

**Central Virginia Planning District Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
5:00 p.m., March 19, 2026**



**CVPDC Offices – 828 Main Street, 12th Floor
Lynchburg, Va.**

- 1) Welcome and Introduction of New Members.....Dwayne Tuggle, CVPDC Chair
- 2) Consideration of Requests for Electronic Participation..... Chair
- 3) Minutes: Regular Meeting, January 15, 2026.....Chair
- 4) Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statements.....Zach Hipes – Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates
- 5) Organizational Reports.....Staff
 - a) Financial Report.....Sandy Dobyns
 - b) GO Virginia Report..... Alec Brebner
 - c) Executive Director’s Report..... Alec Brebner
- 6) Other Business and Regional RoundtableChair
- 7) Adjournment..... Chair



**Central Virginia Planning
District Commission**
828 Main Street, 12th Floor
Lynchburg, VA 24504
Office: (434) 845-3491
cvpdc.org

**Central Virginia Planning District
Commission Regular Meeting Minutes – Draft
January 16, 2026 @ 5:00 PM
Meeting Location: CVPDC Offices
828 Main Street, 12th Floor
Lynchburg, VA 24504**

Members Present:

Wynter Benda, City of Lynchburg
Reggie Bennett, Town of Altavista
Jeremy Bryant, Amherst County
Michael Campbell, Town of Appomattox
Richard Conner, Town of Appomattox, Vice-Chairman
Curt Diemer, City of Lynchburg
Robert Hiss, Bedford County
Craig Hughes, Town of Brookneal
Tom Lawton, Campbell County
Frank Rogers, Campbell County
Gary Shanaberger, Town of Altavista
John Sharp, Bedford County
Nathan Simpson, Appomattox County
Dwayne Tuggle, Town of Amherst, Chairman

Members Joining Virtually:

Sara McGuffin, Town of Amherst, Treasurer

Staff Present:

Alec Brebner
Sandy Dobyms
Kelly Hitchcock
Hannah Mitchell

Others Present:

Chris Chittum, Short Elliott Hendrickson
Sarah Hamlett Blackwell, Mayor of the Town of Pamplin City
John Spencer, Appomattox County

1. Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Chairman Dwayne Tuggle called the meeting to order at 4:59 p.m. and welcomed the board and guests. He introduced a new member, Nathan Simpson, of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors.

2. Special Guests

Tuggle introduced two special guests: Sarah Hamlett Blackwell, Mayor of the Town of Pamplin City; and Chris Chittum, Planner with Short Elliott Hendrickson.

3. Consideration of Requests for Electronic Participation

Richard Conner moved to approve electronic participation. Michael Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting, November 20, 2025

Frank Rogers moved to approve the November 20, 2025, minutes as presented. Richard Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. USDOT BUILD Grant Applications

Alec Brebner reported that Amherst County and the City of Lynchburg are each requesting a resolution of support for their BUILD grant applications. Both improvement projects are within the high-injury network identified in the Safe Streets for All Plan adopted by the commission on November 20, 2025. Upon questioning, Brebner confirmed that the resolutions do not include any financial commitments from the PDC.

Richard Conner moved to adopt a resolution of support for Amherst County's USDOT BUILD application and a resolution of support for the City of Lynchburg's USDOT BUILD application. Robert Hiss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. US EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant

Brebner recounted the \$500,000 US EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant awarded to the CVPDC in 2022. The funds covered Phase 1 and Phase 2 site remediation projects and planning grants for polluted or hazardous properties.

Kelly Hitchcock introduced Mayor Blackwell and described the Phase 1 assessment that the CVPDC funded through the Brownfields award. Blackwell stated that the \$10,500 Phase 1 assessment resulted in a \$150,000 grant for a Phase 2 assessment and market study, as well as an EPA Water Technical Assistance Grant. The town has applied for a \$2.1 million grant to complete the project. Blackwell thanked the commission for the \$10,500 assessment, the assistance, and the extension of the High Bridge trail, which offered many commercial opportunities.

The application for the next round of Brownfields funding is due on January 28, 2026. Brebner requested authorization from the commission to proceed with the application for a \$500,000 US EPA Brownfields grant, with no match requirement.

Michael Campbell moved to proceed with the application for a \$500,000 US EPA Brownfields grant. Robert Hiss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Annual Leave Adjustment for Deputy Director of Planning

Brebner recognized the work of Kelly Hitchcock, Deputy Director of Planning. Though outside of typical policy, he proposed paying out her unused annual leave, amounting to \$508.76.

John Sharp moved to pay out \$508.76 to Kelly Hitchcock for her 2025 unused annual leave. Jeremy Bryant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sharp and Rogers recommended policy modification to allow staff to decide whether to pay out remaining annual leave up to a certain amount.

8. Organizational Reports

a) Financial Report

Sandy Dobyms presented the July through November 2025 financial report and stated that there were no unusual costs. She noted that the report does not contain notable revenue because grant funding is billed quarterly.

b) Executive Director's Report

Brebner stated that the process to create the Central Virginia Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) recently began with an orientation steering committee meeting. Short Elliott Hendrickson is the consultant team for the project. Planner Chris Chittum explained that the project will use each locality's economic or comprehensive plans to create an overall regional strategy. The plan will be presented to the commission for review in September. Then, it will be submitted to the US EDA so the region may be designated as an Economic Development District and qualify for additional funding.

Brebner next stated that staff and consultants from Timmons Group recently began creating the updated Central Virginia Long-Range Transportation Plan. The plan will establish regional transportation policies and priorities, considering future needs.

Brebner also described the Central Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan, which recently started. The project will result in a comprehensive resiliency plan for managing and responding to natural and man-made disasters.

Brebner described how each of these projects fits together, promoting chances at funding. Hitchcock noted that staff will make every effort to respect stakeholders' time and educate the public about each project.

9. 2026 Meeting Schedule

Regular meeting schedule: 5:00 p.m. on March 19, May 21, July 16, September 17, and November 19 in 2026, plus January 21, 2027.

Executive Committee budget meeting: 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026.

10. Other Business and Regional Roundtable

Richard Conner announced Appomattox’s recent Workforce Housing Improvement Project (WHIP) \$400,000 grant to reclaim a site and expand housing. Brebner noted that VCDC also received \$250,000 from the same program for Lynchburg housing along 5th Street.

Conner thanked staff for the informative data center event the previous day.

Brebner spoke of the December housing meeting with Senator Cifers and Delegate Walker and thanked officials for attending.

Brebner described a conversation with the Pew Charitable Trust about the region’s housing efforts. The organization requested that local elected officials consider bylining or co-bylining an op-ed about housing supply. Brebner will connect interested officials with the organization.

11. Adjournment

Michael Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting. Richard Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

X _____
Signature attest

Date

Central Virginia Planning District Commission
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July 2025 through February 2026

3:48 PM
 03/11/2026
 Accrual Basis

	Jul '25 - Feb 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Miscellaneous Revenue	1,100.38	0.00	1,100.38	100.0%
4100 · Dues	185,330.00	185,330.00	0.00	100.0%
4150 · DHCD	86,228.00	114,971.00	-28,743.00	75.0%
4200 · Grant Revenue				
0000003 · CEDS	2,633.51	30,000.00	-27,366.49	8.78%
0000004 · Brownfields EPA	5,663.85	11,000.00	-5,336.15	51.49%
0000005 · Chesapeake Bay WIP III - DEQ	43,500.00	73,000.00	-29,500.00	59.59%
0000007 · DRPT/FTA	82,055.06	294,350.00	-212,294.94	27.88%
0000008 · Natl Fish & Wildlife-Middle James	0.00	75,000.00	-75,000.00	0.0%
0000011 · USDOT Safe Streets & Roads 4A	21,963.10	88,000.00	-66,036.90	24.96%
0000012 · VDOT PL	54,512.78	552,818.00	-498,305.22	9.86%
0000013 · VDOT Rural	22,974.04	58,000.00	-35,025.96	39.61%
0000014 · Virginia Housing				
5450 · Pass through grant revenues	-236,162.00			
0000014 · Virginia Housing - Other	241,923.51	50,000.00	191,923.51	483.85%
Total 0000014 · Virginia Housing	5,761.51	50,000.00	-44,238.49	11.52%
0000020 · SCRC	0.00	15,000.00	-15,000.00	0.0%
0000023 · Altavista Planning Grant - CDBG	3,500.00	6,500.00	-3,000.00	53.85%
0000025 · Amherst Co Madison Heights PG	0.00	9,283.00	-9,283.00	0.0%
0000026 · Appomattox CVCC welding - GoVA	0.00	7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.0%
0000027 · Appomattox CVCC Welding - TRRC	161,211.71	5,000.00	156,211.71	3,224.23%
0000029 · FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan	0.00	116,000.00	-116,000.00	0.0%
0000030 · Bedford Hilltop Phase II	23,680.00	34,500.00	-10,820.00	68.64%
0000031 · Agribusiness Planning TRRC	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
0000034 · DRPT - CAP	11,446.05	64,000.00	-52,553.95	17.88%
0000038 · Thriving Communities	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%
0000039 · Water Supply Plan	0.00	11,340.00	-11,340.00	0.0%
0000040 · Appomattox Comp Plan	10,614.55			
Total 4200 · Grant Revenue	449,516.16	1,561,291.00	-1,111,774.84	28.79%
4250 · Revenue - WIOA services billed	28,919.56	60,000.00	-31,080.44	48.2%
4255 · Revenue - SA services	70,637.07	164,165.00	-93,527.93	43.03%
4260 · Revenue - Radio Board services	21,541.71	36,000.00	-14,458.29	59.84%
4300 · Interest Income	9,173.95	10,000.00	-826.05	91.74%
Total Income	852,446.83	2,131,757.00	-1,279,310.17	39.99%
Gross Profit	852,446.83	2,131,757.00	-1,279,310.17	39.99%

	Jul '25 - Feb 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Expense				
5100 · Operations				
5002 · Full Time Salary	334,687.95	605,902.00	-271,214.05	55.24%
5040 · Part-time	10,938.26	26,899.00	-15,960.74	40.66%
5050 · Benefits	87,724.76	172,394.00	-84,669.24	50.89%
5101 · Accounting Services	5,967.42	12,000.00	-6,032.58	49.73%
5102 · Auditing Services	0.00	16,000.00	-16,000.00	0.0%
5103 · Printing and Binding	69.99	1,000.00	-930.01	7.0%
5104 · Legal Services	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
5106 · Advertising	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
5120 · Contractual Services	17,949.29	22,000.00	-4,050.71	81.59%
5140 · Insurance	3,550.34	4,000.00	-449.66	88.76%
5150 · Communication - Internet svcs	1,959.16	2,800.00	-840.84	69.97%
5152 · Telephone	3,904.49	4,500.00	-595.51	86.77%
5153 · Postage	824.00	1,100.00	-276.00	74.91%
5161 · Lease/ Rent of Building	50,895.00	76,435.00	-25,540.00	66.59%
5170 · Lease/Rent of Equipment	2,016.94	4,000.00	-1,983.06	50.42%
5210 · Furniture and Fixtures	14,876.00	16,000.00	-1,124.00	92.98%
5220 · Computer Equipment & Software	19,556.22	33,000.00	-13,443.78	59.26%
5230 · Office Expenses	2,292.10	5,000.00	-2,707.90	45.84%
5240 · Books and Subscriptions	277.02	500.00	-222.98	55.4%
5300 · Travel	4,570.93	10,000.00	-5,429.07	45.71%
5303 · Education and Seminars	528.37	5,000.00	-4,471.63	10.57%
5403 · Special Meetings	188.00	5,000.00	-4,812.00	3.76%
5404 · Dues and Subscriptions	12,158.00	10,000.00	2,158.00	121.58%
5405 · Miscellaneous Expenses	306.87	1,000.00	-693.13	30.69%
Total 5100 · Operations	575,241.11	1,039,030.00	-463,788.89	55.36%
6200 · Direct project expenses				
6201 · Consultants	130,321.92			
6202 · Contracted services	2,286.30			
6203 · Advertising	1,677.28			
6240 · Miscellaneous	2,758.97			
6280 · Website maintenance	4,322.38			
6200 · Direct project expenses - Other	161,211.71	997,782.00	-836,570.29	16.16%
Total 6200 · Direct project expenses	302,578.56	997,782.00	-695,203.44	30.33%
Total Expense	877,819.67	2,036,812.00	-1,158,992.33	43.1%
Net Ordinary Income	-25,372.84	94,945.00	-120,317.84	-26.72%
Net Income	-25,372.84	94,945.00	-120,317.84	-26.72%

Central Virginia Planning District Commission
Balance Sheet
 As of February 28, 2026

4:01 PM

03/11/2026

Accrual Basis

Feb 28, 26

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1010 · Local Govt Investment Pool	337,592.82
1012 · LGIP - Radio Communications	327,463.35
1012A · Regional Radio - Campbell Count	153,356.25
1012B · No Business Mtn Planning	437,442.49
1013 · VIP - Radio	231,936.36
1020 · Petty Cash	79.32
1021 · Truist Bank	257,500.21
1027 · No Business Mountain Escrow Acc	250,000.00
1028 · Regional Radio Bank of the Jame	1,634,116.94

Total Checking/Savings 3,629,487.74

Accounts Receivable 420,095.59

Other Current Assets

1600 · Pre-paid Expenses 1,500.00

Total Other Current Assets 1,500.00

Total Current Assets 4,051,083.33

Fixed Assets 10,395,584.40

Other Assets

1750 · Deferred Outflow - pension 33,108.00

1752 · Def Outflow group life contribu 7,871.00

1753 · Deferred Outflow OPEB Health In 116.00

Total Other Assets 41,095.00

TOTAL ASSETS **14,487,762.73**

Feb 28, 26

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable 232,957.20

Other Current Liabilities

2040 · Prepayment of Contract Services 10,271.00

2050 · Funds held for others 5,071.89

2060 · Accrued Leave 62,073.84

2073 · Deferred inflow - diff between 57,967.00

2076 · OPEB Group life Liab 27,932.00

2077 · Def inflows - Group life 12,543.00

2080 · Accrued Radio Bond Int Payable 4,772.17

2100 · Payroll Liabilities 10,054.11

2200 · 2012 Bond Debt Payable-RegRadio 2,090,000.00

2501 · Current Lease Liability GASB 87 91,773.45

Total Other Current Liabilities 2,372,458.46

Total Current Liabilities 2,605,415.66

Long Term Liabilities

2070 · OPEB Liability 10,394.45

2071 · Net Pension Liability -699,796.00

2075 · Def Inflow - OPEB Chg Assumptio 32,689.00

2502 · Noncurrent Lease Liability GASB 289,956.56

Total Long Term Liabilities -366,755.99

Total Liabilities 2,238,659.67

Equity

2900 · Radio Planning Reserves 237,500.00

3000 · Opening Bal Equity 157,600.08

3900 · Retained Earnings 10,309,738.45

Net Income 1,544,264.53

Total Equity 12,249,103.06

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 14,487,762.73

GO Virginia Region 2 Active Projects - Central VA Subregion

Program Metrics to Date

Total Projects Funded	Totals Funds Allocated	Matching Funds Allocated	Jobs Created
61 (44 Projects Completed)	\$18,608,236	\$19,883,718	966

Project Details (Chronological by start date)	Deliverables	Project Synopsis
Industry 4.0 for the Automated- Connected- Electrified (ACE) Workforce Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> VT College of Engineering 2/28/23-12/31/25* \$500,000	35 Businesses Served 530 Students Trained	The Industry 4.0 ACE project advances regional manufacturing innovation through a train-the-trainer model, redesigned to increase ROI and engagement. Module 1, covers Industry 4.0 fundamentals, change management, and lean process improvement, paired with hands-on plant tours. Based on industry feedback, Module 3 is being revised to emphasize LEAN practices and tailored technology adoption, supported by GENEDGE and ToolingU resources.
Center for Entrepreneurship Startup Ecosystem <i>Implementation</i> Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance 3/14/23-3/14/27* \$240,192	42 jobs created 20 businesses served \$400k capital raised	The Center of Entrepreneurship (C.Entr) increases the number of growth-oriented startups by creating an entrepreneurial center of excellence for the Greater Lynchburg region that will serve as an anchor and catalyst for the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. C.Entr provides new and serial entrepreneurs with access to capital and resources to help take their products to market. This initiative provides dedicated physical space at LRBA to support entrepreneurs.
Lynchburg Career Accelerator Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> Lynchburg Beacon of Hope 7/31/23-3/01/26* \$540,000	112 internships completed 44 certificates awarded 24 businesses served	Lynchburg Career Acceleration Program serves as a regional catalyst to create and fill a well-trained, well-supported pipeline of career-seekers who will fill the needs of high-demand traded sector industries in the Greater Lynchburg region. The project supports accelerated training, mentorship, career development, and placement of talented opportunity youth and prime-age workers in the region.
Appomattox County Welding Institute Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> Central VA PDC 6/30/24-6/30/27* \$565,000	54 Student Trained 70 Credentials Awarded	Appomattox County, in partnership with Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) is increasing capacity for career and technical education through a new facility for welding training. CVCC plans to offer students the opportunity to receive portable credentials in welding and pipefitting at the facility. The facility will help meet demand for welding courses not currently met through the existing training centers of CVCC.
Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> Randolph College 7/01/24 - 7/01/26 \$367,000	40 Students Trained 40 Internships Created	The new mechatronics and robotics engineering program offers dual enrollment through CVCC for local high schools and will require paid internships for students going through the program, once at Randolph. Guided by an employer advisory board, the program ensures industry relevance. It also launches as a FANUC robotics certified program, allowing students to complete Phase Two of FANUC certification.
Say YES to LYH Talent Portal Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance 10/01/25 - 9/30/27 \$99,999	50 Jobs Created 20 New Businesses Served	The primary deliverable of this grant is the launch of SayYestoLYHRegion.org, an innovative digital talent hub designed to attract, develop, and retain talent in the Lynchburg Region. This online platform will serve as a centralized resource that connects job seekers, students, educators, and employers with high-impact tools and information to support career exploration, workforce entry, and advancement.
Vector Space Robotics Facility Workforce Development <i>Planning</i> Vector Space 11/5/25 - 11/4/26 \$97,200	Feasibility Study, Architectural Plans, Program Curriculum, Interior Floor Plans, Sustainability Report, Budget for Implementation	This study will assess the need for expanded robotics education in Lynchburg to boost talent retention and strengthen the workforce pipeline through enhanced STEM programming. Activities include site visits, focus groups, credential exploration (CTE, CAD), curriculum development, dual enrollment pathways, and employer internships.

*DHCD approved a contract extension.

GO Virginia Region 2 Active Projects - Roanoke-Alleghany Subregion			
Program Metrics to Date			
Total Projects Funded	Totals Funds Allocated	Matching Funds Allocated	Jobs Created
61 (44 Projects Completed)	\$18,608,236	\$19,883,718	966

Project Details (Chronological by start date)	Deliverables	Project Synopsis
Industry 4.0 for the Automated- Connected- Electrified (ACE) Workforce Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> VT College of Engineering 2/28/23-12/31/25* \$500,000	35 Businesses Served 530 Students Trained	The Industry 4.0 ACE project advances regional manufacturing innovation through a train-the-trainer model, redesigned to increase ROI and engagement. Module 1, covers Industry 4.0 fundamentals, change management, and lean process improvement, paired with hands-on plant tours. Based on industry feedback, Module 3 is being revised to emphasize LEAN practices and tailored technology adoption, supported by GENEDGE and ToolingU resources.
Strengthening Entrepreneurs Impact Start Up Ecosystem <i>Implementation</i> Roanoke-Blacksburg Innovation Alliance 12/01/23-8/30/26* \$577,800	70 jobs created/filled 35 existing businesses expanded 8 new businesses created 58 businesses served 58 entrepreneurs engaged 50 mentors engaged	The project supports companies in the technology and biotechnology sectors to grow and scale through the following activities: 1) Launching OnRAMP, a pre-accelerator program to improve barriers to entry for early-stage startup companies, 2) Enhancing the Exit RAMP program, and 3) Enhancing the I&E report by collecting data on early-stage startups.
Project VITAL Cluster Scale Up <i>Statewide Competitive</i> Roanoke-Blacksburg Innovation Alliance (RBIA) 1/01/25-1/01/28 \$4,987,029	42 Employees Upskilled 406 Jobs Created/Filled 100 Businesses Served 55 Entrepreneurs Engaged 15 Mentors Engaged \$50 Capital Raised	RBIA, with partners including VT, Carilion, and Virginia Western, leads the state-wide Project VITAL grant in Region 2, a three-pillar initiative to grow biotechnology. The project supports startups through mentoring, compliance assistance, and lab-to-market initiatives; expands access to capital with training, investor connections, and a proof-of-concept grant program; and strengthens talent pipelines through K 12 outreach, higher education programming, internships, and commercialization fellowships.
GO TEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> Montgomery County Public Schools 7/01/25-7/01/27 \$994,213	1136 People Trained 1 Program Implemented	Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO-TEC) is launching in Region 2, starting with New River Valley and Roanoke County schools, to give students hands-on experience in high-demand fields through partnerships with education and industry. The program introduces middle schoolers to career pathways in precision machining, welding, IT/cybersecurity, robotics, automation, mechatronics, and advanced materials.
VTI Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology Workforce Development <i>Planning</i> VT Transportation Institute 11/15/25-11/14/26 \$99,999	Strategic plan for regional implementation of D2D Workforce Pathways Program for ACE technologies	VTI leads a supply-chain focused partner coalition (Dock to Door Coalition (D2D)). The project goals are to define and pilot a process for inventorying assets that support electric vehicle (EV) deployment in the community. The inventory will result in a database that can be used to identify gaps where new programs are needed, identify existing programs D2D partners and the community can benefit from, and build engagement opportunities between D2D partners and the community around EV workforce needs.
Project RISE Entrepreneurship & Innovation <i>Implementation</i> Virginia Tech Foundation 12/9/25-12/8-27 \$648,000	35 Jobs Created 10 New Businesses Created 40 Businesses Served 40 New Mentors Providing Assistance 20 Patents Filed 10 Patents Awarded	Project RISE will add critical momentum to the Entrepreneur Resource Center (ERC) to create a place-based regional hub for startup support and commercialization. ERC will provide technical assistance and commercialization funding to help advance technologies toward market readiness supporting activities such as prototype development and customer discovery. Workshops, events, and digital networking will link founders with regional resources, mentors, and investors.

*DHCD approved a contract extension.

GO Virginia Region 2 Active Projects - New River Valley Subregion

Program Metrics to Date

Total Projects Funded	Totals Funds Allocated	Matching Funds Allocated	Jobs Created
61 (44 Projects Completed)	\$18,608,236	\$19,883,718	966

Project Details (Chronological by start date)	Deliverables	Project Synopsis
Industry 4.0 for the Automated- Connected- Electrified (ACE) Workforce Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> VT College of Engineering 2/28/23-12/31/25* \$500,000	35 Businesses Served 530 Students Trained	The Industry 4.0 ACE project advances regional manufacturing innovation through a train-the-trainer model, redesigned to increase ROI and engagement. Module 1, covers Industry 4.0 fundamentals, change management, and lean process improvement, paired with hands-on plant tours. Based on industry feedback, Module 3 is being revised to emphasize LEAN practices and tailored technology adoption, supported by GENEDGE and ToolingU resources.
Falling Branch Corporate Park Site Development <i>Implementation</i> Montgomery County EDA 7/1/23-6/30/26* \$324,000	35 acres elevated from Tier 4 to Tier 5 on VBRSP scale 1,004 feet of sewer line constructed 2,800 feet of waterline constructed	The site development project advances a 35-acre site in Montgomery County from Tier 4 to Tier 5 in the Virginia Business Ready Site Program. Building on prior pad development, the effort includes grading and utility installation to prepare the site for future investment. This project aims to reduce uncertainty and accelerate construction timelines for new prospects.
Developing IT and Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> Radford University 7/01/24 - 7/01/26 \$202,872	104 Credentials Awarded 15 Businesses Served	A partnership between Radford and the Commonwealth Cybersecurity Initiative–Southwest Virginia expands IT and cybersecurity certifications while strengthening collaboration among Virginia Tech, Radford, New River Community College, and regional businesses. A new Pearson VUE testing lab in Radford supports credentialing, and the “Talent Connector Program” links certified students to employers through internships and career fairs, building a stronger regional workforce.
Project VITAL Cluster Scale Up <i>Statewide Competitive</i> Roanoke-Blacksburg Innovation Alliance (RBIA) 1/01/25-1/01/28 \$4,987,029	42 Employees Upskilled 406 Jobs Created/Filled 100 Businesses Served 55 Entrepreneurs Engaged 15 Mentors Engaged \$50 Capital Raised	RBIA, with partners including VT, Carilion, and Virginia Western, leads the state-wide Project VITAL grant in Region 2, a three-pillar initiative to grow biotechnology. The project supports startups through mentoring, compliance assistance, and lab-to-market initiatives; expands access to capital with training, investor connections, and a proof-of-concept grant program; and strengthens talent pipelines through K 12 outreach, higher education programming, internships, and commercialization fellowships.
GO TEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County Workforce Development <i>Implementation</i> Montgomery County Public Schools 7/01/25-7/01/27 \$994,213	1136 People Trained 1 Program Implemented	Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO-TEC) is launching in Region 2, starting with New River Valley and Roanoke County schools, to give students hands-on experience in high-demand fields through partnerships with education and industry. The program introduces middle schoolers to career pathways in precision machining, welding, IT/cybersecurity, robotics, automation, mechatronics, and advanced materials.
New River Valley Sites Advancement Site Development and Infrastructure <i>Planning</i> New River Valley Regional Commission 8/15/25-8/14/26 \$94,400	Updated Site Inventory and One Page Site Reports, Roadmap Report for elevating sites on the VBRSP site readiness scale, Site Selection Investment Report	This project will update and expand upon the 2019 VBRSP assessment by evaluating industrial sites across 5 New River localities. Infrastructure and site improvements, land ownership changes, and shifting market conditions have impacted site readiness, making an updated assessment necessary. This will identify infrastructure gaps, environmental constraints, and site development needs, providing a clear path for advancing sites through the VBRSP tiers.
VTTI Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology Workforce Development <i>Planning</i> VT Transportation Institute 11/15/25-11/14/26 \$99,999	Strategic plan for regional implementation of D2D Workforce Pathways Program for ACE technologies	VTTI leads a supply-chain focused partner base through the Dock to Door Coalition (D2D). The project goals are to define and pilot a process for inventorying assets that support electric vehicle (EV) deployment in the community. The inventory will result in a database that can be used to identify gaps where new programs are needed, identify existing programs D2D partners and the community can benefit from, and build engagement opportunities between D2D partners and the community around EV workforce needs.
Project RISE Entrepreneurship & Innovation <i>Implementation</i> Virginia Tech Foundation 12/9/25-12/8-27 \$648,000	35 Jobs Created 10 New Businesses Created 40 Businesses Served 40 New Mentors Providing Assistance 20 Patents Filed 10 Patents Awarded	Project RISE will add critical momentum to the Entrepreneur Resource Center (ERC) to create a place-based regional hub for startup support and commercialization. ERC will provide technical assistance and commercialization funding to help advance technologies toward market readiness supporting activities such as prototype development and customer discovery. Workshops, events, and digital networking will link founders with regional resources, mentors, and investors.
SBDC Business Preparedness NRV Helene Business Recovery Initiative <i>Implementation</i> Roanoke/NRV Small Business Development Center 1/12/26 - 1/11/28 \$71,156	1 New Program Implemented 50 Businesses Served 2 New Mentors Providing Assistance	The “Ready for Anything: Strategies for Business Continuity and Sustainability in the NRV” program will build capacity, support existing businesses, and strengthen continuity planning and disaster resilience across the New River Valley.

*DHCD approved a contract extension.