

*Celebrating 50 Years of
Regional Collaboration*

50

Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC)



July, 2019

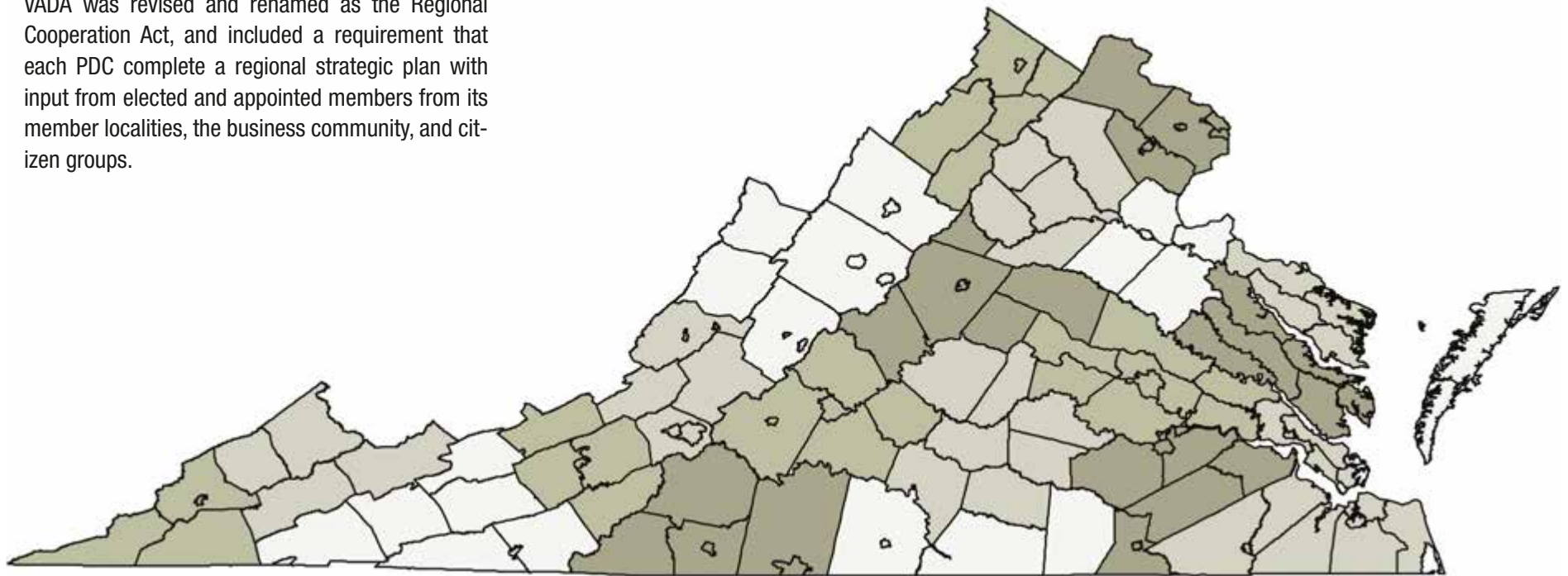
Introduction

Planning District Commissions (PDCs) originated from a recommendation proposed by the Virginia Metropolitan Area Study Commission, known as the Hahn Commission after its chairman, Marshall Hahn (then president of Virginia Tech). The Hahn Commission's recommendations, which ultimately were put into legislation in the form of the Virginia Area Development Act (VADA), reflected a growing trend at the time in regional planning in Virginia and throughout the United States. Fifty years later, PDCs remain a critical component of regional cooperation and development in Virginia.

PDCs were intended to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation in addressing problems and opportunities greater than any one locality. In 1995, VADA was revised and renamed as the Regional Cooperation Act, and included a requirement that each PDC complete a regional strategic plan with input from elected and appointed members from its member localities, the business community, and citizen groups.

At this 50-year mark, PDCs can reflect on their long record of accomplishment that demonstrates that regionalism is a key element to successful programs in their communities. While each PDC tackles issues and projects as directed by its member governments, the greater, cumulative result is a better quality of life in Virginia.

While no single publication can document the significant contributions made by PDCs over the years, this publication attempts to provide a snapshot of each PDC to highlight their work and to showcase the good that came from successfully meeting challenges in a wide variety of issue areas.



From the President

For the VAPDC and most of the Planning District Commissions/Regional Councils across Virginia, 2019 has been a year of celebration. It has been 50 years since the formation of the first PDCs in the state, after they were authorized by the passage of the Virginia Area Development Act in 1968. Our 21 PDCs serve every region of the Commonwealth, bringing together local elected and appointed officials, and citizens, to facilitate regional solutions to community and state issues, while also providing technical and programmatic assistance to their member governments.

Previous state officials are to be commended for the foresight to create a statewide regional network that could achieve economies of scale through regional approaches. PDCs met this challenge “head on,” and have excelled. Through hard work and commitment, PDCs have improved their regions and communities by being conveners and collaborators, and leaders, in areas such as environmental and transportation planning, economic and tourism development, housing, broadband expansion, and many others. They’ve

also worked diligently with state and federal agency partners to obtain grants to ensure that counties, cities and towns meet the demands and desires of their citizens.

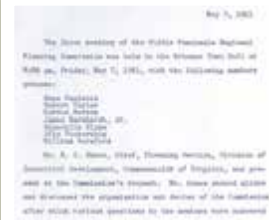
The importance of regionalism in Virginia continues to grow, and PDCs are “at the table” in those efforts. Just in the past few years, PDCs have been intricately involved in the creation and work of the nine *GO Virginia* regions. They have collaborated with DEQ to lead stakeholder discussions about Chesapeake Bay cleanup. PDCs also are partners in current state efforts to expanded broadband to unserved areas of the Commonwealth.

The VAPDC also is working to position itself moving forward to be a greater advocate for and supporter of PDCs. This past year, we hired our first-ever, part-time executive director, who helps provide ongoing and consistent guidance as we seek to cast our net wider to engage with state and federal agencies and other statewide partners. We have updated our strategic plan and are taking steps to enhance par-

ticipation in the Association. You will notice a fresher look to the VAPDC website, and I encourage you to visit www.vapdc.org when seeking information about Association conferences and activities, as well to connect with other PDCs. Finally, we are debuting a new VAPDC logo and brand at our Summer Conference, one that we hope will help to better convey the value of PDCs to our communities and partners.

Looking forward, the work of PDCs will continue to evolve as new demands are placed on state and local governments to do more with less. Regional cooperative activities that create efficiencies will help governments continue to provide needed services, while keeping costs lower because of these efficiencies. PDCs stand committed to seize all opportunities for regional collaboration and to extend capacities of their member governments.

Robert K. Coiner, President



“I especially want to applaud the work of PDCs several years ago when the GO Virginia initiative was getting off the ground. Your efforts to craft boundaries for the GO Virginia regions were critical, and many of you have remained integral participants of the established regional councils”.

- Virginia House Speaker Kirk Cox

“By providing key services such as grant application assistance, transportation planning and access to geographic information systems, PDCs are important advocates for the regional needs of Virginians everywhere”.

- Senator Tim Kaine

“Planning district commissions have helped bring about better governance in the Commonwealth, and I thank the VAPDC for all the work they do in bringing people together and highlighting leaders in Virginia who have served their constituents with great distinction”.

- Governor Ralph Northam

“Virginia leaders look to planning district commissions to provide comprehensive planning services and give technical assistance in developing and administering community improvement projects and programs”.

- Senator Mark Warner





COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 736

Commending Virginia's 21 planning district commissions

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 28, 2019
Agreed to by the Senate, February 7, 2019

WHEREAS, in 1966, the General Assembly created the Metropolitan Areas Study Commission (the Hahn Commission), which found that a holistic approach to solving local and regional problems needed to be taken and recommended a new concept, the creation of planning district commissions and service district commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Area Development Act (VADA) passed in 1968, creating the planning district commission framework "to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance"; and

WHEREAS, following passage of the VADA, the Commonwealth undertook an aggressive effort to establish planning district commission boundaries, the last of which were announced in 1969, and within one year, planning district commissions were established in 19 of the original 22 districts; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Virginia's planning district commissions, now 21 in number, are celebrating 50 years of promoting and supporting regional collaboration; and

WHEREAS, planning district commissions serve to foster intergovernmental cooperation by bringing together elected and appointed officials and citizens to discuss common needs and develop solutions to regional issues; and

WHEREAS, over the years, planning district commissions have conducted studies and identified solutions in the areas of transportation, economic development, infrastructure, the environment, and community development, among many others; and

WHEREAS, planning district commissions implement services and provide technical assistance to their member local governments; and

WHEREAS, planning district commissions often serve as liaisons between local and state governments, partnering with the Commonwealth to carry out state initiatives at the local and regional level; most recently, these partnerships have included working cooperatively with state agencies on the GO Virginia initiative and Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan development; and

WHEREAS, planning district commissions are committed to promoting opportunities for regional collaboration and expanding the types of services they provide to their member governments; and

WHEREAS, planning district commissions take great pride in their history and accomplishments, while recognizing the importance of looking ahead to the challenges of the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Virginia's 21 planning district commissions on the occasion of their 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for the vital support provided by Virginia's 21 planning district commissions to state and local governments.

House Patrons: Landes, Hodges, Stolle, Thomas, and Toscano
Senate Patrons: Hanger, Howell, and Ruff


Clerk of the House of Delegates

NO. 736

ENROLLED

January 28, 2019

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Virginia's Planning District Commissions

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (22)

Executive Director: Elaine K.N. Meil
P.O. Box 417, 23372 Front Street
Accomac, VA 23301
(757) 787-2936, email@a-npdc.org

Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (6)

Executive Director: Bonnie Riedesel
112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 885-5174, bonnie@cspdc.org

Central Virginia Planning District Commission (11)

Executive Director: Gary F. Christie
828 Main Street, 12th Floor
Lynchburg, VA 24504
(434) 845-3491, gchristie@cvpdc.org

Commonwealth Regional Council (14)

Executive Director: Melody Foster
P.O. Box P
102 1/2 High Street
Farmville, VA 23901
(434) 392-6104, mfoster@virginiashheartland.org

Crater Planning District Commission (19)

Executive Director: Dennis K. Morris
P.O. Box 1808, 1964 Wakefield Street
Petersburg, VA 23805
(804) 861-1666, dmorris@craterpdc.org

Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission (2)

Executive Director: James A. Baldwin
P.O. Box 548, 224 Clydesway Drive
Lebanon, VA 24266
(276) 889-1778, jimbaldwin@bvu.net

George Washington Regional Commission (16)

Executive Director: Linda Struyk Millsaps, PhD
406 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 373-2890, millsaps@gwregion.org

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (23)

Executive Director: Robert A. Crum, Jr.
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320
(757) 420-8300, rcrum@hrpdcva.gov

Lenowisco Planning District Commission (1)

Executive Director: Duane A. Miller
372 Technology Trail Ln Ste 101
Duffield, VA 24244-5330
(276) 431-1913 ext 23, dmiller@lenowisco.org

Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (18)

Executive Director: Lewis Lawrence
P.O. Box 286, 125 Bowden Street
Saluda, VA 23149
(804) 758-2311, lLawrence@mppdc.com

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (3)

Executive Director: Aaron Sizemore
1021 Terrace Drive
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-5103, asizemore@mrpdc.org

New River Valley Regional Commission (4)

Executive Director: Kevin Byrd
6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124
Radford, VA 24141
(540) 639-9313, kbyrd@nrvc.org

Northern Neck Planning District Commission (17)

Executive Director: Jerry W. Davis, AICP
P.O. Box 1600, 457 Main Street
Warsaw, VA 22572
(804) 333-1900, jdavis@nnpdc17.state.va.us

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (7)

Executive Director: Brandon Davis
400-E Kendrick Lane
Front Royal, VA 22630
(540) 636-8800, bdavis@nsvregion.org

Northern Virginia Regional Commission (8)

Executive Director: Robert Lazaro
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22031
(703) 642-0700, rlazaro@novaregion.org

PlanRVA (15)

Executive Director: Martha Shickle
9211 Forest Hill Avenue, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23235
(804) 323-2033, mshickle@richmondregional.org

Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (9)

Executive Director: Patrick L. Mauney
420 Southridge Parkway, Suite 106
Culpeper, VA 22701
(540) 829-7450, plmauney@rrregion.org

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (5)

Executive Director: Wayne G. Strickland
P.O. Box 2569, 313 Luck Avenue, SW
Roanoke, VA 24010
(540) 343-4417, wstrickland@rvarc.org

Southside Planning District Commission (13)

Executive Director: Gail P. Moody
P.O. Box 150, 200 South Mecklenburg Avenue
South Hill, VA 23970
(434) 447-7101, gmoody@southsidepdc.org

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (10)

Executive Director: Charles Boyles
401 East Water Street, P.O. Box 1505
Charlottesville, VA 22902-1505
(434) 979-7310, cboyles@tjpdcc.org

West Piedmont Planning District Commission (12)

Executive Director: Dave Hoback
P.O. Box 5268, 1100 Madison Street
Martinsville, VA 24115
(276) 638-3987, dhoback@wppdc.org

Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Accomack County, Northampton County, Town of Chincoteague



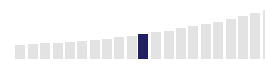
1973

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



13

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



2,105

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



44,631

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission is the regional planning body for the Eastern Shore of Virginia. The two counties of the Eastern Shore, Accomack and Northampton, comprise the entirety of the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay and are not contiguous to the rest of the Commonwealth. The Eastern Shore, by virtue of its isolation, is one of Virginia's great rural innovation laboratories. The people of our region are hardworking, unique and independent. These two counties produce more hard clams than any state in the country; rank as the two most valuable agricultural land counties in Virginia; produce a lot of poultry; and launch rockets into space at the Wallops Flight Facility. This independence and uniqueness are on display in the 19 incorporated towns, the Chincoteague fire company's annual auction fundraiser of Chincoteague Ponies, and the historically important and studied Tangier Island accent and way of speaking.

The Commission reflects the people's spirit. It shows whether we are building a needed medical center on Tangier Island where deliveries come by barge, not truck; cutting over 100 houses off their foundations and lifting them into place out of flood danger; or battling poverty by installing dozens of first-time indoor plumbing into renovated or rebuilt houses. It's on display when obtaining over \$9 million in grant funds and building the initial 100-mile fiber optic backbone and network and assisting our jurisdictions in creating the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority that owns and operates that network today, as the 326th to 540th miles of the eventual 1,200 mile Fiber to the Home phased project is being built. No matter the project, the Commission plans, innovates, funds and builds what the Eastern Shore of Virginia needs.



Willis Wharf deck/seaside water trail ceremony



Tangier Island Health Clinic Project

Little-known Fact

The two counties of the Eastern Shore of Virginia have the two oldest continuous court records in the United States.



Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, and 11 incorporated towns.



1969

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



21

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



3,439

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



301,485

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The CSPDC is located in the heart of the historic Shenandoah Valley and serves a region of rural communities, small towns, cities and two growing metropolitan areas. The region is bounded on the west by the Allegheny Mountains and on the east by the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Villages and farms dot the landscape, while our cities are graced with historic landmarks and prominent academic institutions. The region, known for its natural beauty, outdoor recreational opportunities and agricultural landscapes, has over one million acres of land publicly held and protected. The CSPDC is bisected by two major Interstates: I-81 and I-64. When the CSPDC formed in 1969, the highway system in the central Shenandoah Valley was just beginning to resemble what we know today. The last segment of I-81 to be constructed in our region, from Stuarts Draft to Harrisonburg, opened that same year. Interstate 64 from Staunton to Afton Mountain was completed shortly

after, in 1971. The completion of the interstate network brought the expansion of highway trucking that transformed the national economy, and set in motion a trend that is still being concentrated on today.

Over the last 50 years, the CSPDC region has evolved from being mostly rural, dotted with small cities and towns, to a region with two metropolitan planning areas, seven institutions of higher learning, two regional medical centers, three public transit systems, and a busy regional airport. The CSPDC has worked with the state and localities to develop corridor and access management plans, write grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian facilities and develop regional long-range plans. Today, the region's transportation investments are multi-modal, but still focus on the goals of improving safety, supporting economic development and ensuring access to jobs and services.



Interstate 81 Construction



Interstate 81 Today

Little-known Fact

Central Shenandoah is Virginia's largest PDC geographically—larger than the land area of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. It also is the only PDC that has two MPOs within its boundaries and the only PDC in the state (and one of the few in the country) that owns and operates a public transit system.



Central Virginia Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Lynchburg, Amherst County, Appomattox County, Bedford County, Campbell County, Altavista Town, Amherst Town, Appomattox Town, Bedford Town, Brookneal Town



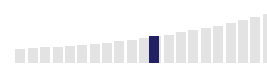
1969

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



23

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



2,140

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



262,639

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The Central Virginia Planning District Commission (CVPDC) was formed in 1969, but recently went “back to its roots,” opting to return to this original name after a stint of being known as the Region 2000 Local Government Council. This move was designed to more clearly communicate its focus on planning, community development and services that support the region’s communities.

Throughout its history, CVPDC has encouraged and assisted local officials in addressing issues that extend beyond their individual localities, while working to strengthen collaboration and effective communication among neighboring jurisdictions. Regional transportation planning has been a forte of CVPDC through the MPO and rural transportation planning processes. Working with local governments and stakeholder groups, CVPDC has helped plan and shape the region’s multi-modal transportation system of road corridors, trails and rail. The PDC

provides staff support to the Central Virginia Radio Communications Board, established in 1996 to coordinate emergency services communications needs of Amherst, Bedford and Lynchburg. The PDC holds title to the Radio Board towers and equipment, which serve over 2,800 devices for localities and entities throughout the region.

The Region 2000 Services Authority was established in 2008 to provide solid waste management and disposal services for nearly 200,000 tons of solid waste annually. The PDC provides staffing services for over 20 employees and financial management for the \$8 million annual operation. Regional economic development planning began in 2011 with the first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which brought together business, government and educational leaders to focus on priorities to shape the quality of life and economic resiliency of the region.



Informational session on the Wards Ferry Road Corridor Study



Trash compactor for processing solid waste

Little-known Fact

There are six colleges and universities in our region, five in the City of Lynchburg.



Commonwealth Regional Council

Member Localities: Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Lunenburg, and Prince Edward Counties



1969

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



5

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



2,192

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



102,932

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

Planning District 14 began as the Piedmont Planning District Commission (PPDC) with an information meeting held on November 19, 1969 at the Hotel Wyanoke in Farmville, Virginia. The Charter agreement was then approved at the December 17, 1969 meeting, with an initial 20¢ per capita annual dues rate. The effective date for the PDC was March 15, 1970, with the initial membership including the counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edward, and the towns of Blackstone and Farmville. Over the next 34 years, the PPDC also included the membership of the smaller towns of Crewe, Victoria, Kenbridge and Dillwyn. The PPDC continued under this name until 2005, when it was dissolved and re-emerged as the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC). The current CRC membership includes the counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Lunenburg and Prince Edward, and we have non-voting member represen-

tation from Longwood University, Hampden-Sydney College and Southside Virginia Community College.

Over the years the Planning District has provided a variety of assistance to member local governments, including writing grants, and on a range of projects that include the following: Comprehensive Plans; a Regional Jail study; recreation and historic preservation; industrial parks; water and sewer infrastructure; economic development programs; and regional solid waste management plans and regional hazard mitigation plans. We've also worked on housing studies; housing rehabilitation; land use studies; a comprehensive health study; regional transportation planning; water supply planning; emergency planning; downtown revitalization and telecommunications plans. The CRC considers itself an "arm" of its member jurisdictions that provides both expertise, valuable service and cost savings.



High Bridge State Park



Buckingham Courthouse

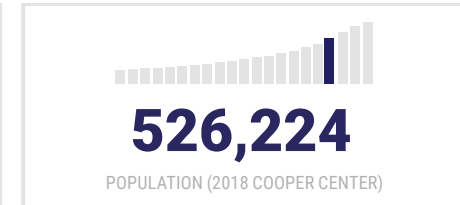
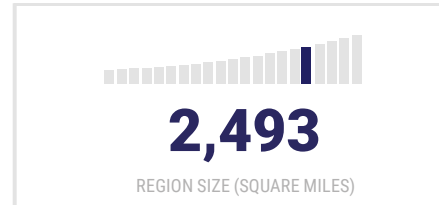
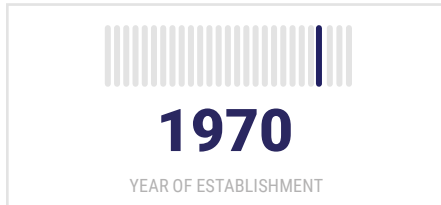
Little-known Fact

The CRC region is home to five State Parks - James River, High Bridge Trail, Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic, Twin Lakes and Staunton River Battlefield.



Crater Planning District Commission

Member Localities: The cities of Colonial Heights, Emporia, Hopewell and Petersburg, and the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Greenville, Prince George, Surry and Sussex.



The Crater Planning District Commission's (CPDC) name comes from the Civil War Battle of the Crater during the Siege of Petersburg; however, the region's history goes back more than 400 years. The Crater PDC is strategically located on the I-95 corridor; Norfolk Southern and CSX rail lines merge in Petersburg. Three of our four cities and five of our seven counties are within the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the region is adjacent to the populous Hampton Roads MSA. Fort Lee, a major Army training base and home to the Army Logistics University, continues to grow and is the region's economic engine. The PDC has coordinated the region's response to base realignment proposals/actions since the early 1990s. There are 40,000+ persons on post daily.

Agriculture is dominant in the Crater PDC counties, while the cities are commerce/manufacturing centers. Economic transformation has brought Rolls-Royce, the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Amazon to our region. Regional priorities have focused on economic and small business development, and under the PDC umbrella are a small business development center, a procurement technical assistance center and Petersburg Area Regional Tourism. The PDC also birthed the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics Systems.



Fort Lee, Prince George County



James River, Surry County



British Cars at Historic Battersea - Petersburg, Virginia

Little-known Fact

Colonial Heights in the Crater PDC is home to the Keystone Truck & Tractor Museum, the largest of its kind, featuring an array of tractors, trucks and other equipment from the past.



Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell Counties and Towns of Bluefield, Richlands and Tazewell



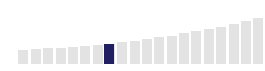
1968

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



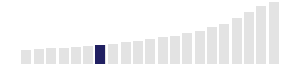
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COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



1,826

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



105,122

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

In 1968, the four coalfield counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell came together to form what is today the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission with a mission to assist its localities in addressing local economic problems on a regional basis.

Numerous county, town and citizen leaders have served the Planning District in exemplary fashion over its long history. This spirit of cooperation has served our localities well over our 51 years, as more than \$600 million in federal, state and regional grants and low-interest loans have been obtained for much needed water, sewer, industrial site, telecommunications and other infrastructure projects in the region. These projects have dramatically improved the quality of life for our citizens and enhanced the diversification of our economy. In FY 2019, District localities received, or expect to receive, federal, state and regional grant/loan funds of over \$11 mil-

lion. At \$35,000 in annual dues for each of our four counties, that amounts to about \$79 returned to the District's counties for every one dollar in local dues. That return on local investment has been replicated many times over the years.

While much of the Cumberland Plateau PDC's early efforts were in the public works arena, the PDC began to promote and implement innovative regional economic development initiatives in the late 1980s. The most significant, in the early 2000s, was the deployment of a high-speed fiber backbone system in the region that brought two IT giants, CGI and Northrup Grumman, to Russell County. The unique characteristic of this initiative is that the Cumberland Plateau is a 50% owner of this publicly-funded system and shares in the revenue generated, with these dollars then reinvested in economic development and broadband deployment activities across the district.



CPPDC Commission Members



PDC Offices - Lebanon, Virginia

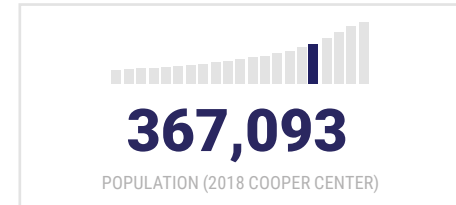
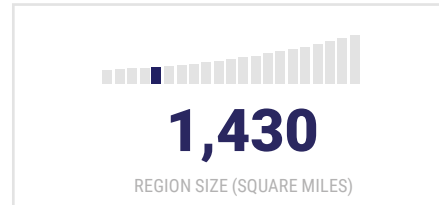
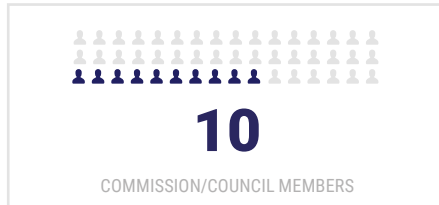
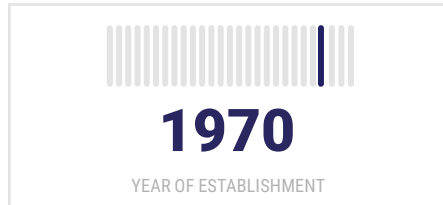
Little-known Fact

The CPPDC won the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Rural Regional Council Leadership Award in 1987. Presented annually to one rural regional council in the nation, the CPPDC was cited for translating innovative ideas into practical regional programs.



George Washington Regional Commission

Member Localities: Caroline County, City of Fredericksburg, King George County, Spotsylvania County, and Stafford County



Tracing its origins to 1961, the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) serves Virginia Planning District 16, the fourth-largest and fastest-growing of Virginia's 21 planning districts. The Commission, originally known as the Rappahannock Area Development Commission (RADCO), was chartered as a planning district commission on January 1, 1970.

Over the years, GWRC has worked with its member localities to develop and implement regional initiatives and programs benefitting the region. Examples that have had a major impact on the region include assisting with the formation of the Fredericksburg Regional Transit System, Rappahannock Economic Development Corporation, Rappahannock Regional Disability Services Board, Thurman Brisben Center, Office on Youth, Fredericksburg Farmers Market, and Plant Central Rappahannock Natives Campaign. We also operate GWRideConnect, the region's

nationally-recognized transportation demand management agency that facilitates vanpooling and transit use. We staff the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO), the MPO serving Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and Stafford. We established two local telework centers and are operating a third in Woodbridge. We have completed several environmental planning efforts and assisted with Chesapeake Bay Act implementation; completed hazard mitigation planning for the region; and assisted with establishing a water and septic system in Dawn, an unincorporated community in Caroline County.

More recently, we are serving as lead agency for the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care and are a support organization for GO Virginia Region 6. GWRC's current areas of focus include economic development, environmental services, human services, transportation demand management, and transportation planning.



Fredericksburg, Virginia



King George County, Virginia

Little-known Fact

Planning District 16 has served as the backdrop for many historic figures throughout history, including Presidents George Washington, who grew up in Stafford County; James Madison, who was born in King George County; and James Monroe, who practiced law in Fredericksburg.



Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg; Counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York; and the Town of Smithfield.



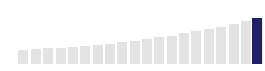
1969

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



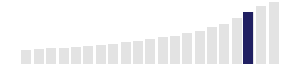
47

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



2,909

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



1,726,928

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The original 22 Planning Districts created by the Virginia Area Development Act became the current 21, when the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) was formed in 1990 by the merger of the Southeastern Virginia Planning District Commission and the Peninsula Planning District Commission.

The HRPDC mission is to serve as a forum for local elected officials and chief administrators to deliberate and decide issues of regional importance; to provide the local governments and citizens of Hampton Roads credible and timely planning, research and analysis on matters of mutual concern; and to provide leadership and offer strategies and support services to other public and private, local and regional agencies, in their efforts to improve the region's quality of life. The HRPDC serves as a resource of technical expertise to its member local governments, providing assistance on local and regional issues in the

areas of economics, emergency management, housing, planning and water resources.

The HRPDC and Hampton Roads region have a long history of regional cooperation. The HRPDC currently manages a full range of projects including a Regional Fiber/Broadband Initiative; Regional Economic Development Sites Inventory; and coastal resiliency planning efforts. The HRPDC also serves as the support staff for the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, which is responsible for transportation planning and decision-making in the region. As a Virginia Planning District, the HRPDC is the Affiliate Data Center for our region, providing economic, environmental, transportation, census and other relevant information to businesses, organizations and citizens. It also produces a regional legislative program.



Governor's Palace - Williamsburg



Hampton Roads, Virginia

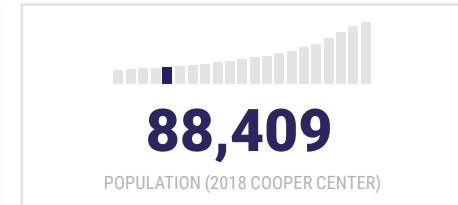
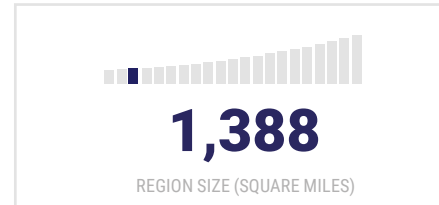
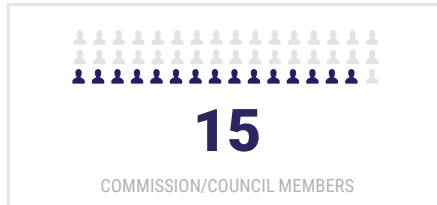
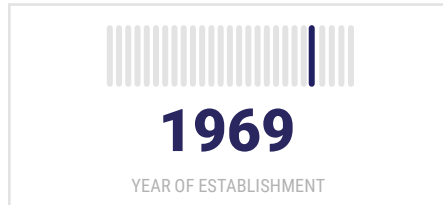
Little-known Fact

The Hampton Roads region is home to the Port of Virginia; the largest Naval Base in the world; and it contains the second highest population of military personnel of any metropolitan region in the country.



LENOWISCO Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Lee County, Wise County, Scott County, and City of Norton



Serving as Virginia's Planning District One, LENOWISCO is situated in the far southwestern corner of Virginia, bordered by Kentucky to its northwest and Tennessee to its south.

LENOWISCO had a true "grass roots" beginning, starting with 1959 meetings to address concerns about the region's faltering economy and the future viability of rural Southwest Virginia. This led to the 1961 organization of the Lee-Norton-Wise-Scott Redevelopment Authority, which, in early 1965, was reorganized as the LENOWISCO Planning and Economic Development Commission. On July 1, 1969, LENOWISCO became the first of 22 planning district commissions formed under the Virginia Area Development Act.

The Commission immediately threw its new, collective weight behind a number of significant regional projects, including improvements at Lonesome Pine Airport and to U.S. Highway 23, as well as the expansion of Clinch Valley College, now the University of Virginia's College at Wise. Many more would follow.

In recent years, LENOWISCO has continued to work with its local and regional partners to identify innovative ways to foster economic development and diversification in Southwest Virginia, including the following: Development of broadband and advanced wireless communications infrastructure; central business district revitalization projects; regional agricultural development strategic plans for both the LENOWISCO and the larger coalfields region; economic opportunities related to Lincoln Memorial University's DeBusk Veterinary Teaching Center in Lee County; and recently, creation of the Lonesome Pine Regional Industrial Facilities Authority, the first such in southwestern Virginia, which enables our localities to attract new jobs and investment, while giving member localities the ability to enter into regional revenue sharing.



Big Cherry Dam Expansion



Stickleyville Walking Trail

Little-known Fact

According to August 1965 Board minutes, the phone company objected to listing the Commission's full, admittedly unwieldy name, so from subsequent discussion came the suggestion for a contraction. Thus, the acronym LENOWISCO was born.



Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Counties of Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Mathews and Middlesex; and the Towns of Tappahannock, West Point and Urbanna



1963

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



25

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



1,400

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



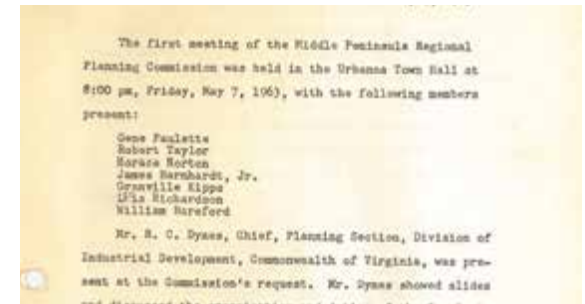
91,423

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

Regional leadership to address pressing rural coastal issues were present within the Middle Peninsula as early as the 1960's, with the formation of the Middle Peninsula Regional Planning Commission. As established in 1963, the Commission focused on seven community development needs: resources; comprehensive regional planning; agriculture; family living; youth; health/education/public interest; and policy/legislation. The modern-day Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) was enacted in 1972 and serves the six-county, rural coastal region comprising the Middle Peninsula. Commissioners are appointed by each locality and consist of two elected and one citizen member for each county, and one elected member for each town. Three county administrators and one town manager serve on the Commission on a rotating basis.

The Commission's focus since 1972 has centered on the promotion of the orderly and efficient develop-

ment of the physical, social and economic elements of the Middle Peninsula by planning, encouraging and assisting governmental subdivisions to plan for the future. Since its inception, the six counties and three towns comprising the PDC have valued equality over per-capita voting. Regardless of the size of the member county or town, every seat at the Commission's table is recognized equally. This model has served the Middle Peninsula region well, as big and small, rich and resource-limited localities work collaboratively as equals to successfully guide the region's development. While the MPPDC is recognized as a small region, it is a high-performing and innovative Commission that is providing forward-looking leadership with no fear of addressing pressing public need projects.



First Commission meeting minutes



MPPDC Commission meeting archives

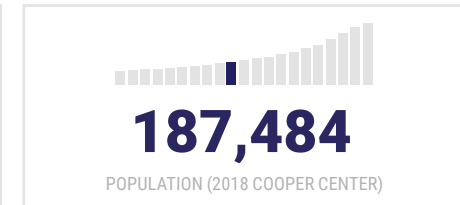
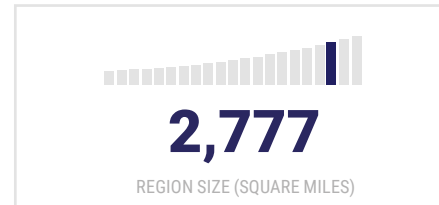
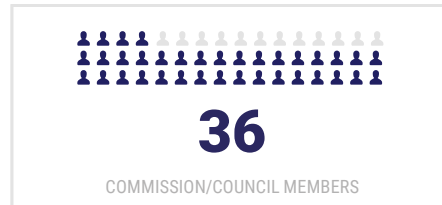
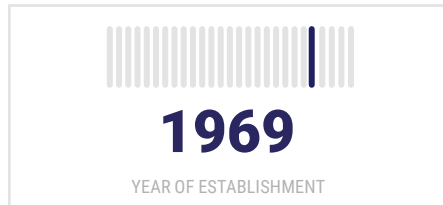
Little-known Fact

William "Bill" Pruitt, the longtime Commissioner for the Virginia Marine Resource Commission, started his professional working career as a MPPDC Criminal Justice Planner in October 1973. He served as Commissioner under six Virginia governors.



Mount Rogers Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Washington County, Smyth County, Wythe County, Bland County, Carroll County, Grayson County, City of Bristol, City of Galax



Home to Virginia's highest peak, the Mount Rogers Planning District is a mountainous region in Southwest Virginia that shares borders with West Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. The Mount Rogers Planning District Commission is composed of eight member localities, including six counties and two cities. The Commission serves an additional 12 towns for a total of 20 local governments.

Twelve staff members provide grant writing and management services that average over \$5 million in construction projects yearly. In addition, we are one of the

only regional organizations that still offer circuit riding town managers and county planners. Direct funding from federal, state and local sources allow us to provide economic development, rural transportation, hazard mitigation, and community development planning to our members. The services provided by the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission vary widely from locality to locality and project to project, and we find the work environment to be ever changing, as we strive to meet the needs of our region to the end that we make for a better Southwest Virginia.



Whitetop Mountain



Downtown Revitalization efforts in the region



Branding effort for Hometowns of Mount Rogers

Little-known Fact

Not only are the five highest mountain peaks in Virginia located in the Mount Rogers Planning District region, but we also produce more beef cattle than any other region of the state.



New River Valley Regional Commission

Member Localities: Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Floyd County, Giles County, City of Radford, Towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, Pulaski, Pembroke, Pearisburg, Narrows, Rich Creek, Virginia Tech, Radford University and New River Community College.



1969

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



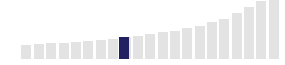
26

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



1,453

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



184,231

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The New River Valley Planning District Commission was created in September, 1969, by the counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski, the city of Radford and the towns of Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Pulaski. In 2000, the Commission membership expanded to include the towns of Floyd, Pearisburg, Narrows and Rich Creek. Enabling legislation at the time allowed for institutions of higher education to be members in PDC 4, and thus, Virginia Tech and Radford University joined. In 2018, the Commission's membership expanded again to include the Town of Pembroke as well as New River Community College, the first and currently only community college member of a planning district commission in Virginia.

The New River Valley Planning District Commission changed names in 2015 to the New River Valley

Regional Commission. The name change and associated branding effort was attributed to the desire to take the word 'planning' out of the name, since the agency delivers many services beyond planning, and to insert the word 'regional,' since that is the first focus of the Commission.

The New River Valley has a long history of strong regional collaboration among many partners and stakeholders, in large part due to economies of scale for a rural region. There are numerous joint authorities delivering critical services to the region, many of which the Commission has played an integral role in establishing. These include services such as water; wastewater; broadband; community corrections; transportation; emergency services; economic development and housing.



NRVRC Annual Dinner



ReNew the New 2016, a region wide clean-up of the New River

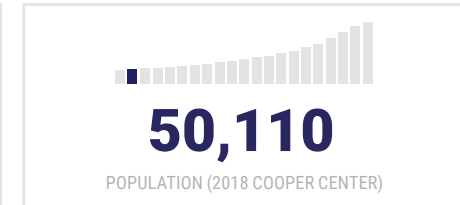
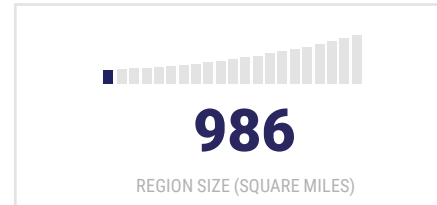
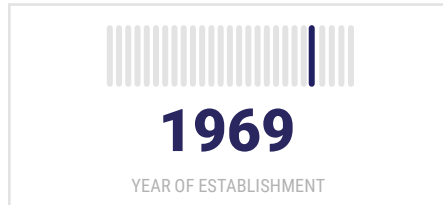
Little-known Fact

The New River Valley Regional Commission has three institutions of higher education as members: Virginia Tech, Radford University and New River Community College. NRCC is the first and currently only community college to be a member of a Regional Commission in Virginia.



Northern Neck Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Westmoreland County, Richmond County, Northumberland County, Lancaster County



Bounded by the Rappahannock River to the south, the Potomac River to the north and Chesapeake Bay to the east, this peninsula holds the regional descriptive identity of the “Northern Neck” (of land). The Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC) was created in 1969 and is a confederation of the four Northern Neck counties. Activities and policies of the Commission are set by 16 Commissioners appointed by the member governing bodies, and include a wide range of comprehensive planning, technical assistance, grant seeking and regional coordination activities.

The NNPDC was designated an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration (EDA) in February 1999. This designation represents a federal/local partnership that assists with establishing regional priorities for projects and investments. This is done through the development of a strategic plan-

ning document called the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is required to apply for assistance under EDA’s public works and economic adjustment programs. Economic development planning has been a key element in achieving EDA’s long-range goals for more than 50 years. After previously adopting the original Overall Economic Development Plan for the Northern Neck, NNPDC now maintains the Northern Neck CEDS that was adopted in April 2018.

Agriculture, aquaculture/fishing, forestry, and manufacturing and tourism all contribute to the economy of the Northern Neck, which is branded as the Northern Neck Heritage Area. The Northern Neck’s high quality of life, featuring waterfront living, historic settings, vibrant small downtowns and villages, a slow-paced lifestyle, no traffic congestion and low tax rates, continues to attract businesses and residents to the Northern Neck.



Hughlett’s Point Natural Area Preserve



Reedville Fishermen’s Museum

Little-known Fact

A major organized protest against Britain’s Stamp Act, specifically ‘taxation without representation’, took place in February 1766 in Leedstown on the Rappahannock River, which then was in King George County, but now is in Westmorland County.



Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission

Member Localities: Counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren; City of Winchester; Towns of Berryville, Front Royal, Luray, Middletown, Stephens City, Strasburg and Woodstock



1970

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



25

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



1,645

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



236,861

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

In 1970, Planning District 7 was established with the name “Lord Fairfax Planning District Commission.” In 2001, the name was changed to the more geographically relevant “Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission.” In its nearly 50 years of service, the NSVRC has grown to a staff of ten and had seven executive directors. Among the Commission’s “first works” were the 1974 adoption of the Metropolitan/Regional Water Quality Management Plan and the 1975 adoption of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. A district Comprehensive Plan was adopted by member localities in 1978 and maintained into the 1990s.

At the time the PDC was organized, neither I-81 nor I-66 had been constructed. Anticipating their completion, a planning project “Impacts: I-66 and Growth” was initiated in 1978. Completed in 1980, the document was recognized by the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). In

1982, a ridesharing program was established and today, RideSmart has evolved to include ride-matching and carpooling, van pooling programs, and the region’s first Commuter Bus from Front Royal to Washington, DC. Other recognized work includes the Clarke County Groundwater Protection Plan, which received a Virginia APA Award in 1988. The Minimum Instream Flow- MIF - Main Stem Shenandoah River IFIM Demonstration Project received a 1999 Innovation Award from NADO.

In addition to early services in transportation planning and land use, NSVRC now provides support in the areas of community development, hazard mitigation, GIS, economic development, and tourism. Most recently, the NSVRC facilitated development of the region’s first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, led the Watershed Implementation Plan III process, and is the lead support organization for GO Virginia-Region 8.



Cullers Overlook



Pedestrian Mall

Little-known Fact

The Northern Shenandoah Valley is home to the Virginia Inland Port (VIP), an intermodal container transfer facility. Located in Warren County on 161 acres, the VIP is served by nearly 18,000 feet of railroad connecting to Norfolk Southern rail, and provides a full range of customs functions.



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Member Localities: Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, City of Alexandria, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, Town of Dumfries, Town of Herndon, Town of Leesburg, Town of Vienna



1947

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



24

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



1,304

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



2,515,053

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The Northern Virginia region is the economic engine of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as the entire Washington, DC metropolitan area. It boasts a large, diverse business community with a highly-educated and diverse workforce, and is known for its entrepreneurial spirit and technology-based companies.

Northern Virginia is home to more than 100 U.S. and global corporate headquarters, including 10 Fortune 500 companies. Recognized as the nation's Cyber Capital, Northern Virginia has the highest concentration of bandwidth worldwide and has emerged as the hub of cutting-edge intelligence technology, fertile ground for the cybersecurity industry. Residents of Northern Virginia benefit from numerous institutions of higher education, which offer a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Offering a

highly-skilled and educated talent pool, combined with a robust transportation infrastructure, including access to two major airports, Northern Virginia is one of the most sought-after places in which to live and do business in the world.

The NVRC's work complements the activities of our local government partners in a number of ways, including providing health care services through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program; interfacing with our military installations to benefit the base and the community at large; and a wide variety of environmental, resiliency, energy and traffic safety services. The region also has benefitted from having had a 20-year working relationship with Stuttgart Region in Germany, implementing best practices to the benefit of our residents and businesses.



Boxwood Estate Winery, Middleburg



Washington Dulles International Airport in Chantilly, at dusk

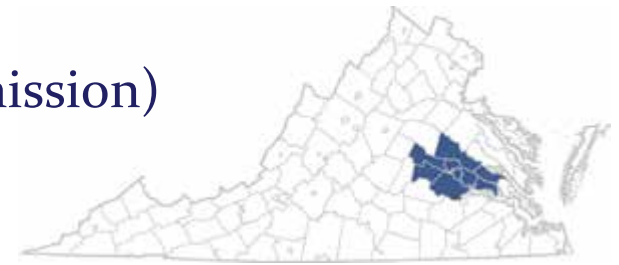
Little-known Fact

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission was first formed in December 1947 as the Northern Virginia Regional Planning Commission. It was later reconstituted in 1969 when the Commonwealth of Virginia created Regional Planning District Commissions.



PlanRVA (Richmond Regional Planning District Commission)

Member Localities: Town of Ashland, City of Richmond, Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Goochland, New Kent and Powhatan



1969

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



32

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



2,196

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



1,089,085

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, now known as PlanRVA, was formed by the local governments in our region on August 14, 1969. We are proudly comprised of local elected officials and citizens, who work together to address mutual challenges and develop solutions for our region.

PlanRVA is a regional convener, planning agency and provider of essential services to the localities of the Richmond region. We are unique in the region because we provide the one place where representatives of all nine of our member localities are convened at the same time. We provide regional solutions for challenges facing our

region, focusing on the short- and long-term investments that are needed to keep our region strong and prosperous.

At PlanRVA, our primary areas of focus are transportation, emergency management, the environment and community development. Within each of these areas, we provide core services which include convening and facilitation; funding services; project management; public engagement; research, modeling and GIS and, of course, planning.



Charles City County



James River - Richmond, Virginia



Ashland Station

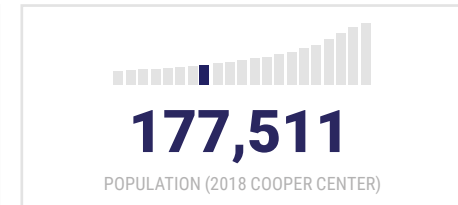
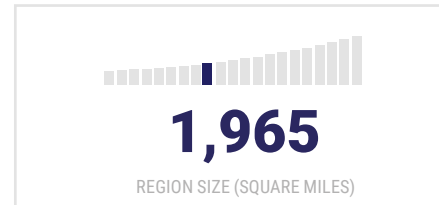
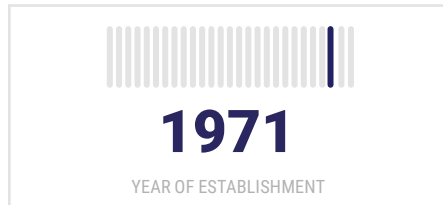
Little-known Fact

We are home to the voluntary regional Emergency Management Alliance of Central Virginia that serves 25 localities in coordinating emergency preparedness planning, training and resource sharing. It is the only partnership of its kind in Virginia.



Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission

Member Localities: Counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock; and the Towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville, Madison, Orange, Remington, The Plains, Warrenton and Washington



Situated in the northern Piedmont of Virginia, the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission takes its name from the two major rivers flowing eastward through the region from the Blue Ridge Mountains to their confluence along the region's eastern boundary. The Rappahannock-Rapidan region is characterized by its compact, historic towns and villages that are surrounded by rolling foothills and rural landscapes.

Since its formation in 1971, the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission has provided planning capacity and program management to the region's five counties and eight towns, with focus areas continuing to evolve. Early collaborative efforts

involved criminal justice; workforce and utility infrastructure studies; grant administration; technical planning and zoning services. In addition to these services, the Commission's core focus areas now incorporate multi-modal transportation connectivity; environmental and water quality planning; housing coordination activities; community development; tourism and agricultural marketing initiatives. Through these focus areas, the Regional Commission has served as a convener of, and connection between, critical partners and resources within the Rappahannock-Rapidan region throughout its history.



Rappahannock Canoe Landing



Sperryville, Virginia



Culpeper, Virginia

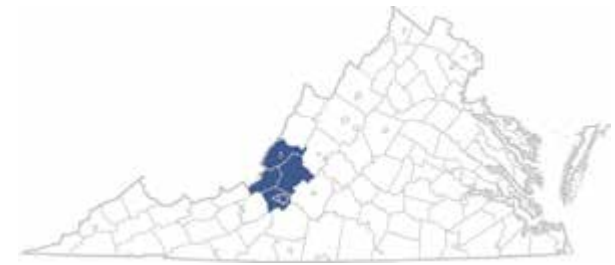
Little-known Fact

The Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers, from which the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission takes its name, and the ability to navigate them, were important facets of the historical settlement in the region and proved to be critical points of battle during the Civil War.



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission

Member Localities: Alleghany County, Botetourt County, City of Covington, City of Roanoke, City of Salem, Craig County, Franklin County, Roanoke County, Town of Clifton Forge, Town of Rocky Mount, Town of Vinton



1969

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



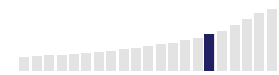
38

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



2,325

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



334,778

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) brings together local governments and other organizations to promote discussion and action on issues of regional importance. The RVARC serves the governments, businesses and citizens of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke Counties; the cities of Covington, Roanoke, and Salem; and the towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton. There are 38 representatives on the RVARC who are appointed by member local governments. Representation also includes non-voting liaison members representing chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and community colleges in the region.

The mission of the RVARC is to be a leader in driving collaboration and strategy within our communities on issues that are critical to the economic growth, quality of life and sustainability of the region. The RVARC provides many types of services to its stake-

holders, including transportation planning; support for economic and community development; regional resiliency promotion and environmental planning.

The Commission staffs the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTP) and manages rural transportation planning services. In addition to addressing transit, pedestrian, bicycle, freight, rail, air and truck transportation, RVARC provides planning services that also consider human, environmental, fiscal and economic impacts in an equitable manner.

Economic/community development services include data analysis, mapping, economic impact analysis and coordination of regional initiatives such as broadband and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Commission also works with local chambers of commerce, tourism groups and other partners to support tourism, business recruitment, workforce development and regional branding.



Valley Metro Bus from RIDE Solutions Art by Bus program



Roanoke River Greenway/Blueway

Little-known Fact

In 1999, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission was among the first PDCs in Virginia to change its name to Regional Commission.



Southside Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Brunswick, Halifax and Mecklenburg Counties, Towns of South Boston and South Hill



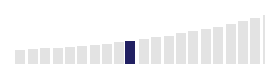
1969

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



28

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



2,078

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



82,113

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The roots of the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) can be traced to the Brunswick County Regional Planning and Development Commission, which organized in December 1965. The Commission consisted of Brunswick County and the Towns of Alberta, Brodnax and Lawrenceville. The first Executive Secretary of this organization was Robert W. Baker, who later became the initial Executive Director of the Southside Planning District Commission. Under his guidance, the first Overall Economic Development Plan was submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce in March 1966.

With the passage of the Virginia Area Development Act in 1968, the charter for the Southside Planning District Commission was then adopted on September 15, 1969, becoming the seventh planning district in the state to be organized. The first official meeting

of the Commission was held on November 6, 1969, at the Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in Chase City. Representatives from the Counties of Brunswick, Halifax and Mecklenburg, the City of South Boston, and the Town of South Hill attended. The Commission was organized to promote the orderly and efficient development of the economic, physical and social fabric of the region. The Commission's primary objective was, and continues to be, to serve the local governments and the citizens of the Southside Planning District region. The Commission has been successful in securing over \$250 million in federal and state funding for the region over the last 50 years. Since 1981, the Commission, through Lake Country Development Corporation, has generated over \$46 million in private investment in the region through a revolving loan program.



Tobacco Heritage Trail Bridge Crossing



Virginia Commerce Park - Clarksville, Virginia

Little-known Fact

The VAPDC Robert W. Baker Achievement Award was established in the late 1970s after the first Executive Director of Southside Planning District Commission. Bob helped organize the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions and served as President in the early years.



Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson; and the City of Charlottesville



1972

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



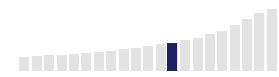
12

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



2,172

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



255,428

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

The TJPDC was established in 1972 to serve Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene and Nelson Counties, along with the City of Charlottesville, and welcomed Louisa County in 1975. The mission of the TJPDC, working with local governments, communities, businesses and agencies, is “to serve its local governments by providing regional vision, collaborative leadership and professional service to develop effective solutions.” The TJPDC is widely-recognized as a “convener” in our region that brings together stakeholders to craft approaches and action plans on a wide variety of issues. The TJPDC leads regional initiatives of the Commission, while working collaboratively on projects with, and providing services to, its member governments. True to its purpose, TJPDC has been involved in a multitude of initiatives and programs benefiting the community including:

- Founding of JAUNT to provide rural residents with mobility options

- Establishment of the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA)
- Formation of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to provide a forum for urban transportation planning, to include the recently-formed Regional Transit Partnership
- Establishment of the Virginia Economic Development Corporation, which later became the Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development (now Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development)
- Development of Sustainability Accords for the region
- Establishment of the Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless
- Founding of the Thomas Jefferson Housing Improvement Corporation, which later became the Piedmont Housing Alliance
- Formation of the Local Workforce Investment Board (Piedmont Workforce Network)
- Development of the Regional Housing Partnership



Charlottesville's Downtown Mall



Greene County, Virginia

Little-known Fact

The TJPDC logo, based on the Jefferson-endorsed Palladium window, represents our six member localities, a city at the core surrounded by five counties

West Piedmont Planning District Commission

Member Localities: Franklin County, Henry County, Patrick County, Pittsylvania County; City of Danville, City of Martinsville; Town of Rocky Mount



1970

YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT



21

COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEMBERS



2,587

REGION SIZE (SQUARE MILES)



240,704

POPULATION (2018 COOPER CENTER)

Located in Martinsville, the WPPDC formed in 1970 to serve the counties of Franklin, Henry, Patrick and Pittsylvania; the cities of Danville and Martinsville; and the Town of Rocky Mount. WPPDC provides technical assistance to its member local governments, including grant application assistance, land use, economic development, hazard mitigation and transportation planning.

The core areas of focus for WPPDC are promoting regional collaboration, economic development and transportation advancement. In its capacity as a designated development district for both the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the WPPDC promotes regional economic development through its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS,) and has written a number of successful EDA grant applications and assisted its localities with

ARC applications. Successful EDA applications have contributed to the creation of the Cain Creek Industrial Park in Danville; the New College Institute in Martinsville; the Patriot Center in Henry County; the Institute for Advanced Learning & Research in Danville; and the Franklin Center in Rocky Mount. The WPPDC also assisted with ARC applications for the Fieldale Community Center in Henry County and a health access study in Patrick County, both of which were approved for funding this year.

WPPDC staffs the Danville MPO and has conducted a variety of transportation planning studies over the years that resulted in funding for new highway improvement projects. In 2018, the MPO conducted a planning study for a connector road from US 58 to serve the Southern Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill, a 3500-acre industrial site in Pittsylvania County, the largest in Virginia.



New College Institute (NCI) - Martinsville, Virginia



Beaver Creek Industrial Park - Martinsville/Henry County

Little-known Fact

The City of Martinsville is the home of the Virginia Museum of Natural History, which is Virginia's designated natural history museum and is affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution.





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