



July 2021 Update

Business Continuity Team- Still Here and Available to Help

The large vaccination clinics and regional call center wrapped up in May, but the work of COVID-19 mitigation continues for the Business Continuity Team (BCT). The BCT is currently supporting businesses, schools and communities as they navigate the impact of changing mitigation policies and procedures. The BCT is continuing to support on-site businesses and event vaccination clinics by working with pharmacy and hospital partners. Further, the BCT is working with businesses to address personnel policy development to reflect CDC and VDH guidance in the workplace, schools and childcare facilities.

The BCT is currently working with K-12 schools as well as institutions of higher education as they too develop plans for more in-person learning.

As the region strives toward greater resiliency beyond COVID-19, the BCT is here to help support New River Valley citizens and organizations to Be Committed. Be Well... and Be Vaccinated.

For further information or to request specific support, please contact Ashley Briggs (abriggs@nrvc.org) or Holly Lesko (hlesko@nrvc.org) or call us at 540-639-9313.



PDC Housing Development Program

Virginia Housing recently released the PDC Housing Development Program, a new program specifically for Planning District Commissions to address affordable housing needs from a regional perspective. The program is a 36 month intensive process to support regional housing planning efforts and the development of affordable units. Award amounts of \$1M, \$2M, or \$3M were dictated based on regional population size. With the recent completion of the Regional + Local Housing

Study, the Commission was well prepared to document need and readiness with critical housing data and recommended regional housing strategies.

In early June, the Regional Commission submitted an application for \$2M to pursue the creation of a regional housing trust fund (HTF). A regional HTF would create a pool of capital that can provide “gap” funding for a wide range of affordable housing projects in the region, including rental and homeownership projects. Virginia Housing’s grant funding would allow the Commission to pursue a sustainable HTF model with diverse financial partners and funding sources. Once established, the HTF funding could then be leveraged with other housing funding to create the required new affordable units.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Wilsie (jwilsie@nrvc.org) 540-639-9313.



NRV Roam Bikeshare Gets an Upgrade

In June, Gotcha Powered by Bolt upgraded the regional bikeshare system swapping 75 bikes for ebikes that make riding around town a lot easier. With the new bikes, riders can travel farther for less effort or take less time getting to a favorite destination. While you still pedal the bike, the electric assist system can achieve speeds of 20 mph (15 mph on the Huckleberry Trail). That will make hills a lot less intimidating and the whole ride more fun!

A dozen hubs are available in Christiansburg, Blacksburg and Montgomery County –download the app ([Google Play](#) or [Apple App Store](#)) to find a location and rent a bike. The system will grow over time with new hubs and additional bikes coming online as demand increases. You can pay as you go for \$1 to unlock and 35 cents a minute to ride or select the annual plan that includes a waived unlock fee and 30 minutes free ride time. For a limited time, users can apply a \$5 promo code (Boltblacksburg) to try out the new system.

For further information, please contact Christy Straight (cstraight@nrvc.org) 540-639-9313.



WORKSHOPS COMING SOON!

Making Your Business Resilient beyond COVID-19

A learning series brought to you by the
Business Continuity Team

For more information contact:

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540-639-9313 ext 251
abriggs@nrvc.org

Be committed.
Be well.

Online Community Engagement

The Regional Commission team is working with the City of Radford on the East Main Downtown Plan and the Town of Pulaski with their Comprehensive Plan update. These projects are using an online engagement platform to solicit feedback from community members. There are multiple options to provide feedback - quick polls, an ideas board interactive map, and surveys. You can use the following links to see these projects in action.

engagenrv.org/radford-eastmain

engagenrv.org/town-of-pulaski

For further information, please contact Aphi Fancon (afancon@nrvc.org) 540-639-9313.

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