

Region 2000 Local Government Council

**FY-2016 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program
July 01, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

**Transportation Technical Committee Approval: March 5, 2015
Region 2000 Local Government Council Approval: March 19, 2015**

Purpose and Objective

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) allocates part of the State Planning and Research (SPR) funding to provide annual transportation planning assistance for non-urbanized areas within the Commonwealth. The Rural Transportation Planning (RTP) Program was created to aid the State in fulfilling the requirements of the State Planning Process to address the transportation needs of non-metropolitan areas. Funds appropriated under 23 U.S.C. 307(c) (SPR funds) are used in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia for transportation planning as required by Section 135, Title 23, U.S. Code. These Federal funds provide 80 percent funding and require a 20 percent local match.

In FY-2016 each planning district commission / regional commission will receive \$58,000 from VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program and each planning district commission / regional commission will provide a local match of \$14,500 to conduct rural transportation planning activities. This resource may be supplemented with additional planning funds, but note that the arrangement of all such funds involves development of a scope of work, approval and other coordination in TMPD administrative work programs.

The scope of work shall include specific activities as requested by VDOT and/or the Federal Highway Administration. The scope of work may also include activities or studies addressing other transportation planning related issues that may be of specific interest to the region. The criteria for the determination of eligibility of studies for inclusion as part of this work program are based upon 23 U.S.C. 307 (c), State Planning and Research.

FY 2015 - Program Administration (\$21,000)

Background and Objective: The purpose of this work element is to facilitate regional participation and consensus building on transportation-related issues through a continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated planning process.

1. Rural Transportation Planning Management

Description: This activity includes all program management and administrative responsibilities not directly attributable to specific program activities. There are two defined objectives of this task: (1) the administration of transportation planning work program activities; and (2) the completion of necessary contracts, invoices, progress reports, correspondence, and grant applications in support of the work program.

Deliverable Products: The primary result of this task should be a well-functioning transportation program, including:

- Preparation of quarterly financial progress reports
- Provide oversight and administration of specific projects awarded under the Rural Transportation Grant Program
- Prepare meeting agenda minutes, resolutions, arrange for and/or attend meetings, conferences, and training
- Preparation for and attendance at Project Management Team (Technical Committee) meetings, including any work for special committees
- Review proposed enhancement projects as requested
- Prepare and execute funding agreements and contracts, including contract extensions or supplements, as needed
- Respond to requests for intergovernmental reviews, coordination
- Review, as necessary, consultant contracts or supplements and monitor consultant contracts, negotiations, and work progress on corridor studies and plans employing consultants
- Undertake staff training to enhance the rural transportation planning process, such as attendance at VDOT meetings and training sessions, VAPDC conferences, VAPA conferences and other opportunities as identified
- Provide Year End Summary List of accomplishments under the Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program

Budget: \$16,800

2. Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program-Scope of Work

Description: This task provides for the annual preparation of the Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program – Scope of Work for the upcoming fiscal year (i.e., July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017). Any amendments or revisions to the existing scope of work are also a part of this element.

Deliverable Products: The FY 2017 Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program – Scope of Work, which documents the activities to be accomplished by the Region 2000 Local Government Council staff in the upcoming fiscal year. It will also include any amendments or revisions to the existing scope of work.

Budget: \$4,200

SPR Funds (80%)	\$16,800
PDC Funds (20%)	\$4,200
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Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Administration	\$21,000

FY 2016 - Program Activities (\$51,500)

Background and Objective: Address regionalized transportation issues that are identified by the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and the Planning District Commission. Individual projects and work elements are described below:

1. General Technical Assistance

Description: This task allows for the assistance to localities and VDOT on transportation related activities on an individual or regional basis as needed.

This task includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing transportation technical input and resources to the Council's localities outside of the MPO area to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the transportation network
- Reviewing and assisting in the updating of local comprehensive plans to ensure that land use and other elements are consistent with transportation planning elements and the statewide transportation plan; this item includes assisting in the development of comprehensive plan's transportation element
- Other duties as required by VDOT, FHWA, and the Council
- Development and provision of GIS information for use with transportation projects and planning efforts
- Enhancement and maintenance of a website
- Education, information, and referral assistance to localities on local transportation planning committees such as the 501 Coalition and local Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committees
- Writing transportation planning grants, including enhancement and safe routes to school grants. This task includes any research and plan development necessary to support grant application efforts
- Evaluation and review of special situations such as major traffic generators, site plans, elderly and handicapped needs, and para-transit projects, as needed
- GIS training activities
- Complete any outstanding items from the FY 2015 Scope of Work. (None anticipated at this time)
- Assist the District Planner in the update/review of the Small Urban Area Plans in Region 2000
- Compile all available current and future land use GIS layers / attribute data from local comprehensive plans within the Planning District Commission boundaries. Please use the GIS tool to be provided by VDOT-TMPD to geo-reference local transportation plan recommendations. VDOT-TMPD will provide technical assistance on an as needed basis in accomplishing this task. Information gathered will be used to update existing land use data within the Statewide Planning System and will be used to augment data for the Statewide Travel Demand Model that is currently under development. For localities that do not have GIS layers / attribute data for the current and future land use plans, develop a schedule and identify resources needed that would allow this data to be captured via GIS. VDOT-TMPD

will provide detail instructions and templates to be used to provide consistency across the state

- Attend the Fall Transportation Meeting and provide a display
- Participate in outreach meetings and review data as requested by VDOT throughout the fiscal year pertaining to VTrans and other appropriate efforts

Deliverable Products:

- Assistance as enumerated above;
- Enhance and maintain the Council's website transportation component;

Budget: \$11,000

2. Rural Long-Range Transportation (RLRTP) Activities

Description:

- A. Begin update of Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP) (to be completed in FY 16-17). One of the goals of this activity will be to align the format and scope of the RLRTP with the Central Virginia Long-Range Plan (CVLRP). Projects will be prioritized on an annual basis with input from localities and VDOT within the context of House Bill 2 and the Virginia Multimodal Transportation Plan. Initial prioritization effort will be accomplished by second quarter of FY '16
- B. Continue to build competency in corridor and intersection safety analysis using guidance documents from VDOT and other best practices. Conduct a corridor study or analysis of a roadway segment or intersection and identify potential improvements (including access management) to the corridor for safety and/or congestion. This task will involve coordinating location selection with the transportation technical committee, localities, and VDOT. A sample corridor study will be added as an appendix to the updated RLRTP in order to provide localities with guidance on how to best request further studies from the PDC

Deliverables:

- Summary of RLRTP update activities
- Documented prioritization results
- Summary of safety analysis activities

Budget: \$34,500

3. Alternative Transportation Planning Activities

The following items will be accomplished in support of alternative transportation planning efforts:

Description: The same primary PL Alternative Transportation project activities will include the rural areas of Region 2000:

- Website updates
- Grant assistance
- Bike Month
- Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Bike/Pedestrian Annual Report
- VDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee participation
- Alternative Transportation Webinar Series; and
- Yearly update to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities in Region 2000

Deliverable: A summary report of above referenced activities.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park –Alternative Transportation Connection Plan

Description: Through a coordinated Effort, including Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Appomattox Court House National Historic Park (ACHNHP), VDOT and Town and County representatives, examine opportunities to effect:

1. an on-road and signed bicycle linkage that will connect the ACHNHP to the High Bridge Trail State Park, a 31 mile multi-use trail through Cumberland, Nottoway, and Prince Edward counties and Towns Burkeville, Farmville and Pamplin City; and
2. an off-road trail connection, that can include sidewalk or multiuse trail, from Appomattox Town of the ACHNHP. This trail will be the second leg of the Appomattox Heritage and Recreational Trail loop

Background: Developing an alternative transportation network that will connect the Appomattox County community hubs of the Town of Appomattox, the Appomattox County Community Park, the Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, and the Museum of the Confederacy has been an active and articulated community goal since 2005. To that end, Appomattox has initiated numerous projects to bring this connection vision a reality over the years. Activities include the completion, in 2014, of the Phase 1 Appomattox Heritage and Recreational Trail, AHRT, a 1.3 mile multiuse trail that runs from the Appomattox County Community Park to a new trail head; the completion of a Route 24 Corridor Study, completion of the Appomattox Greenway Masterplan – A Vision of the Future, and the Town of Appomattox Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

In addition to pedestrian and bicycle initiatives within and around the Town of Appomattox, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has developed the High Bridge Trail State Park.

The Region 2000 Greenways, Blueways, and Trails Plan – a 2012 Connection Vision and the Region 2000 Bicycle Plan each outline a long-term vision to establish alternative transportation linkage between key Region 2000 destinations and result in a designated linkage between Appomattox Town and a key national historic park to one of Virginia’s newest State Parks.

Deliverable: An Appomattox community trail extension opportunities analysis to effect the above.

Amherst County Recreational/Bike Tour Route Development Plan

Description: Assist Amherst County in identifying and developing circular bicycle touring/recreational routes and starting/parking location points. Amherst County has an interest in attracting recreational cyclists and touring groups. This project will establish designated on-road cycling loops, of varying lengths and difficulty factors, for moderate and advanced cyclists. The project will include route identification and partner agreements with local establishments for parking arrangements for loop starting and ending points.

Research and inventory will include:

- Identify roadway routes frequented by cyclists in and around Amherst County. Region 2000 Bicycle Plan will be used as starting resource
- Confirm with Bike Virginia and local cyclists on touring routes
- Identify and map resting, eating, recreation stops to establish loops starting and resting locations
- Confirm with VDOT on road geometries, road data and do field check on shoulder, roadway conditions
- Develop parking agreement document for trail loop starting point locations.
- Develop route development plan – include signage purchase and installation needs, costs, approval timing.
- Include draft website and tourism outreach plan

Deliverable: An Amherst County Recreational Cycling Touring Route Plan that will present a plan of action to implement a series of moderate and advanced cycling touring routes in Amherst County, with potential expansion into Nelson County.

Budget: \$6,000

SPR Funds (80%)	\$41,200
PDC Funds (20%)	\$10,300
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Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Activities	\$51,500

FY-2016 Budget Summary

Tasks	VDOT (SPR) 80%	PDC (20%)	Total (100%)
<u>Program Administration</u>			
1. Program Administration	\$13,440	\$3,360	\$16,800
2. Scope of Work	\$3,360	\$840	\$4,200
3.			
4.			
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Administration	\$16,800	\$4,200	\$21,000
<u>Program Activities</u>			
1. General Technical Assistance	\$8,800	\$2,200	\$11,000
2. Rural Long-Range Transportation (RLRTP) Activities	\$27,600	\$6,900	\$34,500
3. Alternative Transportation Planning Activities	\$4,800	\$1,200	\$6,000
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Activities	\$41,200	\$10,300	\$51,500
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Administration and Program Activities	\$58,000.00	\$14,500	\$72,500



**Local
Government
Council**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING FY-2016 RURAL TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the staff of the Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council has prepared the FY-2016 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program (Program); and,

WHEREAS, this Program has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Transportation Technical Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Program is now before the Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council for final approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council does hereby approve the FY-2016 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program and does authorize it to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

ADOPTED this 19th day of ~~April~~ *March*, 2015, by the Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council.

ATTESTED BY:

Gary F. Christie, Secretary
Region 2000 Local Government Council

CERTIFIED BY:

Mike Mattox, Chair
Region 2000 Local Government Council