



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
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COVID-19 Dashboard

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission staff has prepared a COVID-19 dashboard to track regional cases and also includes demographics and mapping of vulnerable populations.

Included in the dashboard are unemployment claims, nursing home locations, and zip code COVID-19 data. COVID-19 cases and deaths are updated hourly from Johns Hopkins. To access the dashboard, click [HERE](#).

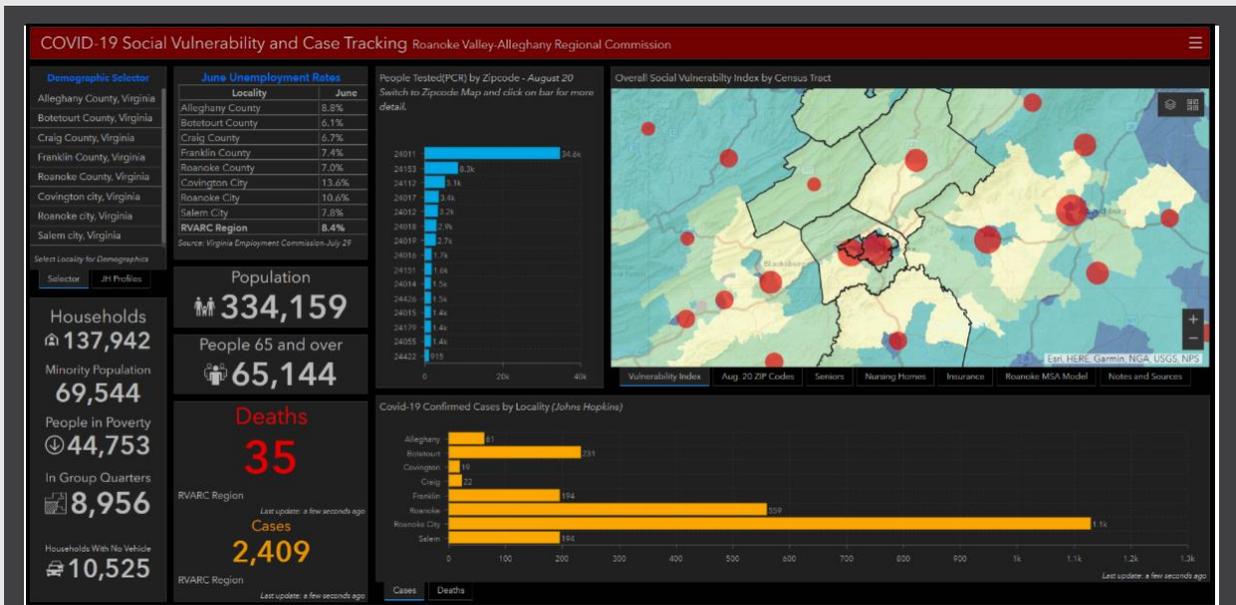


Image captured 08/26/2020 at 8:30am

RVTPO Seeks Input on Interstate 81 Interchange Lighting



The Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) is considering requesting lighting be added to I-81 projects and would like your opinion. Please complete the [I-81 Interchange Lighting survey](#).

In 2018 the I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan received over 2,000 comments. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) developed projects that focused on mainline widening and targeted safety improvements of I-81. Interchange lighting was not considered because nighttime crashes did not stand out in the data or citizen

feedback as a main area of concern, but there have been recent requests to consider adding lighting. The idea of adding new or more lighting at I-81 interchanges stems from the perception that lighting may promote a reduction in nighttime crashes and may increase tourism and commerce in the Roanoke Valley.

While ongoing maintenance and utility costs as well as light pollution are considered negative impacts of lighting, interchange lighting is thought to create a safer environment through greater visibility for travelers passing through the interchanges and greater appeal to motorists to patronize Roanoke Valley businesses and attractions. Lighting of the interchange ramps and crossroads can be included in the projects from a technical perspective. It will cost about \$12 million (~2% of the total cost) to install lights at six

interchanges. Funding for this is expected to come from the new I-81 Corridor Improvement Fund.

Because lighting has benefits and drawbacks, this survey is to gauge public sentiment for or against adding interchange lighting to I-81 widening projects. As the I-81 projects are developed, there will be additional opportunities for public input as more information is available.

If you need assistance completing [this survey](#), please call (540) 343-4417 or email ruhlen@rvarc.org.

RVARC and RVTPO Submit FY22 SMART SCALE Applications

August 17th was the deadline for the fourth round of SMART SCALE project application submissions. Earlier this calendar year, six projects were endorsed by and pre-applications submitted from both the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (RVARC) and Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO). Those projects were all subsequently eligible for the full application process, which began in June. Following are the six applications submitted from the two agencies:



RVARC

Locality Served	Project Name	Project Description	SMART SCALE Request
Botetourt County	I-81 Northbound Safety Improvements MM167.4 to MM169.5	I-81 NB & SB re-alignment to improve horizontal and vertical geometry along with <u>superelevation</u> and shoulder width improvements from approximate Mile Marker 167.4 to 168.1.	\$104,724,342
Franklin County	Roadway Improvements on <u>Rtes 220/613</u> (Naff Road)	Construct a new southbound right turn lane on Route 220 and extend the existing northbound left turn lane on Route 220.	\$5,866,387
Roanoke County / Roanoke City	I-581 at Exit 2 Interchange Improvements	Operational and safety improvements to include: closing two I-581 off-ramps, signalize remaining I-581 off-ramps, restricting left turns from SB Thirlane Rd., adding a downstream U-turn along Peters Creek Rd., adding a second EB Peters Creek left turn lane onto <u>Valleypointe Pkwy.</u> and adding pedestrian and bicycle accommodations along Peters Creek Rd.	\$28,225,261

RVTPO

Locality Served	Project Name	Project Description	SMART SCALE Request
Roanoke City	Orange Avenue Improvements (11 th St. to 24 th St.)	Provision of various safety and access management related intersection improvements, new intersections, traffic signal modifications, and bicycle/pedestrian and sidewalk improvements.	\$18,032,340
Roanoke County	Route 460 Intersections from Carson Rd. to <u>Huntridge Rd.</u>	Improve a series of four intersections with Innovative Intersections: Restricted Crossing U-Turns at Carson Rd., E. Ruritan Rd./ <u>Bonsack Rd.</u> , Country Corner and channelized directional left at <u>Huntridge Rd.</u>	\$2,339,028
Roanoke County	Route 460 at West Ruritan Road Intersection Improvements	Construct a <u>Thru-Cut</u> at the intersection of Route 460 and W. Ruritan Rd. to prohibit northbound and southbound movements to cross Route 460. Movements will instead make U-turns at Blue Hills Village Dr. and Valley Gateway Blvd. ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and pedestrian signals will also be included.	\$6,751,948

The application scoring process will occur during the fall, with an anticipated preliminary funding scenario to be released in January 2021.

RIDE Solutions to Host Telework Webinar With Telework!VA



Save the date
September 16 & 22 | 10am - 11am

Telework Strategy for the Future

Best Practices for Employers, Managers, and Staff

 **RIDE Solutions**
Connecting the Region's Commuters

 **telework!va**
a program provided by 

On September 16th and 22nd, RIDE Solutions is partnering with [Telework!VA](#) to host **Teleworking Strategy for the Future**. This webinar will cover telework best practices for employers, managers, and staff. For more information, contact Jeremy Holmes at jholmes@rvarc.org.

August Was National Water Quality Month



The importance of water quality cannot be overstated in today's world. Water quality is a good indicator of community health and dictates our ability to recreate in our local waterways. It has implications on the water coming out of our faucets and used in household appliances as well. Understanding land use in a watershed is key to understanding how a waterway will be impacted. Residential, agricultural, and industrial practices all impact water quality in unique ways and require specific solutions that cater to each situation.

To learn more about how different land uses impact water quality and what you can do to help promote healthy waterways, visit <http://nationalwaterqualitymonth.org/>.

Interested in the water quality of a waterway near you? Check out EPA's [How's My Waterway](#) interactive map to find out!

City of Roanoke Wraps Up Pedestrian Safety Campaign

Did you know that in Virginia, every corner is crosswalk, whether it's painted or not? Working with RVARC, the City of Roanoke partnered with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles to spread the word about crosswalk safety. Here's how you can do your part to prevent injuries:

If you're driving:

- Stop for pedestrians in all crosswalks, including ones that are not marked
- Watch for pedestrians (especially children) on the side of the road, and be prepared to slow down and stop should they step into the road
- Stop for people crossing the street before turning right or left



As a pedestrian:

- Always cross at the corner rather than mid-block
- Be predictable and cross where drivers are likely to expect you
- Look both ways for right or left turning vehicles before you cross, and use the push buttons when they are available

The official Roanoke Pedestrian Safety Campaign wrapped up on August 31 but pedestrian safety will always be important. Please share your thoughts about the campaign and safety in the community by filling out this [SURVEY](#).

Ongoing Projects

The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission is always working with localities on projects that benefit the region. Some of these projects are listed below.

- Alleghany Highlands Economic Impact of the Arts
- Alleghany Highlands Gap Analysis
- Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan
- City of Covington Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant Assistance
- City of Roanoke Neighborhood Walk Project
- City of Roanoke Pedestrian Safety Campaign
- Regional Housing Study: Franklin and Roanoke Counties, and the Cities of Roanoke and Salem
- Rural Bikeway Plan
- Local Food Plan
- Promotion and access improvements for the Roanoke River Blueway

For more information on ongoing projects contact [Tim Pohlad-Thomas](#) or visit [RVARC.org](#).

Visit our website

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STAY CONNECTED



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