



Annual Report



2020

FROM THE CHAIR

The mission of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission is to be a dynamic public forum for matters of regional significance; to create regional solutions by coordinating regional plans and building coalitions; and, to provide excellence in regional services to our localities and to the Commonwealth.



What a rollercoaster 2020 has been for everyone.

Everything has changed and we've adapted and continue to work to support each other and build a better community.

No one imagined the impact the COVID-19 pandemic would have on our economy and our interactions with each other.

The PDC continues to be a source of information for our member communities during this pandemic. Weekly newsletters on unemployment, daily tracking of COVID-19 cases in the region, and information on COVID-19 specific grants continue to come from the PDC.

COVID-19 has re-emphasized the importance of our working together regionally along with our regional Health Department and regional hospital.

I've just begun my role as this year's Chair of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission. Now more than ever we should talk to each other, learn from each other, and support each other, cooperatively, to help our region through this pandemic.

This is our opportunity to work together and come out of this well positioned for the future.

I hope you enjoy this annual report and I encourage you to keep up with the work of the PDC through our website, www.cvpdc.org.

Richard Conner, PDC Chair
Mayor, Town of Appomattox

What do member jurisdictions receive for their dues?

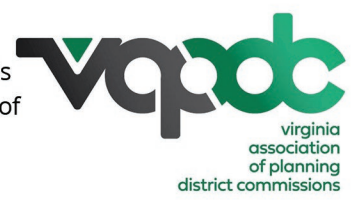
For every \$1.00 paid in local dues in 2019-2020, \$17.48 in grants were received for the region.

Members



Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions

Congratulations to Amherst Town Mayor Dwayne Tuggle on his selection to the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissioners.



Building Consensus and Moving Forward



Ready, Aim, Fire! The 'aim' part is especially important for Planning District Commissions. Helping shape priorities is what we do.

Building consensus is our mission. And we build consensus by keeping our communities talking to each other.

We do that with planning initiatives like [Strategic Directions](#).

We started 2019 with a goal to identify the next priority for the region's local governments through our Strategic Directions initiative.

We surveyed over 100 local government officials and met with over 35 local government leaders last fall to discuss the results of the survey.

Economic Development continues to be a priority for local government officials, with Workforce Development and attention to Quality of Life and Tourism also ranked as important.

From this input, the Central Virginia Planning District Commission agreed to focus energies on supporting the advanced manufacturing sector of the region's economy.

Our first step is to invest \$134,000 as the match to a GO Virginia grant that, if awarded, will provide funding for two positions at the Career and Technical Education Academy at Central Virginia Community College.

We'll continue to look for opportunities to support the manufacturing and technology sectors of our economy.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

TRANSPORTATION



Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization: New Name, New Energy

What used to be the Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization is now the Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization.

Philipp Gabathuler, CVPDC Senior Planner, will manage the public transit and multimodal component of the transportation work program, supporting Greater Lynchburg Transit Company and other regional public transit initiatives with planning services.

Ada Hunsberger, CVPDC Regional Planner, will manage the VDOT components of our transportation planning program.

Kelly Hitchcock, CVPDC Planning and Development Director, will continue to work with selected bike/pedestrian projects and continue to oversee marketing for RideSolutions programs.

Services to Regional Localities

- Smart Scale Applications:
 - Town of Appomattox
 - 460 & Thomas Jefferson Road Intersection Improvements
 - Timberlake Road between Greenview Drive & Laxton Road
 - 460 & Timber Ridge Road Intersection Improvements
- Sidewalk improvement/ construction along Main Street in Altavista through the Transportation Alternatives Program approved by Commonwealth Transportation Board

Services to the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company

- Continued to convert updated GLTC bus stop data and schedules into a format that can be uploaded to Google Transit amidst regular scheduling changes due to COVID-19 and the addition of Sunday bus service
- Continued to maintain the GLTC bus stop database
- Conducted an inventory of all bus stops within the fixed route system, taking stock of all amenities and conditions of all 700+ stops

The Connect Central Virginia 2045 Plan

combines three plans into one:

↳ CVTPO Long Range Transportation Plan

↳ Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

↳ Lynchburg Connectivity Study

Connect Central Virginia

Additional Outcomes of the Plan:

- Developed a new project evaluation tool which aligns with Smart Scale objectives to maximize potential investment into the region
- Comprehensive assessment of the region's transportation needs
- Multimodal recommendations for improving the safe and efficient movement of people, goods, and services throughout the region



ENVIRONMENT

Solid Waste Management: Region 2000 Services Authority



Purchase of an Electric Bulldozer

- These new dozers utilize similar technology used in diesel-powered locomotives
- The smaller diesel engine powers electric drive motors that power the dozer wheels and tracks
- This dozer improves operations and efficiency and have a longer service life than a conventional bulldozer.

The Authority expects a reduction in diesel fuel cost of \$25,000-\$30,000 per year.

Clean Water for the Chesapeake Bay

In partnership with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the CVPDC is working with localities and local stakeholders to advance best practices and projects to support the Chesapeake Bay Water Implementation Plan (WIP) clean water goals.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Working with local planners and administrators, the PDC teamed with Virginia Tech's Center for Geographic Information to update information about potential hazards. The report is circulating among the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Virginia Department of Emergency management and will be received by local governments in the region in 2021.

Learn more at: cvhmp.com



Integrating Campbell County into the Regional Radio System

Currently, public safety communications works seamlessly throughout Lynchburg, Bedford, and Amherst Counties. Soon, Campbell County will be joining that system.

The CVPDC manages the sixteen (16) site regional emergency radio communications system that allows two Counties and the City to communicate seamlessly with each other. Campbell County will add four (4) additional towers and over 500 additional radios.



HAZARD MITIGATION



CVPDC Pledges \$134,000 Investment in Career and Technical Education Academy at CVCC

Pledged as a match for a \$266,000 GO Virginia grant, the project will coordinate curriculum and class offerings between the Community College and local secondary school systems to the Career and Technical Education. If approved, we'll more effectively coordinate our technical training programs throughout the region.



\$150,000 Investment in Redevelopment Plans for Central Virginia Training Center

The CVPDC matched a successful GO Virginia grant to help pay for consultant services to create a redevelopment plan for the Training Center. On this site, there's over 350 acres with almost 100 buildings on real estate that borders the James River and the Route 29 Bypass.



CENTRAL REGION



Foundations for the Future

This grant-funded program is providing free college classes, career training and support for careers in healthcare and manufacturing to at least 30 out-of-work individuals. This pilot program is designed to build more effective working relationships with local departments of social services to help citizens secure living wage employment opportunities.

\$40,915

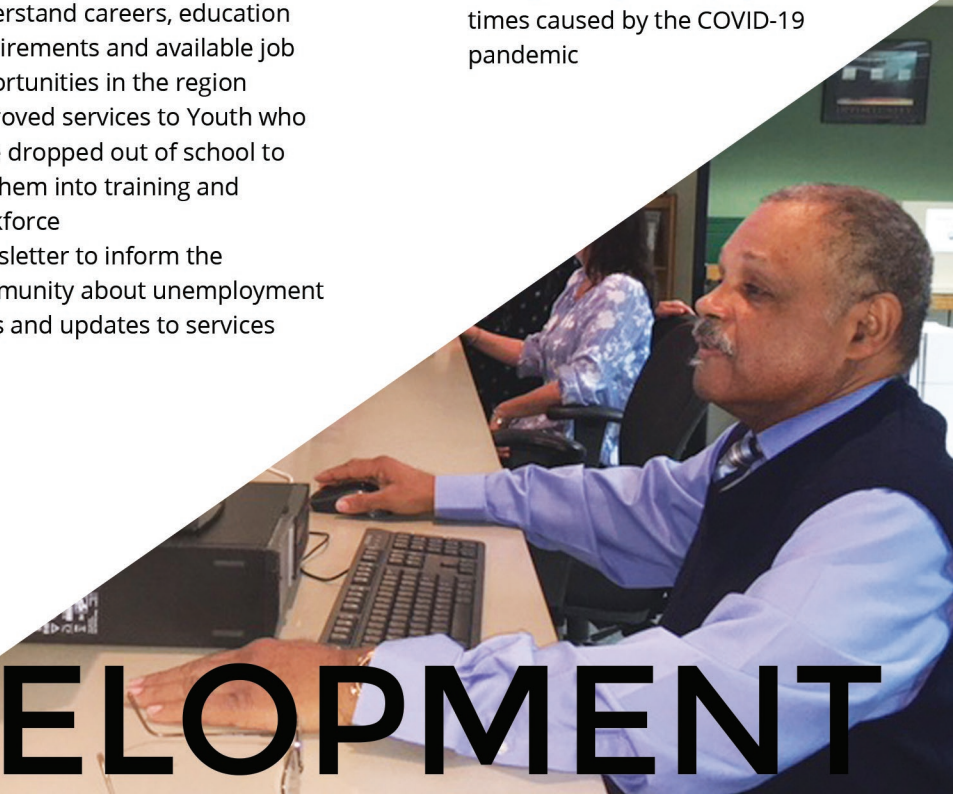
COVID-19 Emergency Assistance funds distributed to local businesses by the local Workforce Board

Ten manufacturing and healthcare businesses in the region received Rapid Response grants of up to \$7,000 distributed by the Central Virginia Workforce Board.

Workforce Programs Offered Virtually and at Odd Fellows Road Career Center

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Virginia Workforce Board has worked with local partners serving businesses and workers from the Odd Fellows Road Career Center. Changes to the program include:

- Career Pathways to help students and educators understand careers, education requirements and available job opportunities in the region
- Improved services to Youth who have dropped out of school to get them into training and workforce
- Newsletter to inform the community about unemployment rates and updates to services
- More outreach in outlying areas during the high unemployment times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic



WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CDBG PROJECTS

COMPLETED

Town of Appomattox: Meadowlark Neighborhood	Appomattox County Tornado Recovery
✓ Stormwater drainage improvements	✓ Two blighted structures removed
✓ Ten additional streetlights installed for pedestrian safety	✓ 6 owner-occupied homes renovated
	✓ 3 new homes constructed



Progress showing Appomattox County Tornado Recovery CDBG Home Rebuild

IN PROGRESS

- Ongoing CDBG Projects
- Old Town Madison Heights
- Hilltop Community Planning Grant: Town of Bedford



National Park Service: Middle James Vision Plan

Successful application to the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) will bring the national program planners to work with Amherst, Lynchburg and local stakeholders to develop a vision and action plan to advance experiences within and along the James River in our area.



Virginia Walkability Action Institute

An eight member Lynchburg Team - Lynchburg Health District, Lynchburg City, Centra, Community Access Network & CVPDC (Kelly Hitchcock) representatives - participated in the VDH program to advance equitable pedestrian system improvements.



Broadband Expansion in Amherst County

Responding to a County request, the Central Virginia Radio Board has made its Amherst County towers available to a broadband provider to expand low-cost internet coverage to underserved areas.



Town of Appomattox Comprehensive Plan

CVPDC Senior Planner Philipp Gabathuler worked with the Town of Appomattox Planning Commission on a re-write of the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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