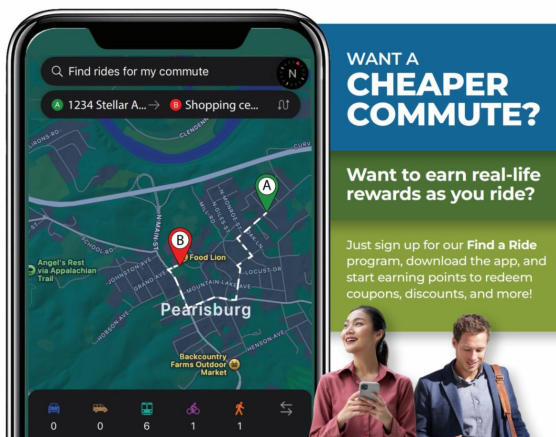




August 2025 Update



Summer Fun with RIDE Solutions

This summer, RIDE Solutions is visiting farmers markets across the region to help the community discover new ways to improve their work commute. Staff will be on hand to discuss the benefits of carpooling and how the ConnectingVA app can empower commuters to take control of their daily travel. Commuters using the ConnectingVA app are embracing carpooling, teleworking, public

transit, and cycling- and every alternative trip adds up to savings in money, stress, and time.

So far this season, RIDE Solutions has made stops at the Pearisburg Community Market, the Marketplace in Pulaski, and the Blacksburg Farmers Market. Be sure to visit the RIDE Solutions table at the Floyd Farmers Market and Radford Farmers Market in August!

For more information about RIDE Solutions and how to find transportation alternatives, please visit the website: <https://ridesolutions.org/>

Planning Commissioner's Training

Every year, the Regional Commission and local planners from across the New River Valley come together to host a training for the region's Planning Commissioners. Take a look at what happened at this year's training! A big thanks to Derley Aguilar with Montgomery County for partnering on the creation of this video.



NRVRC wishes Janet McNew a Happy Retirement!

Janet joined the Regional Commission in September 1999 as a Project Manager. In January 2012, Janet was promoted to Director of Finance and Personnel, a position she held until retiring in September 2019. In November 2019 she returned as a part-time Finance Technician. The Regional Commission wishes Janet well and thanks her for all the years of dedicated service!

2025 Regional Economic Strategy Update

Each year, the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRVRC) updates the Regional Economic Strategy (RES), which is the region's federally recognized Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The RES helps guide regional planning efforts, strengthen local and federal partnerships, and aligns the region with U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding opportunities.

At the June 26th NRVRC Board Meeting, the 2025 Regional Economic Strategy was approved. This year's update reflects a comprehensive review of the region's SWOT analysis and priority strategies, alongside a refined list of local and regional projects. The revised document also aligns with updated EDA content guidelines, ensuring the New River Valley remains well-positioned for federal funding opportunities and regional implementation efforts.

The final document can be found at <https://nrvrc.org/economy>.

To support broader use of the RES, the Regional Commission continues to enhance its the accessibility and engagement of the RES and through an [interactive online format](#) and a [data dashboard](#), maintained by the Regional Commission, providing user-friendly demographic, economic, and community health data for local governments, grant writers, non-profits, and citizens.

For more information, please contact Leo Priddy (lpriddy@nrvrc.org)



Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials (AM²) Hub Conference

[Registration](#) is now open for the [Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials AM² Hub Conference](#) on September 15th at the Inn at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Attendees will connect with industry leaders who are leveraging additive manufacturing technology and advanced materials to transform how they design, create, and innovate. Explore the real challenges facing manufacturers today, from technology adoption to workforce gaps, and get practical insights through expert 1-on-1 sessions and collaborative peer breakouts. Attendees will also have the opportunity to go behind the scenes of innovation at Virginia Tech and tour [cutting-edge labs](#). An evening reception at Eastern Divide Brewing Co. will follow.

For more information, please contact Emma Carroll (ecarroll@nrvrc.org).



Opioid Abatement Authority: What You Need To Know

On June 24th, the Regional Commission presented the training session, "Opioid Abatement Authority: What you need to know". Forty government and service agency leaders and staff participated in the hybrid training opportunity. This training included an overview of OAA funding opportunities, the different types of OAA funds, programs OAA currently funds in the region, and a deep dive into OAA performance tracking. Demonstrations of

the REDCap survey tools used to collect performance data were also presented. The training will be updated and repeated bi-annually to support interest in funding for OAA projects in the NRV Recovery Ecosystem. A YouTube link of the slide presentation is available on the NRV Recovery Ecosystem website (www.nrvroadtowellness.com/nrv-recovery-ecocsystem).

For more information, please contact Holly Lesko, (hlesko@nrvc.org).



NRVRC is Hiring!

Are you interested in an important role that will support the wellness of the region and work to address the opioid crisis? Do you have a passion for making connections, supporting innovation, and engagement across communities to help create a recovery ecosystem in our

communities? The Regional Commission is seeking a team-oriented and experienced Education & Training Coordinator for this work. The position will play an important role in helping schools, local governments, and service organizations proactively plan and execute programs and services that support trauma-informed training and education about opioid use abatement and prevention. Click [here](#) to find out more about this position!

2025 Annual NRVRC Awards Nominations Are 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 **August 15th**. Award recipients will be honored at our annual dinner event in the fall. 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](#)

[Citizen of the Valley](#)

[Friend of the Valley](#)

[Visit our website](#)

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