



Local Government Council



FY 14 ANNUAL REPORT

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. -Henry Ford

Letter from the Chair



Every jurisdiction in Region 2000 has representatives on the Local Government Council where we talk about timely issues of interest to local government. Sometimes our meetings revolve around state issues and sometimes around local issues that cross boundaries and impact neighboring jurisdictions.

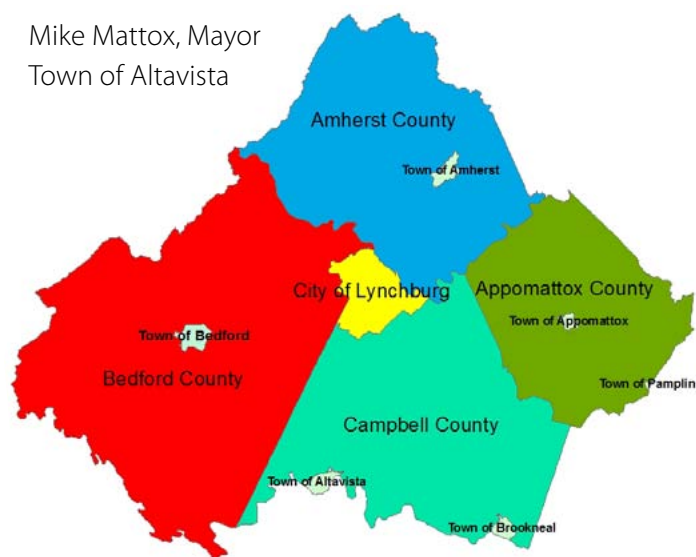
We use these meetings as opportunities to hear what's going on in neighboring jurisdictions and look for opportunities to hear about different approaches to common problems and sometimes common solutions.

The Local Government Council has a two-fold focus: First, we're looking to identify and implement multi-jurisdictional projects that will save our localities money or improve services to local government customers. Our regional landfill, the regional radio system, and proposed sharing of library administrative services are examples.

Secondly, the Local Government Council is committed to providing high quality customer service to the localities of the region. Whether it's traditional planning tools and grants writing, or managing state programs that include several jurisdictions, we place the highest priority in making sure that services to localities are professional, on time and on budget.

Thanks for being a part of the Local Government Council.

Mike Mattox, Mayor
Town of Altavista



Letter from the Executive Director

Much has remained the same over the 45 years that the Local Government Council has been in business. Every one of the original members of the Planning District Commission still participates and now towns in the region are included as well. The LGC is still the premier place where local government officials talk about important issues they face and where they get to know one another personally.

But much has changed as well. We now have a staff of seasoned professionals who have a strong track record of successful regional services to our localities. That successful track record includes the capability to manage large construction projects, bring home six figure grants, and manage multi-million dollar bond portfolios.

The Local Government Council has become a place where both elected officials and local jurisdiction staff can turn to exchange information and get lower cost professional services.

The staff of the Local Government Council looks forward to working with our member jurisdictions and stakeholders from throughout the region.

Gary Christie
Executive Director



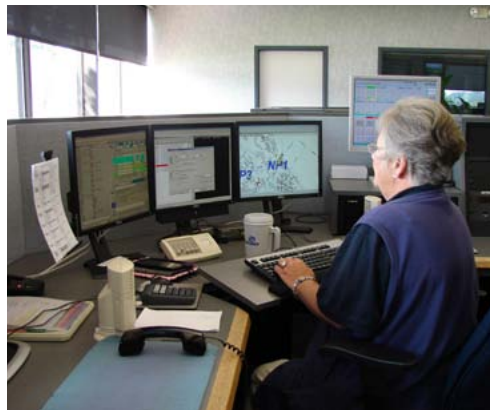
Regional Radio Communications Board

Amherst, Bedford and Lynchburg continue to move forward updating the 1997 regional radio system for public safety communications. To improve coverage, the system itself will grow from 11 repeater locations to 16 sites. The new sites include:

- *High Peak of Tobacco Row Mountain – Amherst*
- *Penhook area of Smith Mountain Lake – Bedford County*
- *Candler's Mountain – Lynchburg*
- *Thaxton Mountain – Bedford County*
- *Helm Street – Bedford Town*

Because the system will move from an analog to a digital, some of the older mobiles and portables will need to be replaced. The Local Government Council prepared a successful grant from FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters program which provided \$825,646 for the three jurisdictions to replace outdated mobiles and portables for their fire departments.

Switchover to the new system is expected in the summer of 2015. Contact Gary Christie at gchristie@region2000.org



Regional Services Authority



The Region 2000 Services Authority begins its seventh year providing solid waste disposal services for Appomattox, Campbell and Nelson Counties and the City of Lynchburg. Over the years, quantities of solid waste disposed have dropped by about 6% and the cost to localities has increased by approximately 2.3% a year to \$28.75 per ton.

It is estimated that regionalizing solid waste disposal services has saved over \$8 million in expenses, fees and cost avoidance for these jurisdictions in the form of low tipping fees and distribution of excess revenue.

The Authority continues an active recycling education program in Lynchburg and Campbell County.

Contact Clarke Gibson at cgibson@region2000.org

Regional Workforce Development

The Workforce Investment Board (WIB) manages a \$1.2 million federal grant to help adults, youth and displaced workers with job training and job placement. Through the Workforce Center located at the Plaza in Lynchburg, employees and employers alike get help with job placement and job training.



75% of the adults and 72% of the youth served at the Career Center were placed into employment or post-secondary education. 74% of Adults and 85% of youth earned some form of credential or certificate when served by our programs.

The WIB Board consists of business and community leaders from throughout the region who focus on ensuring that workforce development and education efforts are coordinated and effective to meet the needs of the businesses of the region. In the 2013-2014 school year the WIB provided funding to the Bedford County Schools and the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce to launch an internship program for high school seniors to connect students with jobs in the local economy.

The Region 2000 WIB also provided funding to XLR8, the Governor's STEM Academy, which serves 25 high school juniors from nine different high schools in our region. Based on a Virginia Commonwealth University study released in April, 2014 the WIB funds experienced a 5 year return on investment (ROI) of \$10.51 and a 10 year return on investment of \$18.59 for each \$1 spent. Region 2000's ROI is ranked second in Virginia among the seventeen Workforce Investment Boards.

Contact Workforce Development Director Ben Bowman at bbowman@region2000.org

Advancing Alternative Transportation in Region 2000

LGC staff – in collaboration with RIDE Solutions and VDOT staff – continue to advance alternative transportation planning, development and public participation through a number of initiatives in FY 14 including:

Assist Localities with VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Applications



New sidewalk will separate walkers from the many trucks.

Staff assisted Lynchburg City and Altavista in writing, submitting and receiving FY2015 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding from VDOT. Lynchburg will utilize \$178,890 awarded funds, combined with 20% match of private funds from private businesses, to construct approximately 5,200 feet of sidewalk. The sidewalk will provide safe pedestrian movement to the approximate 1,400 workers employed in the Lynchpin Industrial Park.

Altavista was awarded \$82,330 towards the engineering and design phase of the Altavista Route 43 Downtown Gateway Project. This project will expand safe pedestrian and bicycle movement within this gateway into the Town's historic and commercial district and starting point of Virginia State By-Way Route 43.

Serve as Local Advocate to Assure Local Bicycle Corridor Visions are included within State and Regional Plans

Staff served as the local liaison for state initiatives to identify opportunities for rural shoulder widening and long-distance route identification. Specifically, staff provided VDOT State Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator a list of priority 2000 rural roadways from the Region 2000 Bicycle Plan for consideration in the shoulder

maintenance program. Staff represents Region 2000 as a member of VDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, a coalition of organizations and localities across Virginia to review and provide guidance, as requested, to the VDOT's various bicycle and pedestrian program activities.

Lynchburg City – A Plan to Consider Bicycle Parking

LGC staff wrote a Draft Bicycle Rack Design Guideline to assist the City with a process to consider bicycle rack design, approval, and installation guidelines within City property.



Bicycle Facility Installation Continues

Staff has been a key partner with Lynchburg City's Public Works Department in identifying bicycle accommodation installation opportunities as articulated in the Region 2000 Bicycle Plan. In addition, staff has provided technical assistance to the Towns of Altavista and Amherst in looking for similar opportunities to establish bicycle accommodation strategies along roadway corridors identified in the regional bicycle vision plan. Activities included assisting their adopting the Town of Altavista Bicycle Plan.



Expanding Alternative Transportation Use

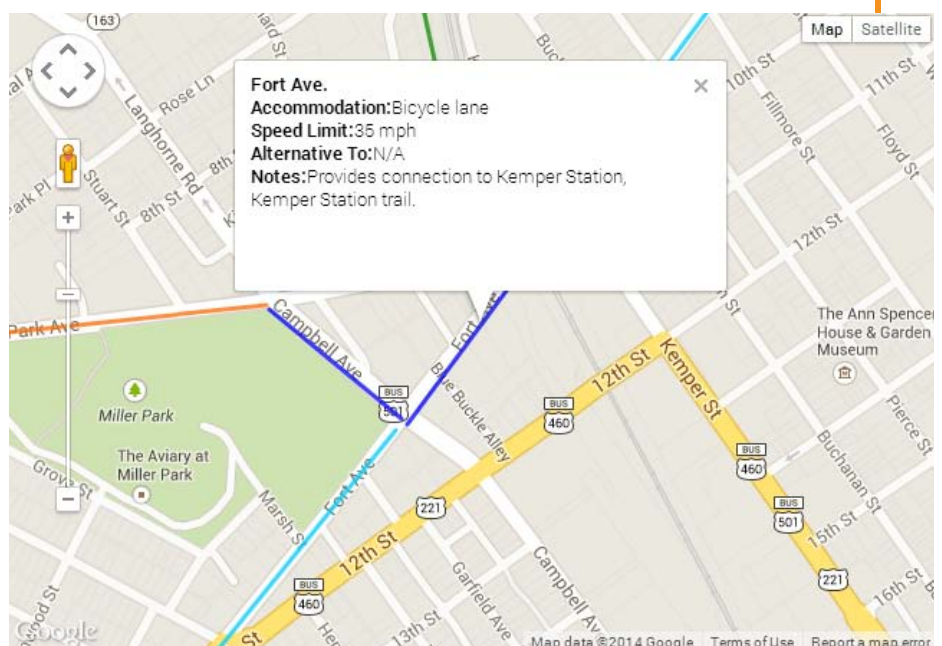
We begin our third year providing information to the region's commuters

about alternative transportation options - carpooling, transit, biking, and walking - to access work and community resources through the RIDE Solutions program, www.ridesolutions.org.

Lynchburg area employees can utilize the multiple RIDE Solutions programs and outreach tools to expand commuting options that can help employees lower commuting costs, support wellness programs, reduce parking demand, and expand labor pools. We share this service with the Roanoke and New River Valley Regional Councils. Some of RIDE Solutions program initiatives this past year included:

Interactive Bike Map

Currently housed on the RIDE Solutions website, this map provides an interactive summary of roadways, that either through existing roadway width and vehicle count or through a physical feature, such as bike lanes, provide a more appealing on-road bicycling environment. The map also outlines some specific routes to access community resources.



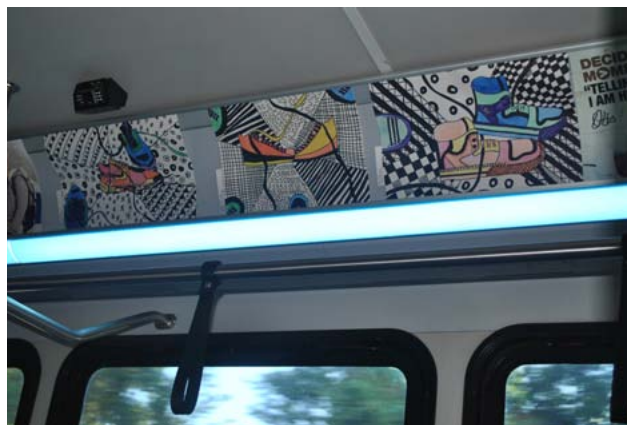
Bike Month and Clean Commute Challenge

Once again May was the month to challenge and encourage area residents to consider options to get to work and other community resources and RIDE Solutions hosted fun activities and events including:

a) Clean Commute Challenge Web-based competition where participants pledge to use a clean commute mode at least one day in the month. 24 participants registered on the site and pledged a total of 7,630 alternative transportation miles during May.

b) Art by Bus

During May Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) buses were turned into rolling galleries as artwork from 99 Lynchburg City Elementary and Middle School Students was displayed. Nine Art by Bus Contest Winners and their winning submissions were presented at the May 16th GLTC Kemper Street Transfer Center Grand Opening. All of the winning artwork is framed and will be displayed throughout the year at the new GLTC Transfer Center.



Student artwork was showcased on GLTC buses all May

c) Bike Shorts Film Festival

Lynchburg's first screening of RIDE Solutions' Bike Shorts Film Festival was held at Riverview Artspace May 16 - National Bike to Work Day. Approximately 70 individuals squeezed into Riverviews screening room to view 22 films that all featured a bicycle at least once in the film. Films were submitted from as far away as Vancouver and England and as close as Lynchburg.



Participants enjoy Lynchburg's first Bike Shorts Film Festival screening.

d) Extraordinary Bike Professional Award

Davy Hazlegrove, Blackwater Bike Shop owner, was chosen as the 2014 Extraordinary Bike Professional. Davy stood out among the submitted nominees across the service area for his professional dedication and cycling support through his personal and civic dedication to promoting bicycling safety and his assistance to Lynchburg City in the maintenance and planning of the off-road trail network.



Hazlegrove (left) receives his Extraordinary Bike Professional Award

Contact Kelly Hitchcock at khitchcock@region2000.org

Route 221 Corridor Study

The Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization, Bedford County, and the City of Lynchburg worked together to accomplish the Route 221 Corridor Study during FY 14. Working with VDOT and the consulting firm EPR, the project team identified recommendations to improve the safety and function of the corridor over time. Both Bedford County and the City will consider including this effort in their respective comprehensive plans this coming year.

Contact Bob White at bwhite@region2000.org



Central Virginia Long Range Transportation Plan Year 2040 Update



Every five years the Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization takes a comprehensive look at our transportation environment and priorities. Beginning in FY 15 and finishing the next year, there will be a series of community meetings to assess our current plan

and make appropriate updates, as needed.

One important change in the 2040 plan will be to incorporate a process ranking identified transportation projects. This is

particularly important given the Commonwealth is moving to a statewide prioritization effort beginning in 2017. Our prioritization effort can help ensure the regional community is putting forth the most competitive projects possible in the face of continued transportation funding challenges facing the Commonwealth.

The Plan update also will work to forge a stronger link between our region's transportation plan and the region's economic development plan. Tying transportation and economic development more closely together will better position our communities to take advantage of economic development opportunities.

Contact Bob White at bwhite@region2000.org

Support to Local Transit Providers

Local Government Council staff provided the Altavista Community Transit System (ACTS) with mapping and route planning assistance.

LGC staff provided the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company (GLTC) with the planning assistance associated with keeping the bus stop database current. Keeping a current inventory of bus stops promotes the overall efficiency of system operations and management.

LGC staff also completed an ADA accessibility study for GLTC. This study examined characteristics attributed to ADA accessibility for all bus stops within the GLTC fixed route system. The overall findings showed that roughly

50% of all bus stops within the system met all ADA requirements. 726 stops and their corresponding attributes were captured during the data gathering process. Methods to alleviate ADA challenges at stops were reviewed and presented to the ADA advisory board. A list of prioritized improvements related to ADA accessibility and connectivity was provided to GLTC officials.

Contact Philipp Gabathuler at pgabathuler@region2000.org



Regional Economic Statistics

A new set of economic data is now available at www.region2000dashboard.org. Developed in a partnership between the Federal Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, the Region 2000 Workforce Investment Board and the Local Government Council, this economic data will be the foundation data for our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Certain data sets will be updated as often as every three months. Contact Scott Smith at ssmith@region2000.org



COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



Substantially reconstructed home during construction within the project area.

Madison Heights – Amherst County

Madison Heights CDBG – Staff is providing project administration services to the \$1,222,249 multi-year Comprehensive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to provide infrastructure and housing rehabilitation improvements within a portion of the Old Madison Heights Community.

Currently four homes have been rehabilitated and the water, sewer, roadway and drainage improvements are almost complete.

Contact Kelly Hitchcock at khitchcock@region2000.org

Region 2000 Stormwater Management Committee

The Region 2000 Stormwater Management Committee continued to meet this year in preparation for the July 1, 2014 implementation of statewide stormwater management regulations. The Committee, composed of Region 2000 staff, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell Counties' staff, and the City of Lynchburg, completed the development of necessary local stormwater management programs and an administrative guidance manual that provides for a consistent approach to administering the programs across the Region 2000 community.

The committee continues to meet to provide mutual assistance as the challenging implementation efforts continue.

Contact Bob White at bwhite@region2000.org



Regional Agriculture Strategic Plan Endorsed by the Local Government Council

**Virginia
Cooperative
Extension**



VirginiaTech
Invent the Future
www.ext.vt.edu

Local Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents and the region's local economic development officials have completed a regional strategic plan for the agricultural community. The plan has been recently adopted by the Local Government Council.
<http://www.region2000.org/index.php?id=1321>



Priority recommendations include:

1. Conduct a regional food hub feasibility study to assess the availability of local agricultural products to support a regional food hub.
2. Develop a regional website that will promote and market regional agriculture and forestry products to potential business and individual consumers.
3. Promote agriculture career and small business development opportunities by coordinating efforts between larger buyers such as universities and hospitals with small scale businesses.

The Local Government Council has earmarked \$50,000 of local funds to use as leverage for matching resources to implement recommendations in FY 15.

Regional Library Operations Study



The Region 2000 Library Initiative continued this past year. A Regional Library Operations Analysis was completed this spring. The analysis demonstrated potential cost savings of approximately \$500,000 to the

participating jurisdictions of Bedford and Campbell Counties and the City of Lynchburg as well as the opportunity for services improvements.

A multi-year, phased approach to ultimately implementing a regional system was identified.

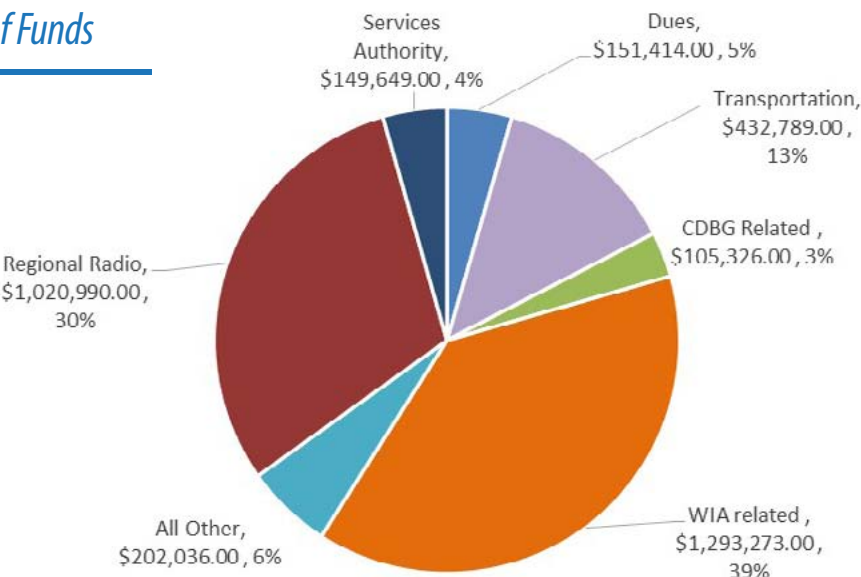
Initially, the analysis recommends continued development of shared services, including Lynchburg joining Bedford and Campbell Counties in sharing a common integrated library materials management system, allowing for seamless resource access across jurisdiction boundaries.

Campbell and Lynchburg have agreed to continue efforts toward a regional library system.

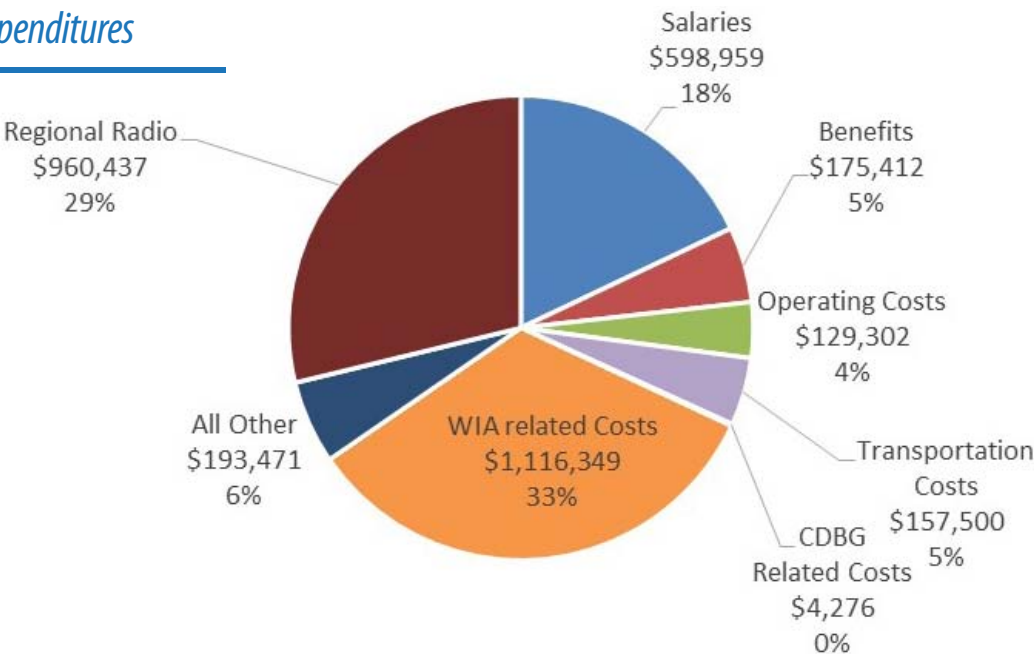
Contact Bob White at bwhite@region2000.org

Financial Report

FY 14 LGC Source of Funds



FY 14 LGC Expenditures



The Local Government Council manages over \$11 million annually in accounts for:

- Local Government Council
- Workforce Investment Board
- Business and Economic Development Alliance
- Services Authority
- Radio Communications Board

Since 2008, we have managed bond debt issues totaling over \$31 million. In FY 09 we reduced our local dues by 13% to assist localities through the recession. That reduction continues for FY 15.

Contact Rosalie Majerus at rmajerus@region2000.org

List of Commission Members and Local Governments

Kenneth Bumgarner, Amherst Town Council
Mayor Phyllis Campbell, Town of Brookneal
Waverly Coggsdale, Altavista Town Manager
Aileen Ferguson, Appomattox County Administrator
Joan Foster, Lynchburg City Council
Bill Gillespie, Appomattox Town Manager
Stanley Goldsmith, Campbell County Board of Supervisors
Delegate Scott Garrett, Virginia House of Delegates
Sen. Tom Garrett, Senate of Virginia
Stacey Hailey, Bedford Town Council
Mayor Paul Harvey, Town of Appomattox
Jack Hobbs, Amherst Town Manager

Charles Kolakowski, Bedford Town Manager
Frank J. Rogers, Campbell County Administrator
Megan Lucas, CEO, Business and Economic Development Alliance
Mayor Mike Mattox, Town of Altavista, Chair
Don Kidd, Amherst County Board of Supervisors
L. Kimball Payne, Lynchburg City Manager
Mark Reeter, Bedford County Administrator
Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator
John Sharp, Bedford County Board of Supervisors
Gary Tanner, Appomattox County Board of Supervisors
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager

LGC Staff - Years of Service

Kelly Hitchcock – 14 years
Rosalie Majerus – 13 years
Bob White – 12 years
Susan Cook – 11 years
Gary Christie – 9 years
Scott Smith – 8 years
Emmie Boley – 6 years
Philipp Gabathuler – 4 years
Matt Perkins – 2 years
Ben Bowman – < 1 year

Services Provided by the Local Government Council – 45 Years of Service to Region 2000

We build community by expanding infrastructure and building stakeholder consensus.

We lower costs and improve services through multi-jurisdictional service delivery.

As professional consultants to the local governments of Region 2000, we

- Are effective, transparent, responsive
- Understand public sector challenges
- Build collaborative approaches with multiple stakeholders

Specific service areas:

- Organizational & Strategic Assessment
- Retreat and Group Facilitation
- Long Range Planning and Land Use Planning
- Transportation Planning
- Grant Writing and Administration
- Project Management
- Evaluation of Service Delivery
- Public Participation & Involvement
- Capital Project Management
- Communications
- Financial Management
- Public Procurement
- Human Resources Management
 - Recruitment
 - Background Checks
 - Job Description Development
- Workplace Development Consultation
- Data Analysis
- GIS Mapping and Analysis

We build opportunities for networking and interaction among local elected officials to raise awareness of issues in neighboring localities.



Local Government Council

Innovation. Collaboration. Economic Growth.