



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

REGIONAL commissio

REGIONAL REVIEW DEC 2025



Seasons GREETINGS!
FROM OUR TEAM



Driving Regional Progress Together



Bringing Riders Together for the 9th Annual Holiday Lights Tour

The cold couldn't keep community away from joining the 9th Annual Holiday Lights Tour on December 9th! Co-hosted by [RIDE Solutions](#), [PedalSafe ROA](#) and [Cardinal Bicycle](#), this festive 4-mile family-friendly bike ride through Grandin Village showcases some of the best lights Roanoke has to offer.



As 2025 comes to a close, we wanted to recognize two more grant recipients of the 2025 Bike Rack program by [RIDE Solutions](#) partnered with [Friends of the Blue Ridge: The Town of Rocky Mount](#) and [City of Covington](#)!

These bike racks are locally made by [Lift Arc Studios](#). Having accessible bike parking in public spaces throughout our region supports residents and visitors who choose cycling for transportation and recreation, while reducing car trips for healthier, greener communities.

[Learn more about the Bike Rack Program here.](#)



A photograph of construction workers in orange shirts paving a path in a park-like setting. The workers are using tools to spread and level the material. The background shows a lush green forest under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The text 'PROJECT OUTSIDE GRANTS OPEN' is overlaid in large, bold, white letters. The word 'OPEN' is particularly large and positioned at the bottom right of the main text block.

PROJECT OUTSIDE GRANTS OPEN

Grants available to support outdoor recreation in the region

Roanoke Outside is accepting applications for the next round of Project Outside grants. The deadline to apply is January 18.

This grant funding helps support:

- 🌱 New outdoor infrastructure
- 🌱 Maintenance of existing outdoor infrastructure
- 🌱 Organizational support for organizations in the outdoor sector

Review grant details at the link and share this opportunity with anyone who has a project benefiting our greater outdoor community!

[Apply for Project Outside Grant](#)



From left to right: Dr. Julie DeLoia, Tracey Coltrain, Dr. Kimberly Horn, Nancy Hans and Bailey Medeiros

Changing Outcomes in Roanoke Valley through the PEERS Network

The [Roanoke Valley Collective Response](#) and [Partnership for Community Wellness](#) hosted a free workshop, "Peer Support: Connected and Well" workshop led by [Dr. Kimberly Horn](#) on December 17.

The workshop, designed for peer recovery specialists, centered on the "8 Tenants of Dynamic Friendship" from Dr. Horn's book, ***Friends Matter for Life***, exploring the tremendous impact of social connection on public health.

To educate on ongoing efforts of the **PEERS Network** throughout the region, we partnered with [RVTV](#) to produce the video "[Changing Outcomes through the Peer Recovery Network in Roanoke Valley.](#)"

In the video, Bailey Medeiros, Director of the Roanoke Valley Collective Response interviewed Brian Bailey, Peer Recovery Specialist from the [Bradley Free Clinic](#) and Dr. Kimberly Horn to talk about the power of peer recovery work - why these relationships matter, how meaningful support changes outcomes, and the role the Peer Recovery Network play strengthening recovery across our community.



[Watch RVTV Video](#)

Housing Challenges and Opportunities in our Region



From left to right: Todd Robertson from Stateson Homes, Regional Commission Chair Lorie Smith and Executive Director Jeremy Holmes.

At the December 11th Regional Commission meeting, **Todd Robertson of local homebuilder [Statesman Homes](#)** provided an informative presentation on a hot topic in our region: housing challenges and opportunities.

3 quick facts:

- Nearly **3 in 10** Virginia households spend over **30%** of their income on housing.
- Since 1992, the average first-time home buyer age has risen from **28 to 40 years old**
- Home values have increased **162% since 2000 while incomes grew only 78%**. The ratio of median home price to median income is currently 5.8 nationally, far exceeding the recommended 2.6.

Challenges identified in the presentation were regulatory costs and fees, zoning and infrastructure. Examples of infrastructure needs to meet housing needs were upgrading and increasing capacity of aging water and sewer lines, along with constant investment in roads and transportation to support higher density and market-rate housing projects.

A recording of the presentation and board housing discussion at the Regional Commission can be [watched online here on YouTube.](#)

Upcoming Meetings



Roanoke Valley TPO
January 22, 2026 @ 1 PM
313 Luck Ave SW
Roanoke, VA 24016

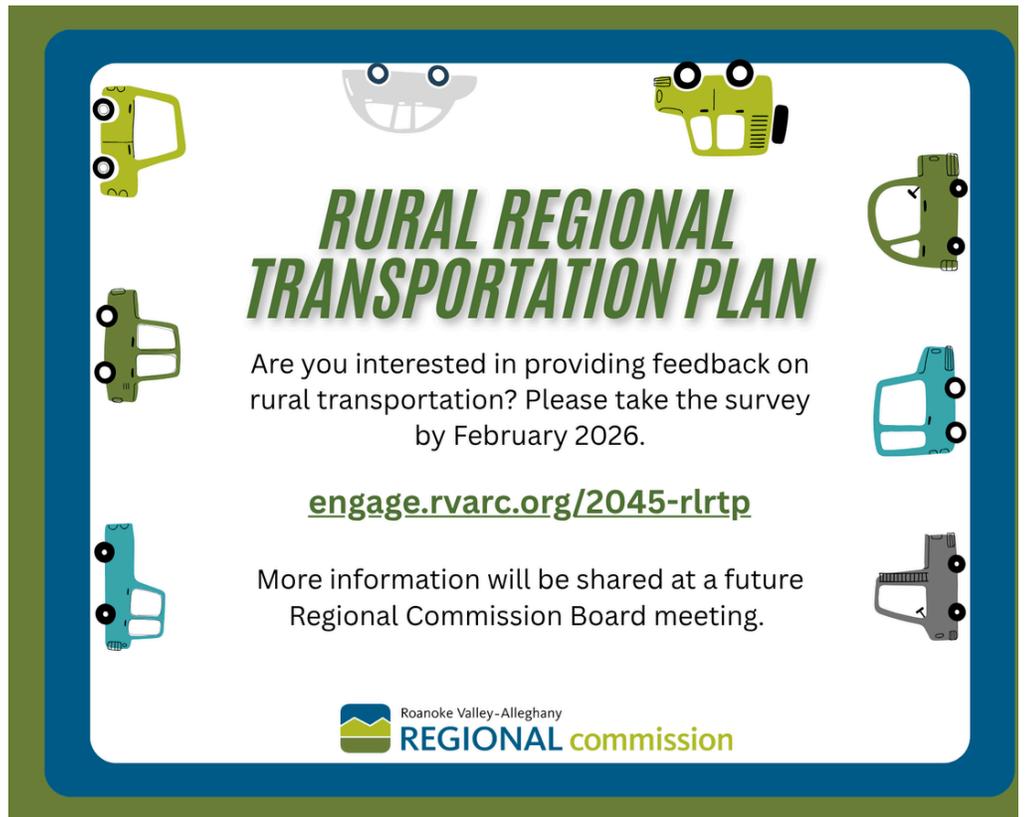


Regional Commission
January 22, 2026 @ 3 PM
313 Luck Ave SW
Roanoke, VA 24016

Meeting Calendar

Public participation is encouraged in these meetings, with a designated time for public comments.

Tune in virtually: Regional Commission and RVTPO meetings are livestreamed on our [Facebook page](#) and archived on our [YouTube](#) page.



**RURAL REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Are you interested in providing feedback on rural transportation? Please take the survey by February 2026.

engage.rvarc.org/2045-rlrtp

More information will be shared at a future Regional Commission Board meeting.

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
REGIONAL commission

The Regional Commission transportation staff started the first public comment period for development of the new **Rural Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan**. Please provide comments on the survey **to help identify community needs** to guide the development of plan.



Celebrating Valley Metro's 50th Anniversary! 🎉

Congratulating Roanoke [Valley Metro](#) for 50 years of service to the greater community! C November 18, Partners and residents gathered at the Third Street Transit Station, with

speeches commemorating the occasion, history and employees, and the unveiling of a new 50-Year Anniversary logo.

Learn how things have changed over the years and see highlights from a recognition ceremony [in this video by RVTV](#).

Regional Commission staff for the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) and RIDE Solutions programs were proud to be present!



Regional Leaders Connect at Virginia Western

RVARC Executive Director Jeremy Holmes met with other regional economic leaders to discuss trends and educational needs with new Virginia Western Community College President Dr. Laura Treanor.



John Hull, President and CEO of the [Roanoke Regional Partnership](#) highlighted the many 2025 economic development successes happening in our communities in an excellent Op-Ed in the Cardinal News. **A region that works together, wins together.**

"Regional collaboration is not a marketing slogan — it is a competitive advantage strategy with measurable outcomes. In the competition for investment, job creation and talent, regionalism matters."

[Read Op-Ed](#)



WLSL News Coverage: Roanoke-Blacksburg Airport adds American Airlines flight to Dallas-Fort Worth

"With flights to Dallas starting in June, the new direct flight will boost travel convenience and regional economic development opportunities."

[See News Coverage](#)

The Regional Commission is a leader in driving collaboration and strategy within our communities on issues that are critical to the economic growth, quality of life, and sustainability of this region.

Connect with Us!



www.RVARC.ORG

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