



January 2024 Update

New NRV Legislative Maps Available

The 2024 General Assembly session kicks off this week with new legislative districts and some new legislators representing the New River Valley. We are pleased to share maps of the [Virginia Senate](#) and the [Virginia House of Delegates](#) districts and their representatives. Thank you to Hannah Schelthoff, our Regional Cartographer & Geospatial Analyst, for preparing this information. She also created a digital local elections map that can be viewed at this [link](#). For more information, please contact Hannah at hschelthoff@nrvc.org

Commonwealth Transportation Board Visits with NRV Partners

Dr. Raymond Smoot, Salem District Commonwealth Transportation Board Representative stopped by to visit with local partners to discuss transportation priorities on December 12, 2023. The meetings provided those seeking competitive funding programs an opportunity to share local projects. In addition, everyone had a chance to learn about important changes in grant application scoring criteria. The Regional Commission has coordinated local meetings for more than 15 years and will offer another opportunity in the Fall of 2024.

The Virginia Department of Transportation offers competitive transportation opportunities statewide on two-year funding cycles. This year, communities had an opportunity to submit projects under Revenue Sharing, Transportation Alternatives, and the Highway Safety Improvement Program. Next year, communities will prepare for the next round of SMART Scale. For more information about competitive transportation opportunities in Virginia, visit: www.vdot.virginia.gov/doing-business/for-localities/

Funding programs

The SMART Portal provides public access to applications that have been submitted for various funding programs available through the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Access road programs
Access road programs provide for the construction, improvement or maintenance of roads serving one or more parcels, economic development sites, residential and farm sites.

Arlington and Henrico payments
Unlike other counties, Arlington and Henrico do not have state-maintained secondary highways. Instead, the state pays these counties for the maintenance and reconstruction.

FLAP
The Federal Lands Access Program was established to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, and adjacent to, or are located within federal lands.

Revenue sharing
VDOT administers the Revenue Sharing Program in cooperation with participating localities. The program provides additional funding for use by a county, city or town to construct or improve the highway system.

Rural Rustic Roads
The Rural Rustic Road Program is a practical approach to paving Virginia's low-volume roads.

State of Good Repair
The State of Good Repair provides funding for distressed roads and bridges that are owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation and/or localities.

State of Good Repair - Locally Owned Bridges
The State of Good Repair program provides funding for locally owned bridges in poor condition or otherwise known as structurally deficient.

Transportation Alternatives
This program focuses on providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities and community improvements.

Urban Program
This is not an Assistance Division is responsible for statewide urban policy and provides program oversight and guidance for the urban maintenance and construction programs. Districts of cities and towns are included in the urban system. Read more about the Urban Program.

For more information, contact Elijah Sharp, esharp@nrvc.org.



New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority

The New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority met in mid-December to select officers for the coming year. The officers for 2024 include Chair, Mayor Mike Barber, Christiansburg; Vice-Chair Angie Hill, Montgomery County; Secretary, Lynsay Belshe, Virginia Tech; Treasurer, Dirk Compton, Pulaski County.

On January 25th, the Authority will hold a joint meeting with NRV Passenger Rail to receive a report from the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority on 30% design drawings for the New River Valley extension project. The 30% design will include

Live, Work, Eat, Grow (LWEG)



Live, Work, Eat, Grow (LWEG), a local nonprofit that operates Millstone Kitchen in the Old Prices Fork School and manages a robust community garden program, celebrated its fifth year as an organization in 2023. LWEG's partnership with the Town of Blacksburg to create and manage three community gardens spurred an award submission to the Virginia Municipal League (VML), and the Town won **two** honors from VML: the Innovation Award for Community Health and the President's Award. LWEG now employs three staff members and has a Board of 12, many of whom participated in the redevelopment of the Old Prices Fork Elementary School dating back to 2015.

more information about timeline for service, cost, and final station location. For more information, contact Kevin Byrd, kbyrd@nrvc.org.

For a look into more of what LWEG has been up to recently, the Live, Work, Eat, Grow 2023 Impact Report can be found at <https://liveworkeatgrow.org/>.



ANNUAL AWARD WINNER
COMMUNITY SERVICE INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Kathy Blouse & Leo Priddy

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AWARD WINNER
Leo Priddy
2023 Community Service Individual of the Year

NOMINEE
Kathleen Armstrong
2023 Community Service Individual of the Year

THANK YOU MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR RECOGNIZING OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT!



New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund

The New River Valley Revolving Loan Fund played a pivotal role in transforming The Chandlerie from an online venture into a thriving brick-and-mortar store in Christiansburg. This fund, vital for small businesses seeking to expand or upgrade, offers flexible loans with favorable terms, proving essential for entrepreneurs like Astleigh of The Chandlerie in realizing their dreams. For more information on how this fund can support small business growth, contact Leo Priddy, lprippy@nrvc.org

NRVRC is Hiring!



The Regional Commission is excited to announce an opening for a Regional Innovation Officer (RIO). This newly created full-time position plays a critical part in our initiative to develop a technology hub in Southwest Virginia. The RIO will lead the Additive Manufacturing & Applied Materials Strategy Development Consortium, a highly collaborative effort supported by a US Economic Development Administration grant. This role involves convening consortium members, developing strategic initiatives for implementation projects, and supporting partners achieving technological advancements for economic growth. We are seeking a candidate that has a keen ability to foster relationships across sectors, passionate about helping businesses thrive, and curious about driving innovation. This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of technology and economic development in our region. Applications are open, with interviews commencing soon.

For more information, contact Kevin Byrd at kbyrd@nrvc.org.

[Visit our website](#)

New River Valley Regional Commission | nrvc.org
New River Valley Regional Commission | 6580 Valley Center Drive, Suite 124, Radford, VA
24141



Unsubscribe.connie@associationbuilders.com