

FY 2024-2025 Work Plan

Approved May 16, 2024



The PDC's major work objectives for 2024-2025 strive to support the CVPDC's mission:

- to be a **dynamic** public forum for matters of regional significance; and,
- to create **solutions** by coordinating plans and building coalitions; and,
- to provide **service** excellence to our localities and to the Commonwealth.

Economic and Community Development

Strategic Planning (CEDs)

CVPDC will update its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in Fiscal Year 2025. The exercise serves as the organization's strategic plan, required in Virginia Code for planning district commissions. The CEDS will be rebranded with guidance from the Commission and positioned to cover CVPDC's ongoing program areas.

The US Economic Development Administration will grant \$30,000 to fund the development of the CEDS provided CVPDC matches dollar for dollar. The intent of the grant is that CVPDC will complete a CEDS that meets US EDA's standards for an "economic development district." That designation improves the region and its localities' competitiveness for federal grants to develop public works and workforce. The CEDS must therefore include a list of projects for which the region would seek funding.

Per US EDA, procedures to develop a CEDS include a diverse committee of stakeholders from a cross-section of the regional economy and include public input. The CEDS committee would guide the process, oversee means and methods of public participation, and make a recommendation to the CVPDC Commission.

Brownfields

CVPDC applied for a \$500,000 grant from US EPA to perform brownfields assessments for willing landowners throughout the four counties and corridor redevelopment plans for interested local governments. These resources will be exhausted sometime in FY25 based on the current rate of requests. Staff will pursue additional resources including resubscription to the current program; however, an application for another \$500,000 would not bear fruit until FY26. Staff will pursue and develop complementary alternatives in the meantime.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management asked CVPDC staff to apply for a disaster mitigation grant to get a jump on its 5-year hazard mitigation plan update. The successful application required just

a 5% match versus the typical 20% local match that the hazard mitigation planning grant program requires.

The purpose is to identify projects that will help the region insulate itself from disasters and recover more quickly when they strike. Altavista's riverbank stabilization grant arose from the last iteration of the hazard mitigation plan. CVPDC staff will renew the planning process later in FY25.

Agribusiness Planning

CVPDC has submitted applications for funding of an agribusiness planning initiative at the encouragement of Tobacco Commission staff. CVPDC would convene regional interests across sectors to participate in needs assessment, opportunities analysis, and planning effort. CVPDC would facilitate information sharing and help connect farmers, other producers, and land-based businesses to resources available to support and advance the industry.

Regional Support

1. CVPDC will continue to connect the region and member local governments to statewide and federal resources including but not limited to those available from US EDA, USDA Rural Development, US DOT, US EPA, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Virginia Housing, GO Virginia, the Tobacco Commission, VDACS, VDEQ, VDOT, and VDHCD. CVPDC was recognized as a local development district by the new federal Southeast Crescent Regional Commission and awarded \$22,000 annual funding to pursue and develop grant opportunities particularly for lower-income areas of Central Virginia.
2. CVPDC will assist localities with applications for grants and grant management for economic development, community development, housing, infrastructure, trail, and park or open space development projects. Ongoing and prospective projects include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Appomattox County, with technical support from CVPDC staff, successfully applied for grants from the Tobacco Commission and GO Virginia to fund welding program equipment and training space upgrades at CVCC's Appomattox Center. CVPDC will provide grant management.
 - b. Staff will continue administration of a community development block grant for the Church Street Water Line for the Town of Appomattox and Phase 1 of the Hilltop Neighborhood housing rehabilitation project in the Town of Bedford, also CDBG-funded.
 - c. Staff will administrate the new Phase 2 Hilltop project for the Town of Bedford as well as planning grants in Madison Heights and Altavista, both funded by community development block grants.
 - d. The Town of Altavista received a VDEM grant for riverbank stabilization at English Park. The Town of Pamplin received a VDH grant for lead pipe remediation. CVPDC staff will provide each with grant administration.
3. CVPDC will continue to provide technical assistance to localities for comprehensive planning and implementation including geographic information systems and project management. E.g., the Town of Bedford will receive assistance with an update of its comprehensive plan.
4. CVPDC will continue to coordinate with the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance and support its activities in economic development.

Workforce Development

1. CVPDC will continue to provide the administrative staff of the region's workforce development board as well as financial and human resources management. CVPDC will further seek opportunities to assist the mission of Virginia Career Works – Central Region.
2. CVPDC will continue to coordinate with Central Virginia Community College and support its efforts to enhance and expand career and technical education in the region. CVCC will manage the welding program at the Appomattox Center funded by GO Virginia and Tobacco Commission grants that CVPDC will administrate.

Housing

1. CVPDC will facilitate conversations arising from its Regional Housing Market Analysis, exploring opportunities to implement recommendations and increase access to housing choices for households of all income levels. To those ends, CVPDC staff will:
 - a. Develop a series of housing education initiatives in coordination with housing development organizations and lenders for affordable housing,
 - b. Host housing information session for area planners, non-profit staff, homebuilders, and developer about available resources and best practices, and
 - c. Work to establish a housing program revolving loan fund. Such a program would assist non-profit affordable housing providers with bridge loans in light of rising interest rates for construction loans. Staff would bring a proposal to the Planning District Commission in the first half of the fiscal year for review and approval.
2. CVPDC will continue to administrate its PDC Housing Development Grant, which will help fund construction of 61 affordable housing units for homeowners and renters of single-family homes, townhomes, and apartments in four member communities.
3. This \$2 million program funding the units and the enumerated support activities runs through June 2025. VAPDC is working with Virginia Housing on a successor program.

Transportation

1. CVPDC will continue to host and manage the Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization, which serves the urbanized portion of the region, and provide transportation planning for the remaining, rural area as well. A planning work program for each of these two study areas is due to VDOT and subject to approval by the CVTPO Policy Committee and the Planning District Commission, respectively. In lieu of reproducing each transportation planning work program in its entirety, the following highlights are provided herein:
 - a. CVTPO will conduct a multi-modal plan, which will study and make recommendations to improve mobility for those who walk, ride bikes, take transit, and rideshare. Staff will work with GLTC and local stakeholders to evaluate existing resources, socioeconomic factors, routes, first- and last-mile connectivity, and primary destinations. This initiative will inform short- and long-term infrastructure investments, program development, and service efficiencies.
 - b. CVPDC will embark on a two-year Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. The purpose of the initiative is to develop policies, programs, and projects that make the transportation network safer for all users. Ideally, the plan will lead to implementation grants from USDOT. The benefit to the region is a needs analysis and recommendations for projects that traffic congestion and other conventional measures don't necessarily indicate. Network safety improvements should ultimately be more proactive and preventative.

- c. CVTPO will support GLTC in executing route and program planning and transit services, including evaluation of existing resources and methodology to consider access needs and grant assistance; ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) evaluations; and membership on Customer Route Advisory Committee.
 - d. CVPDC and CVTPO will begin the 5-year update to its Long-Range Transportation Plan, Connect Central VA 2050, as required by federal law. This effort will begin later in the fiscal year, after the multi-modal plan and the safety action plan are well underway. The staggering of efforts will enable the LRTP to benefit from results of the other two plans as inputs.
2. CVPDC will administer the DRPT Commuter Assistance Program by advancing the Commute!VA program, transit, and other multimodal programs that support access to jobs, essential services, and community resources. Action includes vanpool program development.

Environmental Quality

- 1. CVPDC will commission the Middle James Preservation Plan with funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Federation. The planning process will develop recommendations with engineered solutions to the sedimentation of the James River in Central Virginia. The benefit to the region will be implementable solutions that position the region for grants for construction.
- 2. CVPDC will finalize the Central Virginia Regional Resiliency Plan with funding through the Community Flood Preparedness Fund. The planning process is developing recommendations with engineered solutions to flash flooding throughout the region as noted in the recently completed Central Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan. The benefit to the region will be implementable solutions that position the region for grants for construction.
- 3. CVPDC will coordinate with locality and area stakeholders in cooperation with DEQ to implement the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Watershed 2023 PDC Locality Implementation Program Scope of Work. Activities include the following:
 - a. CVPDC will continue to engage localities and regional and state partners regarding Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) programmatic actions, to promote and facilitate implementation of initiatives and activities towards achieving the goals of Virginia's Phase III WIP;
 - b. Through existing National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant, CVPDC will identify potential BMP projects that could be implemented in subsequent years;
 - c. Through existing CVPDC Resiliency Plan Development grant, identify at least 4 BMP implementation projects for implementation through assistance to local governments;
 - d. CVPDC will work with other PDCs to develop BMP toolkit to increase local capacity to build parcel-based BMPs (best management practices);
 - e. CVPDC will disseminate funding information to localities, assist them with grant applications, and provide or support grant administration and project implementation as requested;
 - f. CVPDC will work with localities to continue compiling GIS shapefiles to support the biennial Chesapeake Conservancy's Bay High-Resolution Land Cover Update project and other Bay model updates where such data exists; and
 - g. The CVPDC will, through coordination with our local partners and through the execution of projects and integration of the new CVPDC staff, continually evaluate and seek program and project opportunities.

Administration

Central Virginia Radio Communications Board

CVPDC will continue to provide staff for general administration, maintenance coordination, and financial management to the Central Virginia Radio Communications Board.

1. CVRCB will seek partnerships and opportunities to secure system tower resources including targeted options for No Business Mountain, WSET Thaxton Mountain Tower, and Foster's Knob Tower.
2. CVRCB will continue to maintain road, facility, and tower equipment maintenance schedules.
3. CVRCB will guide the L3Harris system-wide Phase 2 update.
4. CVRCB will seek partnerships and grant funds that support system efficiencies and increased safety coordination.
5. CVRCB will continue its pursuit of long-term solutions to equipment stationing on No Business Mountain and vehicular access thereto.

Region 2000 Services Authority

CVPDC will continue to staff general administration, financial management, and human resources management to the Region 2000 Services Authority to advance environmentally safe and cost-effective solid waste disposal services. The four-member Authority Board will determine the primary objectives of the organization.

Communications

1. CVPDC will continue to serve as a forum for regional dialogue. Commission meetings will include conversations of regional significance including input from our delegation to Richmond and leaders in the public and private sectors doing important work.
2. CVPDC will maintain information on the worldwide web and social media sites for the Region 2000 Services Authority, CVTPO, and certain programs, as appropriate, in addition to CVPDC.
3. CVPDC will distribute digital newsletters every other month (those months in which no full Commission meeting is scheduled). The newsletter aims to report highlights of CVPDC's activities to all the region's elected officials and important stakeholders.
4. Staff will be available to visit the governing bodies of each locality as well as interest groups and stakeholder boards.