



February 2021 Update

Annual NRVRC Award Nominations Open!

Help us recognize the people who make an impact in the New River Valley! We need you to nominate worthy candidates for this year's awards program. The Commission is accepting nominations for our regional awards until March 15th. Award recipients will be honored in the spring of 2021. Please click on the links below to nominate candidates for Champion of the Valley (elected/appointed official), Citizen of the Valley, and Friend of the Valley (outside the region).

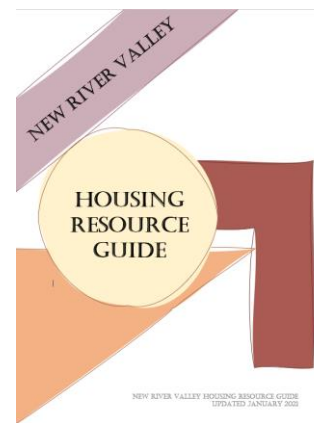
[Champion of the Valley-Elected/Appointed Official \(nominate here\)](#)

[Citizen of the Valley \(nominate here\)](#)

[Friend of the Valley \(nominate here\)](#)

NRV Housing Source Guide

The NRV Housing Resource Guide and the Affordable Rental Housing Guide are both getting big upgrades! Since 2017, the Commission has participated in a regional collective of local government staff, non-profits, and other housing organizations to compile and update a listing of critical housing support services as well as income-based rental housing in the region. Beginning in fall of 2020, Commission intern, Abbey Bryant, has been working to update both the content and format of each of these documents.

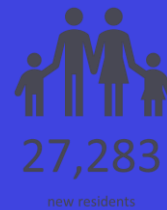


Soon, in addition to a downloadable document, information from the Housing Resource Guide will be available in an online searchable database; the information from the Affordable Rental Housing Guide will be available online through a new partnership with Virginia Housing at www.virginiahousingsearch.com. As the pandemic has only exacerbated the high housing need in the region, the Commission is excited for this critical information to be updated and available in multiple formats. All information can be found on the Commission's website at <https://nrvrc.org/what-we-do/housing/>.

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

NRV Approves 2045 Transportation Plan

Regional partners recently approved a transportation plan that identifies specific needs for the next 25 years. The plan focuses on the most urban areas of the New River Valley, including the City of Radford, Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, and neighboring village areas in Montgomery and Pulaski Counties. The plan also includes input from those who live and/or work in the region, attend school, or simply enjoy visiting the NRV. Learn more about the plan, what the region's transportation users think, and explore data here: www.nrvtransportationplan.org.



For further information, please contact Elijah Sharp (esharp@nrvrc.org), 540-639-9313.

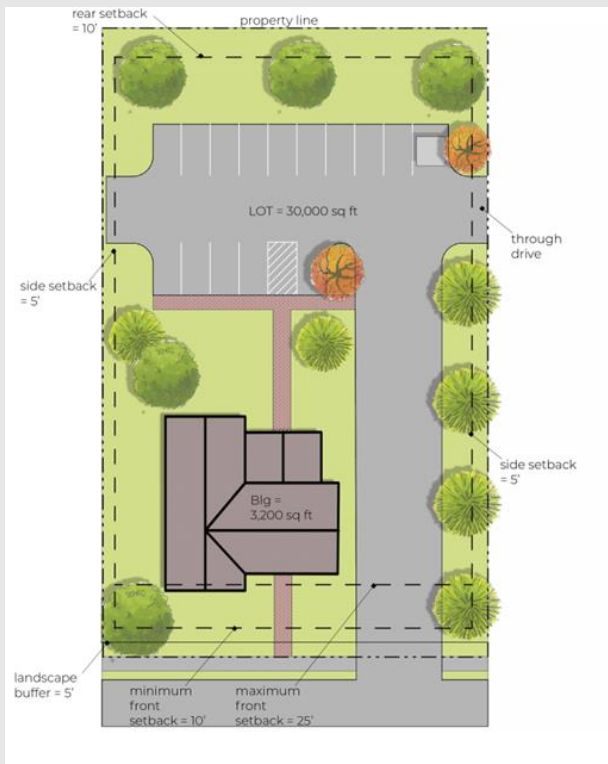
Keeping Employees on the Job Through Transportation Solutions

Ride Solutions has continued to support employers and employees in staying on the job during the pandemic. For businesses who have been able to implement telework, Ride Solutions has been able to offer tips for better teleworking, rewarding telework "trips" logged, and even beginning to set up long-term telework programs as businesses think about post-pandemic working arrangements.

For businesses who still need their employees on site, Ride Solutions has been available to safely address commuting challenges. Recruitment and retention has always been front of mind for employers and no less so in these past months with transportation being a key piece of the puzzle. For example, vanpooling offers a lower-cost option for getting to work and Ride Solutions has been supporting local efforts to develop vanpools. Ride Solutions can help you navigate the complexity of deciding if vanpooling works for your organization, how to set up

and pay for a vanpool, procure a van or turnkey service, and offer ongoing support to ensure safe and successful vanpools.

For more information about how RIDE Solutions is helping employers offer commuting solutions to their employees, contact Christy Straight at cstraight@nrvc.org or James Jones at jjones@nrvc.org.



Town of Floyd Zoning Ordinance

The Town of Floyd is wrapping up its zoning ordinance rewrite. The Town's Planning Commission and staff in partnership with the Regional Commission have been working on this project for the last two years. Some of the major changes include new permitted and conditional uses, update to the sign regulations, additions of development standards, and illustrations to communicate key zoning requirements. Many visuals were also added to help clarify definitions.

The Planning Commission will conduct their public hearing on February 24, 2021 at 6.30 pm., which will be held at the W. Skip Bishop Town Hall, 134 Wilson Street, Floyd, VA 24091.

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

Website Projects

The Commission has recently completed two website projects for our partners. The first was an overhaul of the NRV Road to Wellness site (www.nrvroadtowellness.com) site for the New River Health District, done in collaboration with Uncork It and other members of the New River Valley Public Health Task Force. NRV Road to Wellness now includes up-to-date information

on the NRHD's COVID-19 vaccination campaign along with a streamlined navigation to make information easier to find.

The second site is a new independent site for the New River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization located at nrvmpo.com. This site features a collection of the MPO's past plans and reports, along with items that are currently being worked on.

New River Valley Regional Commission | nrvc.org



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