA and FTA.

The decision-making body of the RVTPO is its Policy Board, which consists of sixteen voting members. The voting membership of the Policy Board consists of the following representatives:

Voting Membership on the RVTPO Policy Board

Bedford County	1 representative
Botetourt County	2 representatives
Roanoke County	2 representatives
Montgomery County	1 representative
City of Roanoke	2 representatives
City of Salem	2 representatives
Town of Vinton	2 representatives
Greater Roanoke Transit Company	1 representative
Virginia Department of Transportation	1 representative
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation	1 representative
Roanoke Blacksburg Regional Airport Commission	1 representative

More details about the Board's structure are available online at rvarc.org. Staff of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission perform the day-to-day operations of the RVTPO. The staff, in conjunction with RVTPO's member agencies, collect, analyze, and evaluate demographic, land use, and transportation data to gain a better understanding of the transportation system requirements of the area. Staff members also prepare materials for use at Policy Board and Technical Committee meetings as well as any sub-committee meetings.

Professional staff members participate in all RVTPO meetings, share technical expertise, and provide administration of the transportation planning program. In addition, staff members represent the agency at other meetings regarding planning activities within the region.

IV. Regional Air Quality Considerations

In October 2015, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency established the 8-hour Ozone standard at 70 parts per billion (ppb). Recent trends in ground-level ozone for the Roanoke Valley indicate that RVTPO complies with the October 2015 8-hour Ozone standard. According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Roanoke design value for 2021-2023 was 60 ppb, a slight increase over the previous collection period. RVTPO staff will continue to evaluate the region's air quality standard compliance.

V. Fiscal Year 2025 Accomplishments

A concise summary of key planning activities performed in FY2025 is below:

2.01 Regional Transportation Planning

- Staff led the development of a *Regional Electric Vehicle Charging Study* to examine challenges and barriers to the implementation of a robust EV charging network, including evaluation of local ordinances, zoning, planning, and right-of-way issues.
- Staff managed the MS PowerApps database and web application that holds all fiscally constrained and vision transportation projects in the RVTP and TIP.
- Staff provided RVTPO planning boundary updates based on 2020 census data, with adoption in FY25.

2.02 Transportation Funding Pursuit & Programming

- Staff monitored deliberations of the Commonwealth Transportation Board on revisions to the SMART SCALE transportation project funding process, evaluated potential impacts, and coordinated communications with regional stakeholders.
- Staff facilitated funding requests under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and the Carbon Reduction Program.
- Staff initiated a VDOT Request to Administer (RTA) for managing Professional Engineering Services to support the Glade Creek Greenway Phase III project.

2.03 Congestion Management

- Staff provided a yearly update on the 2020 Congestion Management Process.
- Staff provided a special report for RVTPO stakeholders on regional congestion in a statewide context.

2.04 Public Transportation Planning

- Staff coordinated with Valley Metro staff on a review of data collected through Automatic Passenger Counters as part of a Bus Stop Activity Analysis.
- Staff worked with Valley Metro on the development of their *Transit Strategic Plan*
- Staff completed the RIDE Solutions Commuter Assistance Program and Transportation Demand Management Strategic Plan 2025-2029. This project was

completed with a DRPT Technical Assistance Grant with matching funds from FTA 5303 Funding.

- TDM Strategic Plan

2.05 Public Engagement

- Staff oversaw the modernization of the RVARC website, enhancing the clarity of RVTPO pages and enabling the integration of surveys for increased public engagement.
- Staff participated in the quadrennial Federal Certification Review and will implement recommendations in the upcoming fiscal year.
- Staff led a triennial update to the Public Participation Plan
- Staff started development on the Title VI Plan.
- Staff migrated into a new public engagement platform and customer communication platform, Social Pinpoint and Consultation Manager.

2.06 Complete Streets Planning

- Staff conducted research, public outreach, and stakeholder engagement to create a draft Active Transportation Plan, with anticipated adoption in FY26.
- Staff participated in the *Virginia Walkability Action Institute*;
- Staff initiated a Safe Route to School programmatic collaboration with the City of Roanoke Public Schools and Pedal Safe Roanoke Volunteers. These efforts led to completing a Preston Park Elementary Walkabout project and a Walking School Buses program.
- Staff created a Bicycle Parking Application Program to award free bicycle parking to localities and non-profit organizations across the Roanoke Region. In partnership with the Friends of the Blue Ridge Foundation, the RVARC awarded eleven new bike racks to Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, Covington, and Roanoke College

VI. Federal Planning Considerations

The work tasks within this UPWP are reflective of issues and concerns from transportation agencies at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as transportation needs identified by the region's citizens. An underlying theme to the RVTPO's transportation work is the establishment and pursuit of performance targets, the use of performance measures to track progress towards meeting those targets, and a performance-driven outcome-based approach to transportation planning, programming, and decision-making.

Previously, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have requested that eight priority areas of emphasis that *were previously incorporated* into the work undertaken through the UPWP. These areas are summarized below:

- 1) Tackling the Climate Crisis – Transition to a Clean Energy, Resilient Future
- 2) Equity and Justice⁴⁰ in Transportation Planning
- 3) Complete Streets

- 4) Public Involvement
- 5) Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination
- 6) Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination.
- 7) Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)
- 8) Data in Transportation Planning

Additionally, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law on November 15, 2021, outlines federal priorities for transportation planning and provides more funding opportunities for the region through September 30, 2026. Some new items from the IIJA are the consideration of state and local housing patterns in the planning process, permitting the use of social media and other web tools to encourage public participation in planning, and requiring MPOs to consider the proportional representation of the population within the planning area when designating officials.

The UPWP is also guided by the following planning factors contained in the **Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and continued in the IIJA:**

- (1) Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
- (2) Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (3) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
- (4) Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
- (5) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
- (6) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
- (7) Promote efficient system management and operation;
- (8) Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;
- (9) Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
- (10) Enhance travel and tourism

VII. Work Program Tasks And Budget

On April 15, 2024, the RVTPO went through its third official Federal Compliance Review. Implementing the recommendations from this review will guide planning and programming process improvements over the next fiscal year, including a continued emphasis on the incorporation of performance metrics where appropriate. Unless otherwise stated, the tasks listed in the following sections will be performed/led by RVARC staff.

1. Program Support & Administration

1.0 Administration

This charge covers two main task areas:

Task: General Administration & Operations:

This task includes ongoing activities that ensure proper management and operation of a continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated (3-C) planning process as described in the Planning Agreement on Performance-Based Metropolitan Transportation Planning Responsibilities for the Roanoke Valley Region. The primary objectives of this task are (1) to implement the UPWP throughout the fiscal year and provide all required administrative functions including all accounting functions, personnel administration, office management, financial reporting, contract administration, and purchase and upkeep of necessary office equipment; and (2) to support the activities of the RVTPO through the preparation of reports, presentations, agendas, minutes and mailings for all Policy Board, Technical Committee, and related meetings, as well as attendance at those meetings. Attendance at staff meetings, stakeholder coordination meetings, and timekeeping are included in this task as well.

Task: Work Program Management:

This task provides for the management and monitoring of the UPWP and related activities. If, during this fiscal year, an amendment to the UPWP is deemed necessary due to changes in planning priorities and/or the inclusion of new planning efforts, staff will identify and detail such amendments for consideration by the RVTPO Policy Board.

This task also provides for the development of a UPWP for the next fiscal year. The document will consider and, where possible, incorporate suggestions from federal funding agencies, state transportation agencies, transit operating agencies, and local governments participating in the RVTPO. The approved UPWP will be distributed to the Policy Board and made available to the public on the RVARC website (rvarc.org).

Products and Schedule:

- UPWP for FY 2027 (Spring 2026)

- Maintenance/amendments to the FY 2026 UPWP (as needed)
- Monitoring of FY 2026 UPWP budget and progress on activities (ongoing)
- Efficient office operation, accurate financial information, preparation of quarterly reports, and preparation of information in support of RVTPO activities. (ongoing)
- Administrative support for the Transportation Technical Committee, Transportation Policy Board, and other related work groups and/or subcommittees, including the development and timely distribution of meeting agendas and related materials and other support activities.
- Well-trained and informed staff and Policy Board members. (as needed)

Lead: RVARC staff

Estimated Budget: Total \$118,600 (\$85,000 PL and \$33,600 FTA/5303) (included for planning purposes; not intended to be restrictive)

2. Program Activities

2.01 Project Planning

The following regional transportation planning activities are responsible for demonstrating federal compliance for the long-range metropolitan transportation planning process.

Task: RVTP Plan Implementation and Updates:

Objective and Description: Regional transportation planning enables local stakeholders to think beyond traditional borders and adopt a coordinated approach to addressing current transportation needs and planning for the future mobility of people and freight. Every five years, the RVTPO updates the Roanoke Valley's Transportation Plan (RVTP). The current plan was approved in January 2023.

In 2022, the RVTPO began the development of a new performance-based planning and programming process with grant assistance from the Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. Given the timing of the region's transportation plan update, the new process will be concurrently implemented with the RVTP.

Staff will continue to implement and refine the performance management approach to transportation planning and programming initiated in 2022 with the new PBPP process. Performance-based planning and programming includes the utilization of transportation performance measures and targets, performance reporting, and investment directed toward the achievement of transportation system performance outcomes.

The overall approach to transportation planning in the Roanoke Valley will be performance-driven, outcome-based, and multi-modal in focus. This item covers the activities related to the development, maintenance, and implementation of the region's transportation plan and includes, but is not limited to, the following activities;

New Activities:

- **2050 Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan:** Staff will start to gather materials and prepare for upcoming efforts for the development of the 2050 Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan.

Ongoing Activities:

- **Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan Implementation and Management:** Staff will oversee the RVTP, collaborating with stakeholders to address regional transportation needs, utilizing the new travel demand model for future impact assessments, and providing regular updates through media. The MS Power Apps database will be maintained to track transportation needs, projects, and investments, supporting continuous planning activities. The performance-based planning process (PBPP), developed with the VA Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, will guide ongoing work.
- **Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan Follow-Up:** Staff will address priority congestion, safety needs (motorist, pedestrian, and cyclist), and work with stakeholders to clarify needs, identify solutions, and pursue necessary funding.
- **RVTPO Study Area Mapping:** Staff will analyze the impacts of population changes based on the 2020 US Census and develop a new study area boundary for future planning and updates to the RVTP.
- **Data Dashboard:** Staff will expand data management and data sharing capacity across all modes of transportation.

Products and Schedule:

- Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan Amendments/Adjustments (as needed)
- 2050 Study Area Boundary (ongoing)
- Coordination with VTrans, VDOT's Rural Long-Range Transportation Planning Process, Livable Roanoke Valley plan implementation, and other long-range plans (ongoing)
- Maintenance of RVTP MS Power Apps database (ongoing)
- Other metropolitan transportation planning technical work as required (ongoing)

Task: Performance Measures and Obligations Report:

Staff worked with the VA Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment's GAP consultant team in FY23 to develop and document the RVTPO's performance-based planning process. The PBPP process was applied to the development of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan. Staff will continue to apply the PBPP process to ongoing work related to the RVTP, including the incorporation of a new database in MS Power Apps, which houses the region's transportation needs, funded projects, and priority projects to pursue. Maintaining and improving this database will be a key focus of this work. Staff will use this database to complete summary pages for projects in the TIP to facilitate ongoing planning activities.

This task primarily involves work related to the above-mentioned items and any work involving grants or the Performance Measures and Federal Obligations Reports; some activities covered in this task may include, but are not limited to;

New Activities:

Ongoing Activities:

- ***Federal Transportation Performance Measures Integration:*** This item will address any necessary work to integrate federally required and recommended performance measures and targets into the region's PBPP process and transportation plan. This item will continue assessing and compiling the data needed for the performance-based approach to long-range planning.
- Implementation of Federal Certification Review recommendations.

Task: Transportation Studies and Committees:

This task provides time for development and participation in projects, including the TED Study, Thriving Communities, I-81 Committees, Virginia Tech Smart Cities for Good, and other related activities.

New Activities:

- ***National Science Foundation Autonomous Transit Support Work:*** This item will be funded through a grant, if successful. The work will primarily focus on areas of the Town of Fincastle and Rocky Mount.
- ***City of Salem Area Plans:*** This item will help provide technical assistance to the City of Salem in its efforts to develop two area plans.

Ongoing Activities:

- ***Thriving Communities Grant:*** Staff will support the City of Roanoke's public engagement activities associated with the revitalization of the Williamson Road corridor.
- ***Roanoke Region Transportation Priorities for Economic Development and Growth (TED Study):*** Staff will conduct a triennial update to the Roanoke Region Transportation Priorities for Economic Development and Growth.
- ***Truck Parking Study:*** Staff will conduct an evaluation of challenges and opportunities to enhance truck parking along Interstate 81 and the region's Corridors of Statewide Significance, including potential funding sources for such enhancements.
- ***I-81 Corridor Improvement Committee:*** Staff will also monitor and coordinate improvements to I-81.
- ***Virginia Tech's Smart Cities for Good:*** Staff will collaborate with Virginia Tech's research group on public engagement activities in support of their research project on autonomous transit in rural towns and small cities. This work item also appears

in the FY25 Rural Transportation Work Program, where a majority of the work will be assigned.

Products and Schedule:

- Triennial update to the Roanoke Region Transportation Priorities for Economic Development and Growth (Winter 2025-Spring 2026)
- Truck Parking Evaluation on Corridors of Statewide Significance (Methodology Fall 2025, Study Spring 2026)

Task: Environmental Analysis & Land Use:

This task item primarily involves work with the nexus of environmental, transportation, and land use planning. Some activities covered in this task may include, but are not limited to:

- ***Air Quality and Environmental Compliance:*** The RVTPPO complies with the revised Federal EPA 8-hour Ozone Standard of 70 parts per billion (ppb). Staff will continue to monitor updates regarding fine particulate PM2.5 and Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) in case future transportation planning requirements arise for these pollutants. Currently, the RVTPPO is in an Ozone Early Action Compact area and is not subject to conformity analysis.
- ***Land Use/Transportation Planning:*** Staff will coordinate with state and local governments on transportation and land-use planning by utilizing Urban Development Areas and Multimodal Centers. This includes analyzing zoning and land use compatibility, supporting the congestion management process, and creating products like future build-out scenarios, land use/transportation investment maps, and model zoning ordinance language to assist localities in minimizing future congestion.

New Activities:

- ***Environmental Transportation Impact Analysis Study:*** Staff will research and coordinate with localities and transportation partners across modes to analyze the environmental impacts of transportation systems, such as storm run-off, noise pollution, and serve as a data resource for the localities.

Ongoing Activities:

- ***Land Use/Transportation Planning:*** Staff will facilitate coordination between state and local governments around transportation and land-use by utilizing the Urban Development Areas and Multimodal Centers and Districts Framework and analyzing local zoning and use compatibility. Products of this effort support the congestion management process and may include future build-out scenarios, land use/transportation investment mapping, model comprehensive plan/zoning ordinance language, and other products that could be used by localities in their planning efforts to minimize future congestion.

Products and Schedule:

- Implementation activities related to the Electric Vehicles Charging Study
- Monitoring of Ozone and PM 2.5 trends with regards to continued air quality compliance; Monitoring of federal and state policies concerning Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and their possible impact on the RVTPPO planning process; Public outreach and maintenance of air quality action day communication lists (as needed).

Task: Congestion Management, Travel Demand, Vanpool:

Under a DRPT grant, staff worked with a consultant to conduct a Regional Travel Survey in FY23. Staff published the results of the Travel Survey in FY24 and presented findings to the Transportation Technical Committee and Transportation Policy Board. Staff will continue to apply the 2045 travel demand model to planning scenarios and continue coordination with VDOT modelers to analyze the impacts of transportation plan priority projects to pursue. Staff will continue revisions with this model concurrent with the availability of new data.

Objective and Description: The most recent Congestion Management Process (CMP) was approved in October 2020, with implementation progress reports completed each subsequent fiscal year. The last CMP progress report was completed in FY25. These two products guide the work done under this task. This section provides for the development and implementation of the CMP as well as amendments, adjustments, or updates of the process to incorporate new data or findings.

This task item primarily involves work related to the activities outlined in the CMP document; some activities covered in this task may include, but are not limited to:

New Activities:

- **Congestion Management Plan - Data Methodology update:** Staff will work with the TTC and stakeholders to review and update the CMP document, including but not limited to current data collection and methodology for measuring congestion in the region, congestion management strategies, and performance measures.

Ongoing Activities:

- **CMP Implementation:** Staff will continue implementation of regional CMP objectives/ strategies, monitor system performance measures, collect data, analyze congestion, coordinate congestion management with other agencies, and integrate new data sources and data analysis into the CMP planning process. Staff will review CMP objectives, performance measures, and strategies to ensure the CMP remains a relevant document for addressing regional congestion.
- **Travel Demand Model:** Under a DRPT grant, staff worked with a consultant to conduct a Regional Travel Survey in FY23. Staff published the results of the Travel Survey in FY24 and presented findings to the Transportation Technical Committee and Transportation Policy Board. Staff will continue to apply the 2045 travel demand model to planning scenarios and continue coordination with VDOT modelers to analyze the impacts of transportation plan priority projects to pursue.

Staff will continue revisions to this model concurrent with the availability of new data.

- **Vanpool Planning:** Staff will continue working with existing and prospective employees to plan vanpools and to provide new options for mobility between the RVTPO area and destinations beyond.

Products and Schedule:

- Ongoing CMP data monitoring, regional congestion analysis, implementation and evaluation of congestion management strategies, and progress reporting; updates to CMP performance measures, measures of congestion, objectives, and strategies reporting.
- Travel Demand Model implementation (ongoing)
- Planning for vanpool service(s) (as needed)

Task: TIP and Funding Programs (SS, STBG, CRP, TAP):

Objective and Description: The RVTPO pursues various transportation funding opportunities, manages the process by which certain federal programs allocate funding in the RVTPO region, and approves the use of federal funds for priority transportation investments.

As required by federal planning and programming regulations, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Roanoke Valley area is a four-year program of the planned federal obligations for highway, bicycle, and pedestrian projects eligible and previously selected to receive federal funds and for transit projects anticipated to be selected in each grant year. State and locally funded projects may also be included in the TIP to assess progress toward the achievement of regional goals and performance measures.

The TIP is updated every three years with amendments or adjustments in intervening years, as needed, and must be approved by the RVTPO Policy Board and the Governor of Virginia.

The RVTPO administers the allocation of Roanoke Valley formula funds for the following federal programs:

- The RVTPO's federal apportionment of **Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)** Program: Roanoke Valley Urbanized Area Suballocation Funding, referred to previously as the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP);
- The **Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)** is a smaller category of funding for projects designed to reduce transportation emissions. The RVTPO is eligible through its status as a Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) with Transportation Management Area (TMA) status within Virginia;

- The **Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA)** is another smaller category of funding for which the RVTPPO Policy Board will select projects within the RVTPPO Study Area Boundary. The Roanoke Valley also receives FTA 5310 funds (transportation for the elderly and people with disabilities). Although DRPT manages these funds for the RVTPPO, staff are involved with the coordination of projects and monitor the use of these funds as they are approved by the RVTPPO Policy Board and programmed in the TIP.

The RVTPPO is responsible for awarding funding to these suballocation programs as outlined in the *Project Development and Selection Procedures for Roanoke Valley Urbanized Areas Suballocation Funding Procedures Manual*.

SMART SCALE is Virginia's prioritization process for selecting and investing in transportation projects; applications are due every even year. MERIT is DRPT's public transportation grants program, and applications are accepted yearly.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act continues to provide many discretionary federal funding opportunities.

This task primarily involves work related to the above-mentioned items and any work involving grants or the programming of funds; some activities covered in this task may include, but are not limited to:

New Activities:

- Administration of STBG Round 7 – new application year.
- Administration of Carbon Reduction Program – new application year.
- Administration of Transportation Alternatives Program (even years)

Ongoing Activities:

- Staff will oversee various planning and funding activities, including the approval and updating of performance measure targets, facilitation of SMART SCALE project submissions, and monitoring new developments within the SMART SCALE process. They will manage the STBG, CRP, TA, and FTA 5310 funding programs, ensuring compliance with approved policies and procedures, and will update these policies as needed. Staff will track the status of STBG projects, coordinate with relevant state and federal agencies (OIPI, VDOT, VDRPT, FTA), and provide updates to stakeholders on TA project progress. They will prepare amendments or adjustments to the TIP or funding allocations and maintain the RVTP's funded projects database. Additionally, staff will participate in meetings related to SMART SCALE, TIP, SYIP, and performance measures, and will assist in investigating grant opportunities and technical assistance for applications, including those related to federal programs like the IJJA and IRA.

Products and Schedule:

- TIP amendments/adjustments (ongoing as needed)
- Annual listing of projects with federal obligations (Winter 2025/2026)

- Current STBG, CRP, and TA project updates (Fall 2025)
- STBG Financial Plan update (Fall 2025 – Spring 2026)
- Carbon Reduction Financial Plan (Fall 2025 – Spring 2026)
- Adjustments to STBG, Carbon Reduction, TA funding plans (as needed)
- Update STBG Project Development and Selection Procedures (as needed)
- Submission of SMART SCALE project applications (Round 7)
- Monitor legislative and Commonwealth Transportation Board modifications to the SMART SCALE program (as needed)
- Monitor developments with the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program (ongoing)
- Update website with related information, data collection and analysis of performance measures, MS Power Apps database with project information, and staff-administered public involvement process for products requiring input (ongoing)
- Review the Six-Year Plan for new projects and revised projects to inform project updates, tracking, and potential amendments to the TIP.
- Staff participation in meetings on the above-mentioned and related topics (ongoing)
- Additional products may include grant applications for transportation funding, funding analysis, new performance measures data development, and others (ongoing)

Task: Active Transportation and Greenways:

Objective and Description: This item is focused on Complete Streets planning activities to support safe and accessible transportation options, as incentivized under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The RVTPO previously developed a Regional Bikeway Plan and Regional Pedestrian Vision Plan, which provides a long-term vision to pursue the safe and adequate accommodation of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities. Consistent with this objective is the promotion of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, which is designed to promote walking and bicycling to school through infrastructure improvements, enforcement, tools, safety education, and other incentives. The Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan, approved in January 2023, prioritized the pedestrian and bicyclist safety needs by location in the region. Staff will facilitate planning and collaboration to address these needs.

Corridor and area studies can further analyze these transportation needs to clarify the issues, identify potential solutions, and ultimately identify priority projects to pursue for inclusion in the Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan. Analysis of each corridor/area or transportation need may consider access management, safety, security, operations evaluation, resiliency, reliability, multimodal connections, parking, current and future land use, existing activity density, adjacent land zoning, and many other factors. VDOT's Transportation Efficient Land Use and Design Guide and VDRPT's Multimodal System Design Guidelines are important references to guide planning activities covered by this item.

The following specific plans, studies, and tasks will be accomplished next fiscal year.

New Activities:

- ***Regional and Urban Counter Program Update:*** Staff will overhaul the existing counter program. The new update will include the development of guidance or plan documentation, research on the counter and other technology, and potentially purchasing replacement and additional counters or adjacent services to assist in providing data for the program.
- ***Bike Route 76 Study:*** Staff will undertake an update to the Bike Route 76 Study.
- ***Greenway Master Plan Update:*** Staff will provide technical assistance and develop an update to the Greenway Master Plan.

Ongoing Activities:

- ***Safety:*** Staff will conduct activities that advance safety efforts in the region, including potential data collection and visualization activities such as a regional safety dashboard and data repository, identifying potential updates to the 2019 Roanoke Valley Regional Transportation Safety Study, and reviewing competitive grants for projects to improve safety. The TPO area has three active Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grants, for which staff will provide support, coordination, and stakeholder input.
- ***Active Transportation Plan Update:*** The 2024 Regional Active Transportation Plan is a combined update of the 2012 RVTPPO Bikeway Plan and 2015 RVTPPO Pedestrian Plan. The Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP) utilizes regional multimodal centers & districts, current research, and other data collected during the development of the RVTP to create a long-term vision and network. implementation support, and policies to aid localities in achieving a comprehensive network for non-motorized roadway users in the next 20 years. The ATP is scheduled to be completed and adopted in FY26, with activities including plan content writing, final public outreach, and locality review.
- ***Cyclist/Pedestrian Counts:*** Staff will continue to collect data on trips made by bicycle and/or walking using field counters or data programs such as StreetLight InSight. This work includes conducting field work to install/uninstall and maintain counters, downloading and validating data, managing, analyzing, and mapping data, developing analyses, evaluating the program's value, and seeking options to improve the program. Counts will analyze sites before/after an investment to identify improvements made to cyclist or pedestrian safety; locations may also be selected to support the determination of the preferred solution to improve cyclist or pedestrian safety.
- ***Maintenance and Development of bicycle/pedestrian shapefiles and maps:*** Staff will develop new or update existing bicycle or pedestrian GIS shapefiles and regional transportation planning maps as new elements are added to the regional bicycle/pedestrian network.
- ***Five-Year Update to the 2018 Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan:*** Working in collaboration with the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission and related stakeholders, staff will assist in the ongoing development of an update to the

Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan through general technical support, including detailed mapping of potential routes.

- **Bus Stop Accessibility Study:** In coordination with the bus stop activity analysis described under task 2.04, staff will continue to review the 2013 Bus Stop Accessibility Study and share status reports with stakeholders on ongoing activities to improve bus stop accessibility in the region.
- **Bicycle Parking for the Roanoke Region:** The Bicycle Parking program, now in its third year, continues to expand bike accessibility through a partnership with Friends of Blue Ridge. RVARC staff manage the application process, select recipients, and coordinate bike rack manufacturing and distribution. This initiative supports local communities, organizations, and businesses by providing free bike racks, encouraging active transportation across the region.
- **Safe Routes to School:** Staff will explore opportunities to expand utilization and support for the Safe Routes to School program.
- **Glade Creek Phase III:** Staff will administer the procurement process for preliminary engineering on the Town of Vinton's Glade Creek Phase III project as outlined in the project administration agreement approved by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Products and Schedule:

- Assist with the development and implementation of the Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan (Ongoing)
- Bus Stop Accessibility Study Review (Fall 2025)
- Active Transportation Plan Update (Fall 2025)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian traffic counts (ongoing)
- Thriving Communities (ongoing)
- Maintenance of GIS databases and mapping (ongoing)
- Participation in corridor/area studies conducted by OIPI or member organizations.
- Other corridor/area work as needed.
- Safe Routes to Schools (ongoing)

Task: Transit and Human Services:

Objective and Description: The Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan identifies a few priority transit access and transit system management needs for the region. Further clarification of these needs will assist in the development of potential solutions. The RVTP process also identified other transit needs that were not priorities but could become priorities in the future; as time permits, staff will work to better understand the other documented transit needs and work with stakeholders to identify preferred solutions, projects, or services to pursue.

The Greater Roanoke Transit Company (Valley Metro) is the Roanoke Valley's designated provider of fixed-route transit. Unified Human Services Transportation Systems, Inc. (RADAR) provides paratransit services in the Roanoke Valley under contract to Valley Metro (STAR service). Via is the transit operator in the Roanoke Valley

for Roanoke County (CORTRAN service) as of January 2021. Botetourt County also provides transit services to its senior and disabled populations. Other organizations such as enCircle and Local Office on Aging provide transportation services to their clients and federal funding has been used to support their programs.

This item aims to provide public transportation planning assistance and support the Roanoke Valley's planning efforts for transit service enhancements. The region's vision for transit is captured in the Transit Vision Plan. Additionally, the Coordinated Human Services Mobility Plan (CHSMP), Valley Metro and RADAR Transit Development Plans, and Valley Metro Transit Strategic Plan. Staff will provide assistance to the responsible agencies as needed to maintain and update these required documents.

At a minimum this item will include:

New Activities:

- ***Microtransit Technical Support:*** Staff will coordinate with all localities to explore opportunities for microtransit, including but not limited to identifying, developing, and applying for funding for feasibility studies or demonstration grants. Staff can serve as project managers on microtransit initiatives.
- ***RVARC & Franklin County Microtransit Feasibility Study:*** Staff will support \$25,000 of 5303 Transit Planning Funds if the project is selected by July 2025 through the DRPT Technical Assistance Program. Staff will serve as project managers and be the fiscal agent for the project if successful. See the January 2025 RVTPPO Staff Report and Resolution for additional information.
- ***MetroFlex Ridership Analysis:*** Staff will coordinate with Valley Metro and RADAR Staff to develop ridership analysis for the on-demand transit program MetroFlex.
- ***RADAR Mapping and Technical Assistance:*** Staff will coordinate with RADAR Staff to update the mapping of transit services, provide technical support including program outreach, and development of materials for grant or procurement opportunities.

Ongoing Activities:

- ***Implementation of Roanoke Valley Transit Vision Plan (TVP), Valley Metro Transit Strategic Plan (TSP), and Regional Transit Development Plans (TDP):*** The TVP provides the vision for future transit services and connections in the Roanoke Valley. The TSP for Valley Metro was developed in FY23-24 by Valley Metro. The TSP is the update to the 2018 Valley Metro TDP; RADAR also has a TDP with required annual updates. Priority needs and projects/services were incorporated into the RVTP and will be reflected in the TSP and TDP when updated. Staff will continue to provide any needed assistance or coordination to transit agencies as they develop and implement these plans.
- ***Human Services-Public Transit Coordinated Transportation Planning:*** Staff will provide assistance with coordinating human services transportation Staff will participate in quarterly meetings, review materials, and provide input as needed.

- **Passenger Rail and Public Transit Coordination:** Staff will support the ongoing effort to plan improvements for transfers between public transit and rail as well as expansions of passenger rail services.
- **Maintenance and Development of Transit-related GIS shapefiles and maps:** Staff will develop new or update existing transit-related GIS shapefiles and regional planning maps as modifications are made to the regional transit network.
- **General Transit Planning:** As needed, staff will incorporate transit components into other studies and plans identified in this Work Program and support any coordination of urban transit service planning with the rural area or other intercity transit services.
- **Automatic Passenger Counter Activity Analysis:** Staff will work with Valley Metro to analyze bus stop activity and trends for future recommendations.
- **Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan Follow-Up:** Staff will work with stakeholders towards addressing the transit access and system management needs in the RVTP by clarifying the needs, identifying possible and preferred solutions, and pursuing funding as needed.

Products and Schedule:

- Transit service analysis, studies, mapping, etc. as needed (ongoing)
- Maintenance of GIS databases and mapping (ongoing)
- Automatic Passenger Counter Activity Analysis (Fall 2025)
- Bus Stop Accessibility Study Review (Fall 2025)

Task: Other Grant or Corridor Assistance:

Objective and Description: The ongoing assistance for grant development and applications, general corridor inquiries, and assistance.

Ongoing Activities:

- **Coordination with Other Plans:** In particular, staff will ensure that metropolitan transportation planning is coordinated with the VTrans statewide transportation plan, the RVARC's rural long-range transportation plan, and any other related long-range transportation plans.
- **Other Technical Work:** Any other technical assistance or development of corridor plans, grant applications, or other transportation assistance work; such work may involve consultant assistance.

Lead: RVARC staff

Estimated Budget: Total \$630,200 (\$490,000 PL and \$140,200 FTA/5303) (included for planning purposes; not intended to be restrictive)

3. Outreach

2.02 Outreach

Task: Federal Certification Implementations:

Objective and Description: Public participation, stakeholder coordination, and outreach are key elements of the RVTPO's planning efforts. Activities will include, but are not limited to, the following:

Ongoing Activities:

- **Federal Planning Certification Review – Implementation of Recommendations:** Because the urbanized area's population is above 200,000, the Roanoke Valley is designated a Transportation Management Area (TMA). Every four years the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the State conduct a review of the RVTPO's adherence to effective transportation planning practices for metropolitan planning organizations as outlined in the federal code. The most recent Certification Review took place in April 2024. Staff will continue to review and implement the federal recommendations to improve the transportation planning and programming process in the Roanoke region.

Task: Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, Demographics:

Ongoing Activities:

- **Public Participation Plan:** Staff completed a triennial update to the 2018 Public Participation Plan (PPP) in FY24. Staff will review and evaluate public participation efforts and adjust strategies based on the FY24 update to the Public Participation Plan as needed.
- **Title VI Plan:** Staff updated the Title VI Implementation Plan in FY20 and has since addressed non-compliance issues. Staff will continue to review federal requirements and monitor performance.

Task: Public Engagement & Platform Support:

New Activities:

Ongoing Activities:

- **TPO Website:** The RVTPO website received a comprehensive update in FY24. Staff will continue to explore additional options to ensure website materials are current and that users will experience a smooth interface. This subtask allocates resources specifically for website improvement as well as public involvement through social media and other methods.

- **TPO Demographic Profiles Maintenance and Updates:** RVTPPO Demographic Profiles will be updated per the availability of U.S. Census 2020 data sources
- **Technical and Financial Support for Public Engagement Platform Social Pinpoint, and Consultation Manager**
- **Celebrate Transportation Day:** In 2018, the Virginia General Assembly passed HJ59, designating the Thursday before Memorial Day as Celebrate Transportation Day in Virginia. Staff may develop and participate in related activities.
- **Public Involvement Forum, Fees, Subscriptions or Consulting Services:** Staff may need to enlist the services of online public involvement forums or other specialized citizen and community-based forums.
- **RVTPPO Marketing:** In order to better notify citizens and organizations of the RVTPPO's work, marketing the RVTPPO's role and work in the community will be conducted via the Regional Commission's newsletters, social media, and other communication methods.

Products and Schedule:

- Implementation of Federal Certification Review recommendations (ongoing)
- Necessary amendments or adjustments to the Public Participation Plan, Title VI Implementation, and public and stakeholder outreach at various scales. (ongoing)
- Implementation of recommendations from the 2020 Federal Certification Review (ongoing)

Task: Transit and Human Services Committees:

Ongoing Activities:

- **Transit-Related Advisory Committees:** Staff will participate in advisory committees and meetings of local groups and organizations (e.g., Age-Friendly Community, Transit Passenger Advisory Committee, RADAR Advisory Committee, etc.) as needed to coordinate transportation efforts, obtain input to the metropolitan planning process, and facilitate education among the public about transportation planning.

Task: Bicycle and Pedestrian Committees:

Ongoing Activities:

- **Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee:** Staff will continue to manage the Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee, facilitate approximately five meetings/year, and support activities related to Complete Streets planning.

Task: General Public Stakeholder Involvement:

New Activities:

- **Coordination with VDOT Staunton District:** The Alleghany Highlands falls into the VDOT Staunton district, which, with RVARC, does not have as strong a

relationship, given that the bulk of our service area falls in the Salem district. Rural and transportation staff will identify opportunities to engage with Staunton District staff to build a stronger relationship and provide better service to our Allegheny County members.

Ongoing Activities:

- **General Public and Stakeholder Involvement Opportunities:** Staff may pursue a wide variety of public and stakeholder involvement opportunities not specifically listed in the aforementioned items.

Products and Schedule:

- Administration of Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee (ongoing)
- Participation in Age Friendly Community, Valley Metro Transit Passenger Advisory Committee and RADAR Advisory Committee (ongoing)
- Attendance at conferences, webinars, teleconferences, seminars; TPO website maintenance, and update of TPO Demographic Profiles. (ongoing)
- Attendance at transportation-related meetings of local organizations or as requested. (ongoing)

Lead: RVARC staff

Estimated Budget: Total \$80,500 (\$55,000 PL and \$25,500 FTA/5303) (included for planning purposes; not intended to be restrictive)

4. General Technical Assistance

2.03 General Technical Assistance

Objective and Description: Staff will research, develop, maintain, and analyze data for use in a variety of transportation planning technical support activities. Work activities will be organized around the subtasks listed below. Any combination of subtasks may be completed this fiscal year as opportunities and needs arise; however, circumstances may not permit all subtasks to be finalized by the end of the fiscal year.

Where feasible, this item also contains provisions for an on-call consultant or consultants to provide general technical assistance in transportation planning activities. This item also contains contingency funds intended for future programs in case available funds are lower than anticipated.

Ongoing Activities:

- **General Technical Assistance:** Assist federal/state/local governments, transit agencies, or other stakeholders and citizens on transportation work as requested.
- **Technical Support Activities:** Conduct a variety of planning activities to support work program projects identified previously in the UPWP and/or the general planning process.

- **Support to Statewide Multimodal Planning:** As needed.
- **Participation in other Transportation-Related Activities/Meetings:** As needed or as requested by stakeholders/citizens.

Lead: RVARC staff

Estimated Budget: Total \$293,000 (\$267,000 PL and \$26,000 FTA/5303) (included for planning purposes; not intended to be restrictive)

5. Professional Development

2.04 Professional Development

Objective and Description: Staff education and training remain crucial to advance the planning priorities of an ever-changing region and to ensure alignment with new federal transportation regulations/guidelines. Staff must be positioned to work collaboratively with the Policy Board and committee members to develop a shared understanding of changes to federal regulations and guidelines and innovative planning practices and concepts.

Task: Continuing Education and Staff Development:

Ongoing Activities:

- ***Continuing Education*** for professional development:
 - Staff will participate in certifications related to APA, AICP, PTP, and GIS-P.
- ***Other Certifications:*** Other transportation certifications, including but not limited to Locally Administered Projects, and the University of Virginia Transportation Training Academy (UVA LTAP).

Task: Conferences, Trainings, Webinars:

Ongoing Activities:

- ***Conferences, Webinars, Teleconferences, and Seminars:*** Staff will remain current on broader transportation, land use, and other related planning activities by participating in transportation and planning webinars, conferences, and meetings for various organizations/groups, including:
 - the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)
 - the Transportation Research Board (TRB), National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), Governor's Transportation Conference (GTC),
 - American Planning Association (APA), National Planning Conference (NPC),
 - Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP)
 - Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (VAMPO),
 - Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (VAPA), and
 - Virginia Transit Association (VTA), and

- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) International Conference on Transportation & Development, Transportation & Development Institute (T&DI), and
- Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) Conference, and
- ITS America Conference/Meetings, and
- National Rural Intelligent Transportation Systems (NRITS) Conference, and
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Meetings and Conference, and
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Conference, and
- International Conference on Urban Transportation Systems Conference, and
- TransportationCamp Meetings and Conference, and
- Safe Routes to School Conference, and
- Locally Administered Projects (VDOT) Meetings and Conference.

Lead: RVARC staff

Estimated Budget: Total \$15,000 (\$10,000 PL and \$5,000 FTA/5303) (included for planning purposes; not intended to be restrictive)

VIII. Alignment Of Program Activities & Planning Factors

Tasks	Planning Factors									
	<i>Economic</i>	<i>Safety</i>	<i>Security</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Connectivity</i>	<i>Management</i>	<i>Preservation</i>	<i>Stormwater</i>	<i>Tourism</i>
<i>Program Activities</i>										
<i>2.01 Project Planning</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>2.02 Outreach</i>		x		x		x	x	x		
<i>2.03 General Technical Assistance</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>2.04 Professional Development</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			

IX. RVTPO Proposed Revenues And Expenditures By Federal, State And Local Sources

	Federal	VDOT Match	MPO Match	Total PL	5303	State	Local	Total 5303	Total
<u>Proposed Revenues</u>									
New FY 2026	\$426,589	\$53,323	\$53,323	\$533,235	\$184,681	\$23,085	\$23,085	\$230,852	\$764,087
Carryover FY2024 (VDOT), FY2026 (5303)	\$299,682	\$37,460	\$37,460	\$374,602	\$100,331	\$12,541	\$12,541	\$125,414	\$500,016
Total Revenue:	\$726,271	\$90,783	\$90,783	\$907,837	\$285,012	\$35,626	\$35,626	\$356,266	\$1,264,103

(July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026)

	PL	State	Local	Total PL	5303	State	Local	Total 5303	Total
<u>Proposed Expenditures</u>									
<u>1.0 Program Support and Administration</u>	\$68,000	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$85,000	\$26,880	\$3,360	\$3,360	\$33,600	\$118,600
<u>2.0 Program Activities</u>	\$657,600	\$82,200	\$82,200	\$822,000	\$154,560	\$19,670	\$19,670	\$196,700	\$1,018,700
2.01 Project Planning	\$392,000	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$490,000	\$112,160	\$14,020	\$14,020	\$140,200	\$630,200
2.02 Outreach	\$44,000	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$55,000	\$20,400	\$2,550	\$2,550	\$25,500	\$80,500
2.03 Gen Technical Assistance	\$213,600	\$26,700	\$26,700	\$267,000	\$20,800	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$26,000	\$293,000
2.04 Professional Development	\$8,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$500	\$500	\$5,000	\$15,000
Total Expenses:	\$725,600	\$90,700	\$90,700	\$907,000	\$184,240	\$23,030	\$23,030	\$230,300	\$1,137,300

Note: Rounding of numbers may result in minor calculation discrepancies.

VDOT Salem District Support (SPR funding) for Planning Activities within the RVTPO Area during FY 2026 is \$33,500.