



VIRGINIA'S REGION 2000
— LOCAL —
GOVERNMENT
COUNCIL

www.LocalGovernmentCouncil.org

ANNUAL REPORT

The Mission of the Local Government Council 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.

► **DYNAMIC**

► **REGIONAL**

► **EXCELLENCE**

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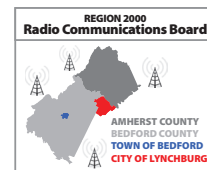
CENTRAL VIRGINIA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



CVMPO



**Workforce
Development
Board**



RIDE Solutions
Connecting the Region's Commuters

LETTER FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL CHAIR, KENNETH CAMPBELL



Welcome to the 2018 Annual Report of the Region 2000 Local Government Council, the Regional Planning District Commission for Lynchburg and the surrounding communities.

I'm Kenneth Campbell, a member of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors and the Chair of the Local Government Council for 2018-2019. The Chair rotates among members alphabetically so this year is my turn to lead the meetings. As public servants, we all step up when called upon.

I'll be working toward two important objectives this year: First, to make sure that we have interesting, meaningful conversations among the local and state government representatives. The Local Government Council is where we talk about issues of the day and learn about a locality's interests, issues, and challenges. Often, we share the same challenges as our neighbors. We also will be better informed about issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries and that require coordinated action to address.

Second, we'll make sure that the services that the Local Government Council provide are beneficial and effective for our local and state government customers. Localities turn to the LGC so that we don't have to pay more expensive consultant fees or add more staff for a project of limited duration. The formula has worked well for almost 50 years. The rest of the Council and I are committed to the concept of exceptional service and innovative ideas.

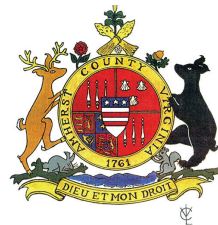
We're bringing in the Southeastern Regional Directors Institute, www.SERDI.org, to guide the Council through a regional assessment of our organization and confirm our organization's direction. By now you will have likely been asked to participate in a brief, on-line survey to gather your perspective on the region's priorities and on our organization. We'll use this information, along with ideas gathered in individual interviews and focus groups to become the background for a regional strategic plan to come out in 2019.

The Council has begun the process to rebrand itself reclaiming the Central Virginia Planning District Commission name; one that we used for the first thirty-one years that we were in business. This name change will be approved during the fall by member localities, so we're looking at a roll-out of our new-old name starting in 2019.

The self-assessment, the regional strategic plan, and the re-branding using "Central Virginia" will position the Council with a consensus driven direction and a clear sense of our regional priorities to begin our second fifty years of service. In August 2109 we begin a fifty year anniversary of the organization with the same member jurisdictions that we started with.

It's a fifty year legacy of cooperation, regional planning, and lower-cost public services. Renewed as the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, we will make the next 50 years even more successful.

MEMBERS



AMHERST ADVANCED OLDE TOWN MADISON HEIGHTS REVITALIZATION



Amherst County has been successful in receiving a number of grants to continue the revitalization of Olde Town Madison Heights, one of the County's most densely populated and unique communities.

Amherst County received a \$1,110,634 multi-year Community Development Block Grant award. This will be matched with an estimated \$92,060 through contributions by local, non-profit and state agencies, including VDOT. The project will complete housing rehabilitation, debris removal, demolition, utility pole relocation, retainage wall replacement, and storm water drainage improvements along Main Street.

Additionally, the County's Service Authority was awarded \$500,000, to be matched by \$500,000, to rehabilitate deteriorating sanitary sewers within the Main Street area.



GREATER MEADOWLARK NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Greater Meadowlark Neighborhood Improvement Project, funded through a grant provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development to the Town of Appomattox, has transformed a neighborhood. In partnership with the Region 2000 Local Government Council, providing grant management services, the Town of Appomattox has improved the living conditions of over 40 individuals through the rehabilitation of their homes.

Addressing issues related to safety, sanitation, and security the Meadowlark project has improved the physical environment of these families through improvements to electrical and plumbing systems, increasing energy efficiency through various means, and even installing accessibility features for the elderly or disabled. Additionally, the project has eliminated two vacant structures not suitable for rehabilitation.

In Phase II of the project, scheduled to start Spring of 2019, improvements will be made to address stormwater drainage at three locations in the neighborhood as well as install 10 additional street lights to improve pedestrian safety.

APPOMATTOX COUNTY TORNADO RECOVERY PROJECT

In June of 2017 Appomattox County began the process of assisting families impacted by the February 2016 tornado that struck the area of Evergreen and surrounding communities by addressing unmet housing rehabilitation needs. The County has been able to assist more than seven families, totaling twenty individuals, through rehabilitation of their homes to pre-storm conditions. Funding has been provided by a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$879,760. The Region 2000 Local Government Council has been providing grant management services for the project on behalf of Appomattox County.

The program, effective until June 2019, is currently processing several additional housing rehabilitation projects to determine eligibility. The program continues to assist families in tornado-related wood-waste and stump removal and community clean-up efforts.



FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The Local Government Council hosted 26 local government staff for a presentation by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation about activities to reduce risk, damages and costs associated with flooding.



HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING



FEMA

The Disaster Act of 2000 requires that local governments, as a condition of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation program eligibility, develop and maintain a plan that examines natural disaster risks and impacts, establishing strategies to mitigate, or lessen, human and property impacts.

Funded through a \$100,000 Virginia Department of Emergency Management grant and local match money, Virginia Tech's Center for Geospatial Information Technology will lead the region through an approximate 18 month process of analysis and inventorying to establish hazard and locality-specific mitigation activities that will reduce human and property impact of the hazards our communities face. A report is anticipated in early 2020.

PAMPLIN WATER TANK PROJECT

Using a grant from the Virginia Department of Health, the Town of Pamplin will repaint its 75,000 gallon water tank, inside and out, and add additional chemical feed equipment.

Temporary tanks and pumps will be set up to keep service going while the water tank is under renovation.



FOREST BROOK ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY

Forest Brook Road in Lynchburg has become an important link between two commercial areas, with measurable pedestrian and bicycle traffic as folks living in apartments seek multi-modal access to big-box stores and restaurants at the western end of Forest Brook Road.

Several prominent businesses that use large commercial trucks are located on Forest Brook Road as well.

The Central Virginia MPO will use VDOT and Local Government Council funds to bring in a consultant to examine alternatives to improve safety for the residents, the large trucks, the drivers, and the businesses who use Forest Brook road as a connector

BEDFORD TOWN BIKE PLAN

Bedford Town has asked the Local Government Council staff to take a fresh look at the Town's bike and pedestrian facilities.

The plan will interface with other concurrent planning activities in the Town, including the "School to School" project. This plan will allow the Town to coordinate vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian access, prioritizing improvements. The goal is to position the Town to seek future funding for the implementation of this plan.



VANPOOL IMPLEMENTATION STUDY

The Local Government Council, in partnership with the Central Virginia MPO, RIDE Solutions, and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT), will begin a study to assess opportunities, and to provide strategic guidance, to establish a vanpooling program as a complement to RIDE Solutions' transportation demand management services. The vanpool program is designed to reduce transportation barriers for area job seekers, especially within the area's rural communities.

A key factor of this study will be coordination with the Region 2000 Workforce Board and the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company to examine opportunities to coordinate job training and employment partnership programs with transportation needs.

A study report is anticipated in early 2019 with a goal of applying for vanpool grant funding through VDRPT in 2019.

STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN



THE CEDS ACTION PLAN WAS DEVELOPED THROUGH A COALITION OF INDIVIDUALS THAT, THROUGH THEIR PROFESSION OR LOCAL ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP POSITION, ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND DEDICATED TO ADVANCING ONE OF THE CEDS TOPIC AREAS. THESE SIX GROUPS SPENT A MAJORITY OF LAST YEAR OUTLINING THE INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE ACTION PLANS. THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES WERE USED:

- ▶ Support the CEDS – Advance projects that serve as a “catalyst” to advance the CEDS,
- ▶ Cast the Net – Capitalize on existing programs, expand participation avenues; and
- ▶ Be Pragmatic – Present feasible strategies with quantifiable metrics

Contact Kelly Hitchcock, khitchcock@region2000.org, or go to www.localgovernmentcouncil.org to learn more about the CEDS, the CEDS Action Plan, or how you can participate.

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY THROUGH AN ACTION PLAN

The CEDS Rivers and Communities Initiative Vision includes business development, tourism, and community pride.

- ▶ Business Development – The James, Roanoke, and Staunton rivers provide unparalleled opportunities for businesses to focus their economic activities.
- ▶ Tourism – The communities along the James, Roanoke, and Staunton Rivers are premier regional destinations for those seeking river-based recreation, entertainment, and cultural opportunities.
- ▶ Community Pride – Residents are aligned in the desire to promote a healthy river and watershed environment that support economic growth.

REGION 2000 SERVICES AUTHORITY

SWANA PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Here at the Region 2000 Services Authority, we pride ourselves on going above and beyond regular compliance levels to ensure safe, reliable, and dependable solid waste disposal. As a result of the hard work and determination used to assure our neighbors, and the public, of the safe working and living conditions provided, the Services Authority was awarded the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Regional Program Achievement Award.

A SWANA Program Achievement Award for landfill operations is an award honoring those who achieve significant accomplishments in the solid waste industry. The team here at the Region 2000 Services Authority was nominated for this achievement through the Authority's Odor Management Program. The award for this program, which focuses on eliminating and controlling landfill and gas nuisance odors, is a reflection of all of the effort put into managing those emissions.

When asked about being presented with this prestigious award, Services Authority Director Clarke Gibson said, “We are going above and beyond requirements in an effort to be the best neighbor that we can be, and this award validates our effort in all of the work that we do and what we are trying to achieve.”



SWANA®
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

RECYCLING RATE INCREASES TO 40%

The 2017 recycling rate in Lynchburg, Appomattox, Campbell and Nelson Counties was 35.7%. The 2018 recycling rate has increased to 40%.

Much of the recycling happens at our local businesses who are surveyed annually for their recycling practices. The Services Authority recycles appliances, brush, and tires.

SOLID WASTE PLANNING FOR 2030

Planning has recently been completed and a cost benefit ratio developed for three solid waste disposal options for the Livestock Road landfill.



Options are:

- ▶ Expand the landfill on site
- ▶ Build a transfer station
- ▶ Build a waste to energy plant

A NEW NAME AND RENEWED FOCUS

The Workforce Development Board voted in June 2018 to change the name of the Board from Virginia's Region 2000 Workforce Development Board to Central Virginia Workforce Development Board.

This move necessitates a significant rebranding effort which will coincide with a new statewide rebranding of the workforce system to Virginia Career Works.

The Region 2000 Workforce Development Area will become known as Virginia Career Works Central Virginia and the Comprehensive One Stop Center will become known as Virginia Career Works, Lynchburg Center.

Savannah Cook Workforce Development Board Staff and Keith Cook, with HumanKind, the Region 2000 One Stop System Operator, were designated as brand ambassadors for the new, statewide workforce branding initiative. Savannah and Keith are participating in a unique training and brand launch process with an expected launch of the new brand in fall 2019.

YOUTH

The Board launched a pilot Youth Career Development program in Bedford using a shared leadership model for a part-time position with Bedford County Public Schools (BCPS) and Bedford County Department of Social Services (BCDSS).

BCPS and BCDSS are each contributing \$15,000 toward this a position to better engage disconnected youth in Bedford and to coordinate a range of services to re-engage and connect these individuals to living wage careers.

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

The Region 2000 Workforce Development Board (Board) launched a Talent Solutions team in August 2017 comprised of several economic development staff and representatives from organizations and schools in the region involved with job placement or workforce training.

The Board also hired Savannah Cook to develop and deploy messaging that effectively communicates the workforce system and services to employers, job seekers, and service providers. To connect employers with skilled job seekers, Savannah continues to work directly with the business community, engaging employment sector-based Industry Action Teams (IATs) and building sector strategies with the Talent Solutions team.

To date, IATs have been developed in the welding and printing sectors. The IATs have led to several innovative initiatives like the Welding Wars competition at CVCC.

The Board also launched customized welding training with Banker Steel and existing worker training with LSC Communications and Porter Fabrication. These new initiatives have a promising future, and will continue to be developed to address unique challenges facing each industry.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ The Board is receiving a total of \$30,000 in local funds from Bedford to implement the Youth Talent Development Initiative.
- ▶ The local Workforce Development Board received a \$25,000 grant from the State Board of Workforce Development to assist with the rebranding of the Workforce System.
- ▶ The Board partnered with the local governments/planning commissions and the Workforce Boards in the Roanoke Alleghany and New River valley regions to secure a GO Virginia grant that will be used for existing working, training, and career pathway development. The Region 2000 Workforce Board will receive \$100,000 that will provide funding to be used to upskill existing employees, to build a regional career pathway system that creates awareness of high demand careers for youth and their families.



- ▶ The Board is currently developing a digital video library that highlights regional employers and career pathways in their industries. With the GO Virginia funds, employers can qualify for funding of up to \$500 to cover the cost of developing videos. The videos will be used to promote their career pathways to area students. The GO Virginia project will officially begin during summer 2019.

MOVING FORWARD

- ▶ In addition to continued service as the One Stop Operator and Adult Program Operator For the upcoming year, HumanKind will operate the dislocated worker program.
- ▶ Our Workforce System now has access points through the libraries and other community partnerships in every locality in the region.
- ▶ The Region 2000 Workforce System launched the first comprehensive workforce system orientation video and initial application system in Virginia.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



ADVANCING SAFE, EFFICIENT MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT OUR REGION

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM BRINGS \$900,000 TO REGION.

Every two years the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) selects eligible projects for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. This program typically provides support for pedestrian and bicycle accessibility and safety, restoration of historic transportation facilities, support for scenic byways, and other activities.

In June 2018, the CTB selected four Transportation Alternative projects in our area totaling over \$900,000 in funding.

- ▶ Altavista – 2,100 ft. of new sidewalk, ADA curb ramps and crosswalks in the Central Business District.
- ▶ Amherst County – 1,800 ft. of Riveredge Trail. When completed, the Riveredge Trail will connect Riveredge Park with the existing James River Heritage Trail System. With this connection, Amherst County will have a seamless bicycle and pedestrian connection between the Olde Town Madison Heights neighborhood and the City of Lynchburg.
- ▶ Lynchburg – 2,200 ft. Blackwater Creek trail extension from the existing Ed Page Entrance to Linkhorne Middle and Elementary Schools. Includes stabilization and renovation of the abandoned railway trestle.
- ▶ Lynchburg – Design, engineering, and right-of-way negotiation of a multi-use path on the north side of Atlanta Avenue between Wards Road and Wards Ferry Road.

The next application cycle for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program will occur in 2019.

LOCAL LEADER APPOINTED SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

Shannon Valentine, of Lynchburg, was appointed Secretary of Transportation by Governor Ralph Northam in January 2018 and oversees a \$5 billion multimodal transportation system, crossing seven agencies with more than 10,000 employees.

As Secretary, she serves as Chair of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). She also created the Lynchburg Regional Connectivity Study (the first of its kind in Virginia) that correlated transportation decisions with workforce, business expansion, recruitment, and investment, covering eight modes of transportation. We both congratulate Shannon on this appointment and welcome continued collaboration.

LGC/CVMPO STAFF PROVIDES BUS STOP ADA STUDY TO GREATER LYNCHBURG TRANSIT COMPANY

Through a partnership facilitated by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, staff of the Local Government Council and Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization provide valuable planning support to the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company. In 2018, GLTC accepted bus stop accessibility study recommendations for phase implementation. The study was conducted by CVMPO and GLTC staff along with volunteers serving on GLTC's ADA Committee.

This study catalogued the presence or lack of, ADA features at more than 700 bus stops and made recommendations on how key stops could be made more accessible to GLTC's customers. Also in 2018, GLTC undertook a massive update of its Transit Development Plan (TDP). CVMPO staff served on the project committee along with representatives from GLTC, DRPT, and consulting firm Kimley-Horn. A number of innovative and exciting recommendations were made during this process, and GLTC will begin implementation, including a partial overhaul of its route and schedule structure, in the upcoming year.

CVMPO PARTNERS WITH LOCALITIES TO STUDY GRAVES MILL ROAD

In partnership with the City of Lynchburg, County of Bedford and VDOT, the Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization facilitated a comprehensive traffic study of the Graves Mill Road corridor between Gristmill Drive in Bedford County and McConville road in the City of Lynchburg.

This corridor serves as a key connector for motorists traveling between Lynchburg and Forest and has experienced significant growth in the past few decades. Because of several developments in construction or conceptual stages, this was the perfect time to assess existing conditions and determine an appropriate course of action to improve safety and maintain the corridor's functionality into the future.

Well-attended public meetings were held in December 2017 and April 2018, where citizens had the opportunity to share their experiences as motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians along the corridor. As the project consultant conducted research, analyzed traffic data, and developed the plan's recommendations. To view the plan and learn more about the process, visit www.gravemillplan.com.

KEY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Improvements to Greenview Drive and Leesville road
- ▶ Installation of a roundabout on Atlanta Avenue
- ▶ Safety Improvements at the intersection U.S. 29 AND Route 151
- ▶ Construction of a new interchange between U.S. Rt. 460 and Odd Fellows Road
- ▶ Reconstruction of the Main Street bridge over Lynchburg Expressway

Design phase of CVMPO sponsored projects funded by Smartscale to begin in 2018:

- ▶ Improvements to the intersection of Timberlake and Waterlick Road
- ▶ Improvements to U.S. 221's intersection with Gristmill Drive and Graves Mill Road
- ▶ Improvements to Logan's Lane and Timberlake Road



REGION 2000 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

2018

On July 16, 2017, the Region 2000 Radio Communications Board switched to utilizing a digital platform to serve more than 2,800 users from the region's law enforcement and public safety agencies. The development and implementation of the new P25-compliant digital radio communications system in our Region provides a secure inter-operable communications platform for our emergency personnel to respond to emergencies confidently, knowing they are using a system built for reliability.



Replacing analog equipment installed in 1997, at a cost of almost \$15 million dollars, the P25 system has proven to provide superior coverage and clearer sound across the region. Designed with the end-users as a priority, and supported by 16 radio towers, coverage reliability throughout the target area has exceeded expectation. Additionally, member jurisdictions installed industry-leading technology in the upgrade of dispatch consoles and software at each of their emergency communications centers.

Partnering together, the counties of Amherst, Bedford, the Town of Bedford, and the City of Lynchburg will continue to benefit from the strengths of this new system, along with other system users such as the Blue Ridge Regional Jail, CVCC, and Liberty University.

REGION 2000 RADIO BOARD MEMBERS

Melissa Foster - Chair, Lynchburg Department of Emergency Services

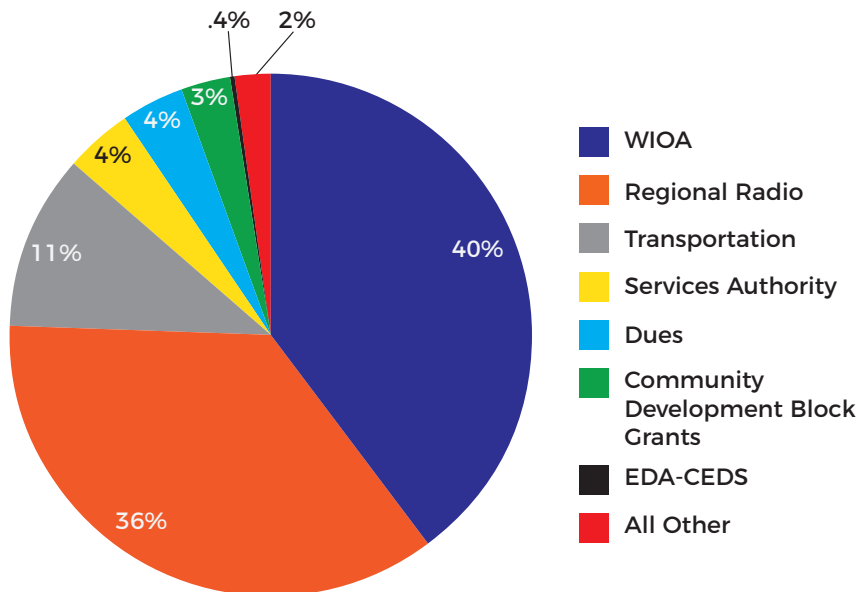
Sam Bryant - Vice Chair, Amherst County Department of Public Safety

Jeff Johnson - Bedford Department of Emergency 911 Communication

Lt. Shannon Walker - Town of Bedford Police Department

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2018



SOURCE OF FUNDS

WIOA	\$1,400,577
Regional Radio	1,257,092
Transportation	375,508
Services Authority	153,084
Dues	154,667
Community Development Block Grants	122,170
EDA - CEDS	15,207
All Others	60,478
	\$3,538,783

USE OF FUNDS

WIOA	\$1,322,859
Regional Radio	360,893
Salaries	515,264
Transportation	84,364
Benefits	147,364
Operating	160,445
Community Development Block Grants	5,591
EDA - CEDS	5,983
All Others	1,281
	\$2,604,044

Dollars generated per \$1 in dues: \$27.72