

# 2019 Annual Report

DYNAMIC. REGIONAL. EXCELLENCE.

*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.



Central Virginia  
Radio Communications  
Board



CVMPPO

Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization



Workforce  
Development  
Board



RIDE Solutions  
Connecting the Region's Commuters



## 2019 FROM THE CHAIR

### WELCOME TO THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT REPORT FOR 2019

Why would the Mayor of a fine, but small community be interested in activities of the City, Counties, and other Towns in the Planning District?

I'm Dwayne Tuggle, the Mayor of the Town of Amherst, and it's my pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Planning District Commission for 2019-2020.



Our interest in what the Planning District Commission accomplishes extends beyond what is done in my locality. Though we are pleased with the services we receive, we participate in the Planning District because we understand that we live in a regional economy.

Amherst Town residents not only work but live their lives participating in all our region has to offer. Likewise, our businesses market their goods and services, not just in our Town, but throughout the entire region.

The benefits also extend to our government services. For example, we'll save money this year by participating in and contributing to the regional Hazard Mitigation Plan instead of having to spend valuable time and resources developing our own plan.

Additionally, our staff continues to take advantage of regional training and best practice guidance sessions offered by and through the CVPDC.

When our residents, businesses and employees succeed, we know our success contributes to the success of others just as their successes are a benefit to us. I consider it a privilege to be part of this region.

## 2019 MEMBERS



## 2019 50 YEARS OF SERVICE - NAME CHANGE



### WHAT WAS OLD IS NEW AGAIN.

After operating as the Region 2000 Local Government Council (LGC) for nearly 20 years, LGC decided to revert back to their original name, the Central Virginia Planning District Commission (CVPDC). This name change was established slightly before the 50th-year anniversary for the organization. “It’s a better descriptor of who we are, what we do, and who our customers are,” said Gary Christie, Executive Director. CVPDC created a new website along with establishing new email addresses which reflect the name change. Please visit [www.cvpdc.org](http://www.cvpdc.org) for more information.

## 2019 PLANNING AND GRANTS DEVELOPMENT

A traditional role for the Planning District Commission is regional and local planning, as well as technical assistance to local and state governments.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ONGOING WORK 2018-2019 INCLUDE:

#### HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Kelly Hitchcock of the PDC, local planners and emergency services providers are working with Virginia Tech’s Center for Geospatial Information Technology to update our region’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan will identify natural disaster risks and impacts, while establishing strategies to mitigate human and property impacts from disaster events. The project is funded through a \$100,000 Virginia Department of Emergency Management grant and local match money.

#### CHESAPEAKE BAY PHASE III WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

In April, 2019 the CVPDC, along with Planning District Commissions across Virginia, entered into a contract with DEQ. This contract will assist in implementing actions, or Best Management Practices (BMPs), and programs developed in partnership with local governments, organizations and citizens to support water quality within local, regional and state streams and rivers of the Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

# COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

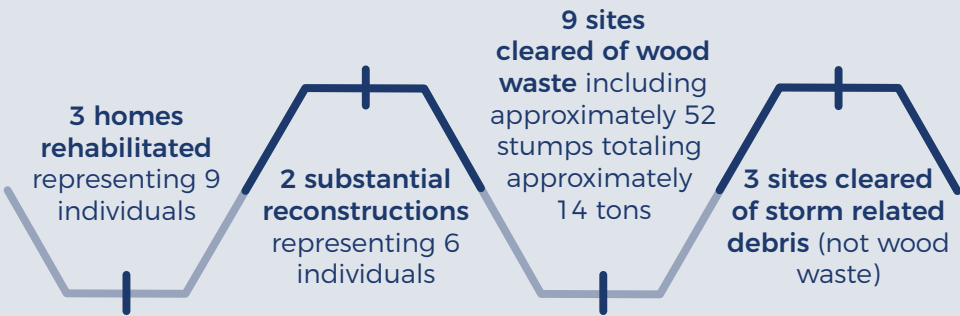
The Planning District Commission continues to partner with the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance and the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board to implement the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan. The action plan that has been developed places our 11 CEDS Initiatives under the responsibility of the 3 partner organizations. More detailed information can be found at [www.cvpdc.org/regional-initiatives/ceds/html](http://www.cvpdc.org/regional-initiatives/ceds/html)

## CVPDC GRANTS MANAGEMENT WORK INCLUDED:

### APPOMATTOX COUNTY TORNADO RECOVERY PROJECT

Housing rehabilitation, debris removal in primary storm impact areas and demolition of substandard structures began in June of 2017. Recovery efforts were funded through a grant awarded to Appomattox County from the Department of Housing and Community Development—totaling \$879,760.

#### WORK COMPLETED IN FY2019 AS FOLLOWS:



Upon completion of the Project, anticipated to be December 2019, CVPDC will have completed one additional housing rehabilitation, one additional demolition and three substantial reconstructions.

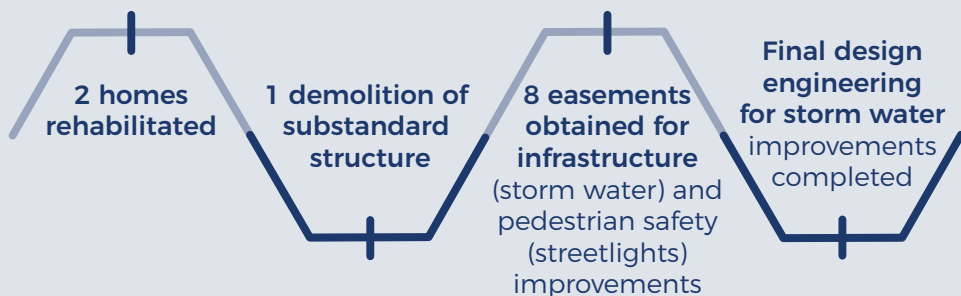
### GREATER MEADOWLARK NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The first phase of the Greater Meadowlark Neighborhood Improvement Project was



administratively closed out in January 2019, after completing the contract requirements with DHCD.

#### **WORK COMPLETED IN FY2019 AS FOLLOWS:**



The Town of Appomattox will continue working towards the completion of the second phase of this project and anticipates completion by December 2019 with a budget of \$300,000. This phase will include correcting storm-water issues in three separate areas of the neighborhood, adding ten streetlights along the main neighborhood corridor and substantially reconstructing one home.

#### **PAMPLIN WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

The Town of Pamplin completed improvements to its public works water system through the assistance of the Virginia Department of Health Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, and the Town of Pamplin. Project costs totaled \$210,279.



The project resulted in numerous benefits to the Town and the Pamplin community, including:

- New interior/exterior paint for the 75,000-gallon elevated storage tank.
- Necessary tank repairs to meet VDH standards.
- New concrete valve vault cover with aluminum access hatch
- New tank level/pump control panel with pressure transmitter
- Improvements to the well vaults and buildings at both supply wells
- New automated controls at well stations to communicate with the main control panel
- New finish water sample stations at both well sites.
- New well pump at one supply well station



It's an exciting time to be part of workforce development in the Central Virginia region. Over the past year, the Workforce Development Board developed a new name and new brand with new signs and logos. Along with the Central Virginia Planning District Commission name change, the Workforce Development Board has adopted "Central Virginia Workforce Development Board" as the new board name and Virginia Career Works Central Region as the



workforce system name. A statewide rebranding effort over the past year is bringing a unifying focus for all the partners now located at the Virginia Career Works Central Region facility, formerly the Virginia Employment Commission. There is a new spirit of teamwork among staff and community-based partners that will provide a good foundation for building our workforce system.

Using technology, the Board is developing better ways to engage job seekers through a web-based orientation and virtual customer service connections with the libraries. Working collaboratively with the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance and the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, our region completed a comprehensive economic development strategy that identifies priority industry sectors and strategies to meet our workforce needs. We've made good progress, partnering with businesses to develop industry action teams that will identify the type of training that employers and employees need to meet high demand occupations. Much more emphasis has been given to implementing new strategies to recruit and prepare workers for jobs such through customized and existing worker training. We are now at the beginning stages of building regional career pathways that reach from middle school through postsecondary employment or education. The Worlds of Opportunity Career Expo held at Liberty University on April 9 & 10, 2019 demonstrated a key component of our future career pathway system as we focused on hands-on career exploration in high demand employment sectors for the region. The Career Expo and upcoming initiatives will directly connect our regional employers with all the schools in the region so that we may jointly build an effective career pathway system. Over the past year, Virginia Career Works Central Region has achieved the following milestones toward fulfilling our strategic plan.

## MILESTONES IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN: LEAD 2020

- Launched Industry Action Teams in the manufacturing sector for welding and printing
- Initiated existing worker training to improve business efficiency and support employee career pathway development
- Developed web-based orientation video and initial application to allow easier entry from any point in the region without coming into the Lynchburg center.
- Through Region 2 Go Virginia; convened employer stakeholders and workforce partners to begin establishing a regional career pathway system that includes existing worker training/development and secured a \$100,00.00 grant to support these initiatives
- Developed a talent solutions team that involves all interested workforce stakeholders to share training and employment needs from our region's employers
- Developing strategic partnerships for youth career development with financial and staff engagement from local government and schools.
- A Business and Community Engagement Coordinator is now on staff with the Workforce Board to help messaging via web, social media, print and community outreach.

## 2019 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- Staff completed a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan for the Town of Bedford. The plan includes a myriad of recommendations including installation of bicycle amenities, creating sidewalk connections to destinations and establishing a multi-use greenway.
- In the City of Lynchburg, CVPDC staff gathered a project team to study the Forest Brook Road Corridor. The Project identified several opportunities for improvement focusing on pedestrian safety, traffic calming and improving drainage.
- The CVPDC will be sponsoring a study of the intersection of Independence Boulevard and US 221 in the Town of Bedford. This study will assist in the development of multi-modal safety and traffic flow solutions.

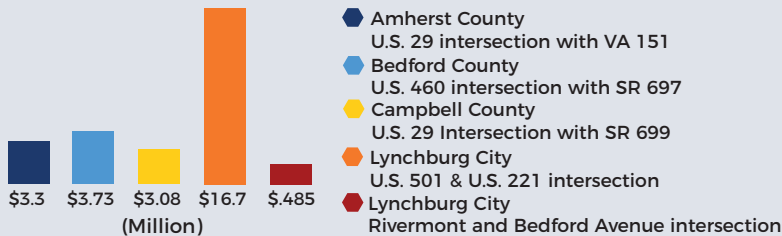


# TRANSIT PLANNING

- CVMPO staff supported GLTC with examinations of existing transit services and funding sources in accordance with the Transit Development Plan developed by GLTC for FY2019-2028.
- CVMPO staff continued to propose cost-effective solutions for making bus stops with heavy passenger use ADA accessible.
- CVMPO staff worked directly with the GLTC Route Advisory Committee in recommending route adjustments and realignments which will improve the overall efficiency of the system.
- CVMPO staff will support GLTC in their effort of developing a Strategic Plan, which will directly examine fixed route service into underserved areas. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation chose GLTC as a pilot program for the development of a Strategic Plan, which will eventually become mandated of the Commonwealth's 16 largest transit agencies.
- CVMPO Staff is working with a VDOT supported program entitled "Streetlight Data: Big Data for Mobility." This software allows CVMPO staff to get mobility metrics for any road in the GLTC service area and beyond. The data can be broken down into Vehicular, Pedestrian and Bicycle traffic. This data allows staff to analyze different modes of traffic between geographic zones based on origin/destination data. The data is obtained by Streetlight through cellular devices. CVMPO staff plans to use this program to assist in the GLTC's strategic plan update, which will take a more detailed look at specific pockets of the Lynchburg population and how accessible they are to transit.

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCALITIES

- CVPDC provided support to several localities for Smart Scale project applications. Five projects in the region were awarded Smart Scale funding in June of 2019



# RIDE SOLUTIONS AND COMMUTER SERVICES

RIDE Solutions offers free alternative transportation services – carpool matching, vanpools, biking, transit and Guaranteed Ride Home program - to



expand commuter options throughout the CVPDC and larger southwestern Virginia region. The program offers the following:

- ◆ Free carpool matching service
- ◆ A guaranteed RIDE Home program
- ◆ On-line resources for alternative transportation options - biking, walking, taking the bus, and telework
- ◆ A newly designed app that can be utilized by residents in the region

Go to [www.ridesolutions.org/](http://www.ridesolutions.org/) to learn more about our free services to increase transportation options for individual commuters and businesses.

## **STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL VAN POOL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

CVMPO staff have begun a study on the effectiveness of van pools in Central Virginia. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation has created a statewide study that will be distributed soon. After the study is completed, CVMPO will take an in-depth look at the region to see if van pools serving larger businesses would be viable for the area.

## **UPCOMING IN FY 19-20**

## **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

### **LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN 5-YEAR UPDATE**

- ◆ This update, which looks ahead to the year 2045, will combine the urban and rural long-range plans with the Lynchburg Regional Connectivity Study to create a unified transportation plan for the region.
- ◆ The first round of public input will take place from August to November 2019 and will include a presence at community events, an online survey and a public meeting
- ◆ For more information, visit [connectcentralvirginia2045.com](http://connectcentralvirginia2045.com)



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## PHASE III PARTIAL CLOSURE PROJECT

The \$3.4 million, 22-acre Phase III Partial Landfill Closure Cap Project at the Livestock Road Landfill was completed at the end of August 2019. The cap construction is a HDPE liner topped with impermeable clay soil and then vegetated with grass. Phase IV landfill cell was completed in the fall of 2016 and is currently in use. It is estimated that Phase IV and future Phase V will provide regional landfill capacity through 2030.

## HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

774 citizens participated in three household hazardous waste collection events held at the Concord Turnpike convenience center in FY 2019. Thousands of pounds of electronic waste, pesticides and household chemicals were collected and properly disposed, keeping these chemicals out of the landfill, sewer system and the environment.

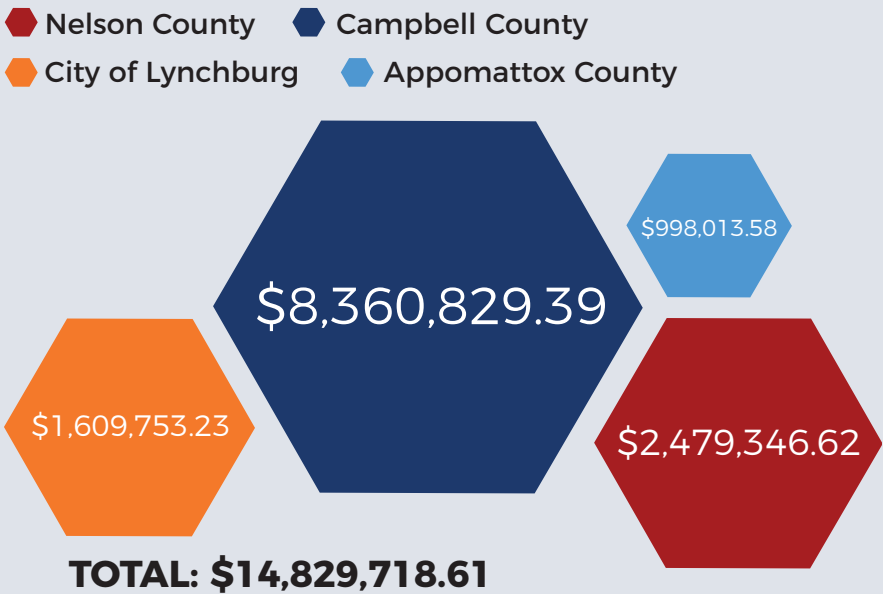
The Region 2000 Services Authority also tabulates the regional recycling rate for the member communities. The recycling rate for 2018 is 38% of the total solid waste stream generated from the member communities.



## LANDFILL GAS TO ENERGY

Construction of the second phase landfill gas collection system was recently completed. The total system includes 23 vertical landfill gas wells and a 2500 cfm total capacity landfill gas compressor and flare, sized for full development of the landfill. The landfill gas collection system was expanded into the currently active Phase IV Landfill cell by connecting the underdrains (leachate collection pipes). The Landfill Gas recovery and destruction by flare has increased to approximately 1000 cfm. Landfill gas contains about 50 percent methane gas. This gas can be used as a fuel to generate electricity, powering boilers, generators and even vehicles. The Region 2000 Services Authority approved staff moving forward to explore the many options for beneficial use of this gas. An RFP was developed, during 2019-2020, to solicit proposals from parties that may be interested in partnering with the Authority in an energy project.

### TOTAL SAVINGS/BENEFIT PER MEMBER FOR FY 2009 - 2019



## WHO WE SERVE:

Supporting emergency radio communication needs for the City of Lynchburg, Bedford County, Amhurst County, and the Town of Bedford.



**16** - Emergency Radio Communications towers supporting regional system



**16** - Equipment Buildings with HVAC and generators



**1** - Logging equipment that record all 911 calls and radio communications



**2700** - communication devices served by the system



**3** - Dispatch Centers that are redundant if one goes out



**24/7/365** - operations to serve public safety customers

## RADIO SYSTEM TOWERS USED FOR BROADBAND IN AMHERST

More counties are beginning to understand the benefits of providing high-speed Internet to businesses and residents nearby. Amherst County has brought an Internet provider onto the Towers at High Peak and Buffalo Ridge offering high-speed Internet services to a previously underserved area. The County will be moving forward to add Internet service to three more radio board towers within the next year.

## \$18.44 OUTSIDE FUNDS BROUGHT IN FOR EACH \$1 IN LOCAL DUES IN 2019-2020

\$150,000 commitment for the creation of a redevelopment plan for the Central Virginia Training Center