



**Central Virginia Planning  
District Commission**  
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cvpdc.org

## Staff Report

### Special Guests

#### **Emily Stock, Director of Rail Transportation, Va. Department of Rail and Public Transportation**

Emily is leading the Central Virginia Rail Economic Development Study. A budget amendment from the General Assembly funds the project, which follows up a study of prospective inland port locations in Central and Southwest Virginia.

Emily Stock, AICP, serves as the Chief of Rail Transportation, providing leadership for freight and passenger rail planning and policy development as well as DRPT's freight rail grant programs and initiatives. She collaborates with partner agencies, railroads, and neighboring states to develop programs with maximum benefit and a realistic implementation strategy. Ms. Stock serves as the Commonwealth's representative on the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Council on Rail Transportation and on the Technical Committee of the Southeast Rail Corridor Commission.

Ms. Stock has over 15 years with the Commonwealth between her previous role as DRPT's Manager of Rail Planning and Business Development Manager for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, where she matched growing industries with the best locations in Virginia for manufacturing and logistics, including rail-served sites.

Ms. Stock has a Master of Planning degree from the University of Virginia and a Bachelor of Science in Geology from James Madison University.

#### **Donna Vincent, Executive Director, Greater Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity**

Virginia Housing (formerly VHDA) granted \$2 million to the Central Virginia Planning District Commission for investment in affordable housing. The CVPDC has funded construction of owner- and renter-occupied houses, townhouses, and apartments in four localities. These resources contribute to a portfolio of funding for nine new homes on Knott Street in Lynchburg.

Greater Lynchburg Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Donna Vincent will speak to the Commission about her organization's experience developing residential real estate and building homes on Knott Street.

### CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024

By Kelly Hitchcock ([Kelly.Hitchcock@CVPDC.org](mailto:Kelly.Hitchcock@CVPDC.org))

The CVPDC received a \$54,000 Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), matched by \$6,000 in local funds, to inventory and evaluate areas prone to stormwater flooding issues and establish strategies to mitigate impact. Completion of a flood resilience planning process, according to DCR CFPF requirements, approved by a regional entity and locality provides eligibility to apply for CFPF construction grant funds to implement projects. The Berkley Group was procured to develop the regional resiliency plan.

The CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 (CVPDC Resilience Plan) seeks to increase resiliency – the ability of communities, infrastructure and ecosystems to withstand, adapt to, or quickly recover impacts from all forms of flooding, including but not limited to riverine, pluvial or heavy rain, and stormwater flooding. The Regional Resiliency Plan was developed in coordination and cooperation of locality staff and area stakeholders and included consultant-led interviews, focus-group sessions, and locality staff review throughout.

The CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 focuses primarily on addressing threats from flooding, a DCR CFPF program-focus requirement. The CVPDC Resilience Plan stakeholders noted impacts of extreme heat especially for the region’s vulnerable communities. The Plan therefore includes evaluation and recommendation for extreme heat mitigation factors. The CVPDC Resilience Plan builds on the 2020 CVPDC Hazard Mitigation Plan, utilizing data and building on goals and recommended mitigation actions. Finally, the CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan has been developed such that each locality can adopt the full document or the single locality chapter as a unique document and integrate into local plans.

## Resilience Action Prioritization Matrix

A CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 includes an action matrix for prioritized flood and heat mitigation strategies for each locality. Additionally, a more detailed implementation recommendation summary is presented for identified priority projects.

**Amherst County**
**75** Action Score

Stream Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions

**Action Description**

Evaluate stream conditions and implement streambank stabilization and green infrastructure to promote natural function and mitigate riverine flooding, impacts of dam failure, and stormwater at the following locations: Williams Run, Lowesville, Monacan Park, Peddler river at Buffalo Spring, Ware’s Gap Road near Puppy Creek.

**Key Steps for Implementation**

1. Field investigation of current stream conditions
2. Assessment of stream and riverine capacity and flooding under future climate conditions.
3. Identification of priority project areas and coordination with private owners.
4. Implementation of restoration and green infrastructure solutions along stream and areas of known flooding

**Action Lead**

Department of Public Works

**Supporting Partners**

- Private property owners abutting waterways
- CVPDC
- Amherst Watershed Coordinator for the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District

**Ease of Implementation**

Locality can complete in-house.

Requires locality to hire a staff person.

Requires hiring a technical consultant.

**Measure of Success**

- Reduction of stormwater and riverine flooding
- Monitored and improved water quality and stream health
- Restoration of riverine vegetative buffer zones
- More agreements with private property owners to create conservation easements

**Legend**

**Action Initiation Timeframe**

Short: 0-2 years  
Medium: 3-6 years  
Long: 7+ years

**Cost\***

\$: less than 10k    \$\$\$\$: 500k-2mil  
\$\$: 10-50k        \$\$\$\$\$: 2 mil+

\*Cost associated with the actions refers to how much it is expected to cost the Town to implement. This does not include costs for ongoing maintenance.

**Action Initiation Timeframe**

Short      Medium      Long

**Resilience Considerations**

Stream restoration and nature-based solutions will be located and implemented based on information from a hydraulic and hydrologic model that shows impact on reducing flooding. Nature-based solutions can also help reduce urban heat island impacts.

**Co-Benefits & Equity Considerations**

Cost-sharing with private property owners to help improve their properties and reduce flooding through conservation measures.

Prioritized flood-prone areas in which socially vulnerable populations also live.

**Cost**

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1. Field Investigations: 30,000 - 100,000 (dependent on total acreage investigated)
2. Hydraulic and Hydrologic Modeling: 50,000-150,000 (dependent on total acreage investigated)
3. Identify Priority Projects: 50,000-100,000 (dependent on number of projects)
4. Design of Nature-Based Solutions: 150,000-250,000 (dependent on number of designs)
5. Construction and Implementation: 250,000-1,000,000 (dependent on scope of projects)

**Possible Funding Sources**

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Local Stormwater Assistance Fund, Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund

## Adoption Process

Consultants from the Berkley Group introduced findings and plan content at the Commission's July 18 meeting. The Draft CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 will be provided to the Commission and made available for public review and comment beginning Monday, August 22, 2024. The document is [available on the CVPDC website](#) along with information available for posting on locality websites for a 30-day comment period.

The final CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan 2024 appears before the CVPDC for consideration of approval at its regular September 19, 2024, meeting. Additionally, CVPDC staff will provide a CVPDC Flood Resilience Plan overview and tailored locality strategy summary and work to support locality approval as requested in Autumn 2024.

## CV Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan

By Ada Hunsberger ([Ada.Hunsberger@CVPDC.org](mailto:Ada.Hunsberger@CVPDC.org))

Over the past year, Ada Hunsberger has been working with our local and state partners to rebrand and expand our existing commuter assistance program. The new program, called *Central Virginia Commuter Services* will provide resources to both commuters and local employers to encourage and facilitate the use of alternative modes of transportation in the region including carpooling, vanpooling, transit and biking/walking. Ada is working with Stimulus Advertising to develop a new website and materials to promote our new Central Virginia Commuter Services program.

CVPDC applies yearly for grant funding from DRPT to operate this program. This past year, DRPT instituted a new requirement that all grant recipients have a strategic plan for their Commuter Assistance Program; therefore, Ada has worked with local stakeholders and our state partners to develop the 2025-2029 Commuter Assistance Program Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the operating services and resources needed to operate the program in the most cost-effective manner.

The Transportation Technical Committee, DRPT, and VDOT have all reviewed the plan. A thirty-day public comment period will commence on Monday, September 23, and end on October 25, 2024. DRPT requires the plan to be adopted by November 24, 2024, to ensure eligibility of the Commuter Assistance Program for grant funding in FY26.

The program's new website is [CVCommuterServices.org](http://CVCommuterServices.org) (where "CV" stands for Central Virginia). The draft plan is [available on the site here](#). Similar to the Flood Resilience Plan, the CAP Strategic Plan will be introduced to the Commission, go out for public inspection, and appear on the next regular meeting agenda for adoption. The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024.

## Electric Vehicles (EV) Charging Infrastructure Initiative

CVPDC Senior Planner Mariel Fowler will present research and opportunities for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The following reports support her presentation. They describe how the topic can be folded into CVTPO activities and how Virginia Clean Cities could assist the CVPDC.