



## October 2021 Update

### NRV Passenger Rail Station Authority Taking Shape

In 2021 Governor Northam signed the New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority legislation into law. Since the law went into effect in July local governments and higher education institutions in the region are collectively going through the steps to establish the authority. It is important to point out, the authority would likely own and maintain the station in the region, while Amtrak would operate the passenger rail service. Currently, the VA Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) is evaluating potential station locations in the region. While the state is leading that process, the local governments and universities are being proactive by establishing the organizational structure needed to host service in the region. The Regional Commission is providing the administrative support to create the authority. Over the next couple of months governing bodies will be taking action to establish the authority by adopting local ordinances and executing agreements.

For further information, please contact Kevin Byrd ([kbyrd@nrvc.org](mailto:kbyrd@nrvc.org)) 540-639-9313.



### Community Engagement for Radford's East Main Downtown Plan

Community engagement was an important part of the Radford East Main Downtown Plan which occurred from March to August of 2021. Input was gathered through a series of online surveys, stakeholder meetings, booths at Radford University events and a questionnaire made available at businesses. The engagements brought attention to the planning efforts and provided valuable feedback from the community regarding their vision and desires for the future of the East Main area. Nearly 3,000 people visited the online project page and 800 people provided their input.

Engagement with Radford University students included “5 questions” online and printed surveys, and booths setup during campus events. Over 100 students participated in the online survey, while 137 responded at the event booths. Their top feedback for downtown was dining options, attractive buildings, green spaces, longer store hours and free Wi-Fi.



For further information, please contact Aphi Fancon ([afancon@nrvrc.org](mailto:afancon@nrvrc.org)) 540-639-9313.

## Business Continuity Team Update

The Business Continuity Team has been working hard to bring relevant workshop topics to small businesses the past couple of months and will continue to do so in the coming months. In the most recent installment of Making your Business Resilient Beyond Covid-19, Eric Chapman, Attorney with CowanPerry, PC, joined us to discuss the new Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) COVID-19 regulations, compliance, and employment best practices. This workshop was offered online in webinar format and took place on September 21, 2021. There were 133 virtual participants, the largest attendance to date. Please note there are two upcoming deadlines for employers to put on their calendars; Infectious Disease Plan of Response is due October 8, 2021 and Employee Training is due by November 7, 2021. If interested in 10 easy steps to reach compliance, please contact Melanie Morris at [mmorris@nrvrc.org](mailto:mmorris@nrvrc.org) for more information on how to obtain the recording.

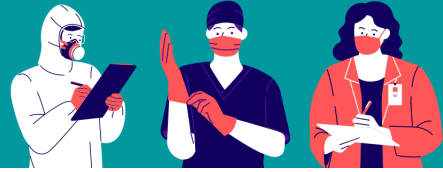
In October presenters from Uncork-It a local marketing firm will join the workshop series. The two workshops presented will be *Storytelling for Business Success*, and *Don't Stop Talking: It's Good for Business*. These workshops will be virtual and held at 11am on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> respectively. Register for these workshops here: <https://forms.gle/fnnT846vgNkJqLdP9>

For more information, please contact Melanie Morris at [mmorris@nrvrc.org](mailto:mmorris@nrvrc.org).

We salute all  
frontliners!

Thank you from the BCT.

You are our heroes.



# ReNew the New

THANK YOU!!



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