

increase wages are necessary in order for organizations to remain competitive and increase employee retention, but some companies are not able to keep up with those retention demands. Attachment #2

Frank Rogers asked if the team had identified more specific industry-needs, as opposed to the general region/statewide trends presented in the meeting. Ms. Strumpf stated that Strategic Planning team has noted that healthcare, manufacturing, and construction are the industries that will be targeted.

John Sharp also expressed concern about the potential national plans for increasing the minimum wage and stated that business in Bedford County have expressed concern over being able to hire younger individuals to train. Additionally, he noted that some industries have already begun to move towards automation in response to wage increases and could create less entry-level/lower skilled jobs for new workers.

Treney Tweedy asked about how workers are being supported to develop and learn the skills needed for higher-paying and higher skilled jobs. Ms. Strumpf stated that there are two priorities in helping workers develop skills to be included in the plan: focusing on soft skills as well as technical skills for specific jobs. Ms. Tweedy stated that she believes the priority should be in building a more effective pipeline to get workers opportunities to develop the specific skills needed for higher paying jobs.

4. Overview of the Long Range Transportation Plan Dashboard

Ada Hunsberger provided a presentation introducing the recently launched Long Range Transportation Plan Dashboard (Connect Central Virginia 2045). The platform was built to create an interactive platform with data, charts and graphs and is dynamically updating with data as soon as it becomes available.

An overview of the dashboard was explained, showcasing the different projects and information for both rural and urban areas in the region. The dashboard will continue to be updated and staff welcomes all comments on the dashboard.

<https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/connectcentralva>

5. Creating Online, Data-Driven Reports for Communities

Philipp Gabathuler provided a presentation on the report-creating feature in the MySidewalk platform. Reports can be created for a variety of data and can provide very specific information to individual localities or communities in the region as needed.

6. Other Business from Members or Staff

Gary Christie reported that PDC staff are working with the Health Department and Emergency Service providers in the region regarding COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Gary Christie also thanked the Commissioners and guests in attendance for participating in the meeting.

Adjourn - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.