



February 2025

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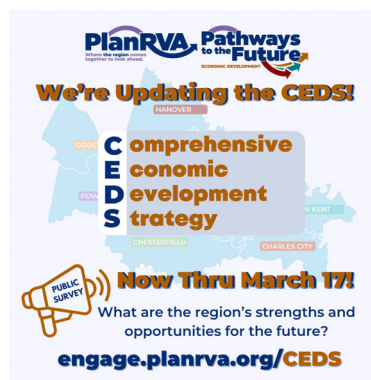
Here's How We're Advancing the Region's Strategic Plan

# Pathways to the Future

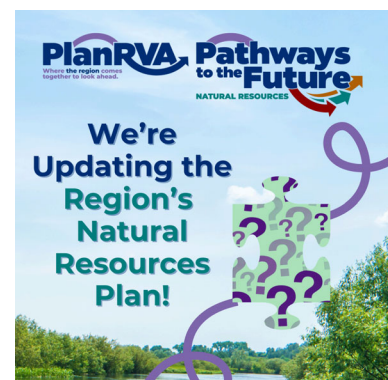
## Public Input is a Priority in our Planning!



Long Range  
Transportation Plan  
2050



Comprehensive Economic  
Development Strategy  
(CEDS)



Natural Resources  
Plan Update

As the region's principal planner, we engage the public across all of our core programs and in every project, to ensure we are compliant with grant and funder policies and, perhaps more importantly, so that your input, lived experiences and solutions are baked into the plans that shape our region.

Currently, we have three opportunities for residents and visitors to provide feedback, ensuring that diverse perspectives are counted and reflected back in the plans we present for approval. If you are seeing this, we want YOU to tell us your ideas!

engage.planrva.org

Translate into one of 10 language options, and use our customized Toolkits for each project to share within your networks. Help us reach the widest audience in your communities, and increase the shared ownership of these important regional plans.

**Pathways to the Future**  
**Regional Symposium 2025**  
Exploring the intersectionality of critically important issues affecting the region.

**PlanRVA** @ Greater Richmond Convention Center  
Where the region comes together to look ahead.

**Pi Day!**  
**3.14.25**  
9:45am - 2:30pm  
**FREE Event!**  
**Lunch**

[bit.ly/RegionalSymposium2025](https://bit.ly/RegionalSymposium2025) | Registration Required

## What ingredients would make the region stronger?

Join us on Pi(e) Day (3.14.25) at the Richmond Convention Center for the **Pathways to the Future Regional Symposium 2025**, a dynamic day of exploration and conversation and interactive sessions, focused on the intersectionality of critically important issues impacting our shared vision to build a thriving future for the region.

**Featured Content:** The Region's Strategic Plan, LRTP 2050, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

**Lunch provided.** Yes, there will be pie!

**REGISTRATION IS FILLING! - [RESERVE YOUR SEAT HERE!](#)**

**Our plate is full of gratitude** to our host, The Greater Richmond Convention Center, and to ChamberRVA for their in-kind registration support of this event!



## Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA) Updates

**The PlanRVA Commission met on February 14th and heard an update on the Regional Strategic Plan.**

Commissioners reviewed progress toward formalizing the goals for the Regional Strategic Plan. The plan addresses subjects of regional importance including transportation, economic development and environmental management. The PlanRVA Commission will hold a public hearing and consider adoption of the Strategic Plan at its meeting on June 12th.

More information about this Strategic Plan and other regional planning initiatives you can give input on will be shared at the **Regional Symposium on March 14**. To review and comment on the Strategic Plan or register for the Regional Symposium, visit: <https://planrva.org/get-involved/>.

**The March, 2025 Commission meeting has been canceled.** Look ahead to the April 10 meeting where expected topics include:

- Appointment of Nominating Committee
- Succession Management Plan update
- Review of Engagement Compensation Policy

**Upcoming PlanRVA Commission Meetings — Register at links below:**

- **Joint Meeting: Public Outreach and Engagement Committee / RRTPO CTAC – April 3:** \* Immediately after RRTPO Policy Board meeting
- **Commission – April 10: 9:30 a.m.** No March Meeting

Follow the full calendar of PlanRVA Meetings and Updates on the dedicated webpages [HERE](#).

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The RRTPO Policy Board, at its meeting on February 6, 2025, heard an update on the positive initial results from the [Commonwealth Transportation Board's \(CTB\) January 14th review of project applications for SmartScale Round 6](#).

The information is preliminary at this point and some changes may occur over the next several months. The CTB will ultimately make the decision on which projects receive funding. There is a possibility that additional projects will be approved. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

#### Upcoming RRTPO Meetings — Register at links below:

- Executive Committee – March 6: 8:30 a.m.
- Policy Board – March 6: 9:30 a.m.
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – March 11: 9:00 a.m.
- Joint Meeting: Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) / PlanRVA Public Outreach & Engagement Committee – April 3 \* Immediately following Policy Board mtg

Follow the full calendar of RRTPO Meetings and Updates on the dedicated webpages [HERE](#).

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**CVTA is hiring** an Assistant to the Executive Director

Read the [full job description here](#) and share the posting!

Follow CVTA on [LinkedIn](#)

Explore the new website, including Document Library, Board Member listings, and a full calendar of CVTA Meetings and Updates: [www.cvtava.org](http://www.cvtava.org)

Upcoming CVTA Meetings — Register at links below:

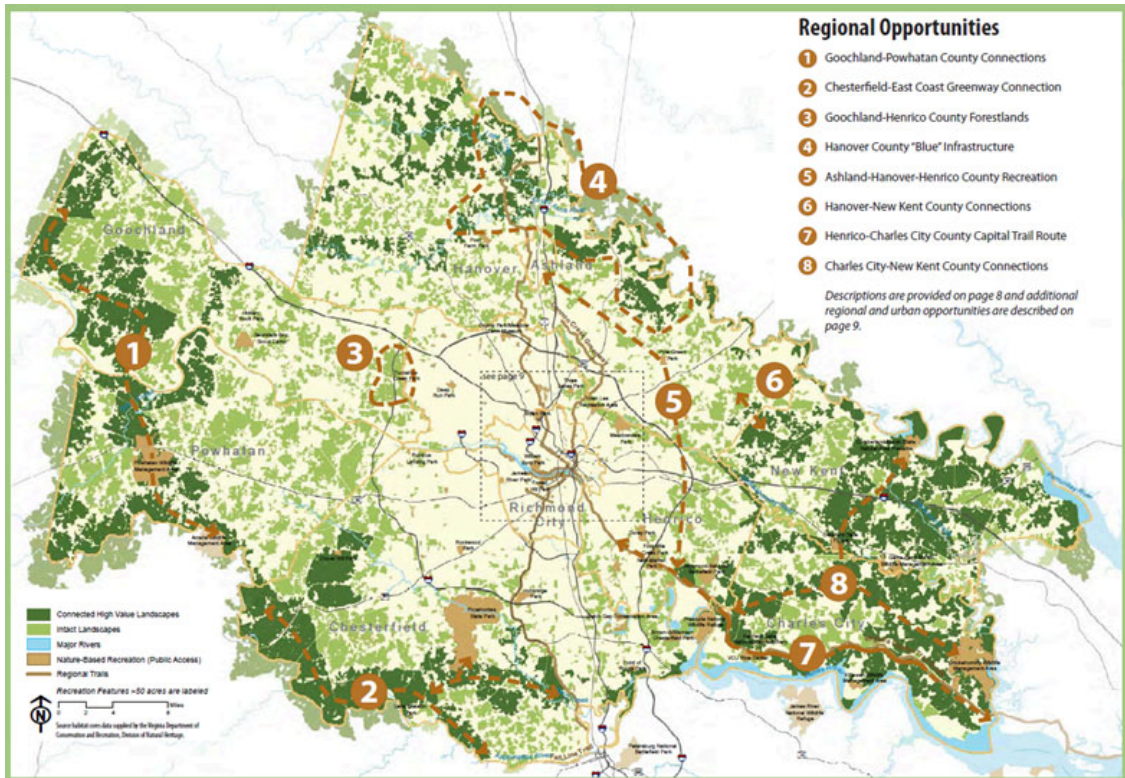
- TAC - Monday, March 10- 1:00 pm
- Finance Committee - Wednesday, March 12 - 9:00 am
- Authority - Friday, March 28 - 9:00 am

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## PlanRVA Program Updates

**The Natural Resources Plan Update: An Overview**





## **We're updating the region's Natural Resources Plan!**

Healthy natural resources provide clean water and air, ensure our quality of life, and sustain our economy. Virginia's rich set of natural resources include our forests, waterways and bays, soils, wildlife areas, wetlands, dunes, historic landscapes, and parks. These resources are woven throughout our towns, cities, and subdivisions as well as across our mountains, valleys, and shores.

The current project builds upon the [2009 regional green infrastructure plan](#) to include five categories of landscape features: **terrestrial habitat, water quality, recreation & culture, flood resilience, and working lands** (agriculture, forestry, for food and fiber). This plan update can provide a foundation for additional planning efforts in the region, as well as inform program and policy decisions.

**Now, thru March 17**, the public can share input and feedback about proposed plan goals, by responding to a brief survey with an opportunity to provide detailed comments.

**Take the survey:** [engage.planrva.org/natural-resources](https://engage.planrva.org/natural-resources)

## Partner Updates



**Providing the Central Virginia region with networking, planning, resources, training and outreach support.**

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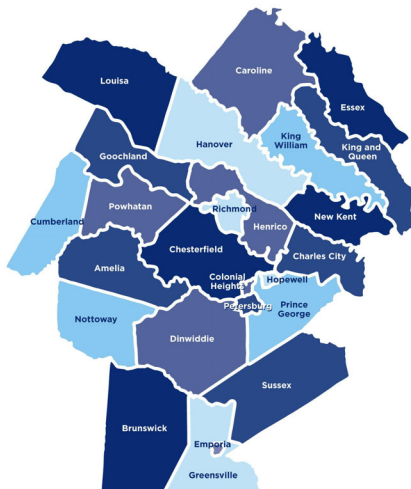
## **EMACV Executive Retreat Held in Petersburg**





This month, the Alliance convened in Petersburg for its **Executive Retreat**. During the retreat, representatives of each committee discussed priorities and plans for the next year, succession planning for upcoming committee elections, and strategy for increased engagement with Alliance and community members.

## Are you or someone you know an EM professional interested in engaging with the Alliance?




Join our contact list at the link **below** for a weekly newsletter, information about monthly alliance meetings, and access to shared resources.

We provide tools and resources to build resilience through collaborative, multi-jurisdictional projects within our region. Click on the map to see our localities footprint.

GET INVOLVED HERE!

**Winter weather safety tips.**  
Stay warm and prepared. [Learn More](#)



## Winter Preparedness Corner



## Learn the signs of — and basic treatments for— frostbite and hypothermia.

**Frostbite** causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes.

- **Signs:** Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. **Do not massage or use a heating pad.**

**For More Tips & Information:**  
[ready.gov/winter-weather#safe](https://ready.gov/winter-weather#safe)



**Hypothermia** is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

- **Signs:** Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

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**Friends of the Lower Appomattox River** (FOLAR) works in partnership with the community to conserve, protect, and promote the Appomattox River for all to enjoy.

[folar-va.org](http://folar-va.org)

We had a fantastic 7th annual **State of the Trail** and can't thank our partners enough for being a part of the updates and all the successes of this past year. In case you missed it, you can [watch the Presentation Recording here](#).



Timeline		VCEI 2025
JANUARY 2025	January 15: VCEI Champion info session hosted on Zoom	
	January 28: VCEI 2025 survey released on ServeVirginia.org	
FEBRUARY 2025	Organizational Partners share the VCEI survey in their communities across Virginia	
MARCH 2025	March 4: VCEI 2025 survey closes	
MAY 2025	May 14-15: VCEI 2025 results shared during the Virginia Volunteerism Summit	

Serve Virginia and the Virginia Service Foundation announce the **2025 Virginia Community Engagement Index survey** — is now available!

The **VCEI** seeks to understand the state of service, volunteerism, and civic action in Virginia, and to identify community priorities.

Click [HERE](#) by Tuesday, March 4, to add your voice in the survey. Your input will help shape not only our local efforts but also statewide initiatives for a more connected and engaged Virginia.

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# Staff Spotlights & Announcements



**Lauren Shephard, Chief Finance and Administration Officer, joined the team in January 2025**, bringing over 20 years of experience in nonprofit and corporate finance. She is a CPA passionate about financial transparency and its role in community trust. Lauren excels at data-driven strategy and developing efficient operational systems. She aims to support PlanRVA's growth through well-managed operations.



**Maddie Interdonato, Emergency Management Alliance Program Specialist, joined the team in February, 2025**. She fosters collaboration among 26 localities, leveraging her experience with federal, state, and local partners. A VCU graduate with a background in non-profits, she's passionate about public service. Maddie aims to equip localities with the tools needed for effective emergency response.



**Martha Shickle, PlanRVA's Executive Director, has been recognized as one of the **Women Who Drive Richmond! (2025)****—driving impact and change through their leadership in business, community, engagement and philanthropy. This award and March 7 luncheon event is sponsored by Richmond Raceway and The Richmond Times Dispatch. More info and ticket information can be found [here](#).

## Upcoming Events



**TRANSPORTATION TOWN HALL**  
for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Community

**Pathways to the Future**  
TRANSPORTATION

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025**  
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM  
Rooms 101-103

Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)  
8004 Franklin Farms Dr, Richmond, VA 23229

ASL Interpretation Provided  
PlanRVA Interactive Map & Feedback Activity  
Morning Refreshments Served

Hosted by VDDHH    RSVP Required  
[bit.ly/TransportationTownHallRVA](https://bit.ly/TransportationTownHallRVA)

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**NEW DATE!**  
**Saturday, March 29**  
**Registration is open!**  
ASL interpretation

Morning refreshments  
Interactive Long Range  
Transportation (LRTP)  
map & feedback session!

PlanRVA is thrilled to partner with the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) to host a **Transportation Town Hall for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing on Saturday, February 29: 10:00 am - 11:30 am at the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services - DARS on Franklin Farms Drive in Richmond. RSVP Required - Free Event!** Please share in your networks - *posts on PlanRVA socials.*

About VAPDC    About PDCs    Events    Resources    Sponsors

**VAPDC 2025 Winter Series**  
*Winter Wednesdays at One!*

Wednesday, March 5, 2025  
• *Examining the Shift in Virginia's Population Trends*

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 1:00 PM**

***Examining the Shift in Virginia's Population Trends***

This captivating session, presented by Hamilton Lombard of the Weldon Cooper Center, will examine recent state, regional and local trends in Virginia's population, migration, and remote work, and some of their influencing factors.

**Presenter: Hamilton Lombard**

Estimates Program Manager, Demographics Research Group  
University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

**\$10 - REGISTER HERE: [vapdc.org/2025-vapdc-winter-series](http://vapdc.org/2025-vapdc-winter-series)**

**March 11, 2025: 5:30 - 7:15 pm @ The Valentine Museum:** Don't miss the next installment in the dynamic series of informative, welcoming community discussions about topics that matter. **Too Damn High!: Violence in Richmond & the Path to Safer Communities**



**CONTROVERSY HISTORY**

**Too Damn High! Rising Rents & Richmond's Affordable Housing Crisis**  
October 15, 2024, 5:30-7:15

**Too Damn High! Medical Costs & Access to Quality Care**  
November 12, 2024, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

**Too Damn High! The Price of Foregoing the Traditional 9-5**  
January 14, 2025, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

**Too Damn High! The Pressure of Childcare in the First Five Years**  
February 11, 2025, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

**Too Damn High! Violence in Richmond & the Path to Safer Communities**  
March 11, 2025, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

**PlanRVA is proud to provide data for each talk** in support of this 12th year of public engagement programming!

**Registration encouraged, not required. Free event. Cash Bar.**

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Find this information helpful and valuable? **Invite your peers to follow us** on socials and **forward on this email** so they can [Subscribe to this Newsletter!](#)

**Have story ideas for future issues?**

Email our Engagement Coordinator: Kristin Hott [khott@planrva.org](mailto:khott@planrva.org)





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[View email in browser](#)