

Regional Solid Waste Management Initiative

The Region 2000 Solid Waste Management initiative continues to move forward to establish a regional authority to more efficiently manage Central Virginia's solid waste. Participating in this effort are the counties of Amherst, Campbell, Nelson and the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg.

Through a series of financial and operational feasibility studies accomplished over the past three years, the concept of organizing the individual jurisdictions' solid waste management operations into a single regional entity was shown to be well founded and economically advantageous.

Currently, an operating proof of concept plan is being reviewed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Working Group from participating jurisdictions is optimistic the proof of concept will be accepted by DEQ. DEQ has actively supported the regional approach to solid waste management promoted by the initiative.

The working group will continue its efforts in the coming months with the objective of forming a regional solid waste management authority within the year.

Ambrier Area Transportation Study Update

Senior Planner Cayce Dagenhart has been working with the Amherst Town Planning Commission and VDOT officials developing a corridor plan for the Ambrier area just south of Town. This area is becoming especially important with the opening of the Route 29 Bypass.

A second set of scenarios has been presented to the Town of Amherst Planning Commission and the Commission has recommended that the Town should adopt access management regulations and require a reservation of right-of-way right of way for future roundabouts in order to keep the 29 Business corridor functioning well into the future. Cayce will be working with Town Manager Jack Hobbs to prepare draft regulations and amendments to the Town's comprehensive plan and the Town code to have the project completed as early as February.

Region 2000 Rural Transportation Plan Under Development

For years the region has had a long range transportation plan for the urbanized area. This year VDOT has asked that the Local Government Council lead the development of a Rural Transportation Plan to serve those areas outside of the MPO. The plan will examine transportation safety, road capacities, high growth areas and future activity centers, freight generators and significant projects in the Six Year Improvement Plan.

A Rural Long Range Transportation Plan Sub-Committee has been established to work over the next two years with Senior Planner Cayce Dagenhart and VDOT officials on the plan development. Cayce can be reached at 845-3491.

Appomattox County Route 460 Corridor Management Study

Council staff has been assisting the Appomattox County planning staff with a transportation corridor management study along Route 460 between Concord and the Town of Appomattox. The purpose of the study is to develop recommendations to ensure the long term economic viability of the Route 460 corridor. An initial community meeting for the study is scheduled for late January, with final recommendations expected by May. URS Corporation is assisting with the effort. The project is funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation with matching funds from Appomattox County.

Regional Source Water Planning Project

Twelve jurisdictions and three public service districts have completed Phase I planning for source water use and distribution. Costs for Phase II development of a regional source water plan have now been identified and are being considered in FY 08 budgets.

“The regional water study is one more example of the importance of a regional approach to common problems or needs among local governments. Planning now on a regional basis means that when the need for water – or a variety of other critical services – arises, it will be available.”

“That’s important to the people who live and work in Region 2000. Planning for adequate and safe water supplies contributes to the already high quality of life here.” News and Daily Advance Editorial, December 5, 2006

GIS Activities

Our GIS office is digitizing the tax parcel maps for Appomattox County this year and Amherst County next year and will assist them in identifying software opportunities that will incorporate the tax parcel information into their county operations.

There’s a new face in the GIS division of Region 2000. April Branton joins the staff at Region 2000 Local Government Council as GIS Coordinator/Project Manager to develop and manage GIS projects for the Commission.

Branton a graduate of Radford University with a B.S. in Geography with a Concentration of Technical and Planning will perform responsible, professional work in the areas of transportation and physical development through research, analysis and use of GIS maps and databases.

Branton recently was the Assistant Planner/GIS Coordinator for Mathews County where she perform-



April Branton-GIS Coordinator/Project Manager

Grant Development and Management Activity

Grant development and grant management projects for localities are underway: In Bedford County we’re under contract with a consultant to examine what alternatives are available to increase public transportation services at a reasonable cost. That report should be available in the spring. We continue managing the City of Lynchburg TMDL stream assessment, a National Park Service funded grant to inventory historical resources of the Battle of Appomattox Station, affordable housing and infrastructure projects in Pamplin and Brookneal as well as preparing a CDBG downtown revitalization grants in Altavista and Brookneal. This fall we submitted four VDOT SAFETEA-LU applications. We were successful in Appomattox County with a \$250,000 grant from the Tobacco Commission to help renovate portions of the former Carver Price Elementary School for use by CVCC and by the county school system.

Young Professionals of Central Virginia is a partner organization focusing on recruiting and retaining young professionals in the Region. We want to make sure that we create the information mechanism and support network for young graduates to want to return to or to come and to stay in Region 2000. The Young Professionals group is recruiting an Executive Director with funding from the Economic Development Council, the Workforce Investment Board and the private sector.

ed technical duties of all aspects of the operations of the Department of Planning and Zoning, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Zoning Appeals as well as performed professional technical work in the development, implementation, maintenance, management and operation of a computerized GIS.



Update on Virginia's Region 2000 Partnership

We continue to build our Partnership of Regional Boards for Economic Development, Technology, Workforce Development, and Local Government. We've recently added the Young Professionals of Central Virginia to the Partnership. So far we have five different Boards who have pledged to work together and coordinate our activities.

This Partnership is guided by a Coordinating Committee of members of each of the five organizations. We've built a strategic plan for those organizations that will be used to guide our priorities available at:

www.region2000.org/lgc/r2kPartnership.php

The Governor came to Region 2000 in October and recognized this unique cooperative effort of regional agencies and localities willing to work together. Governor Kaine gave us strong words of encouragement for localities to continue to work together and for Region 2000 to continue to make efforts to link and technology infrastructure.

"Regional efforts are absolutely critical. What you are doing here is unusual. What you are doing here for the region is very powerful". Governor Tim Kaine, October 24, speaking to the Boards of the Region 2000 Partnership Organizations:

The next step will be moving into a common office space at the Bank of the James Building in downtown Lynchburg in the spring to strengthen that communication and coordination. We'll also be working on how to better integrate our different organizations to be more effective and efficient with our operations and services.



The **CENTER FOR ADVANCED ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH** CAER will provide a valuable link between the business community and research universities. When one of our advanced manufacturing and wireless entrepreneurs need help getting an idea to mass production or to market, the CAER will have the research capability to take that idea and grow it for the market place.

Funding is included in both biennium years of the General Assembly Budget

The business community has stepped forward with financial pledges in a fund raising campaign to help meet the General Assembly match and pay for operations costs.

A Board of Directors is being formed under a non-profit organization and a Executive Director and staff are being recruited.

A contract with Virginia Tech has been negotiated to put research positions here. It is likely that other universities will also be involved as the project moves forward.

This spring we will be searching the region for an appropriate site for the facility.

Mark Your Calendars for this Important Date!

April 19, 2007 Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling will be speaking at the Region 2000 Local Government Council Annual Meeting.



The **Workforce Investment Board** has a new website especially for job seekers, region2000.org/jobs. On this website people looking for jobs in Region 2000 can either search by available jobs or search by local companies. We've sent notices to businesses in Region 2000 encouraging them to link their job lists to ours. We also capture the VEC job openings for Region 2000. For information contact Danny Inge at 845-2096.

The Regional Career Center in Lynchburg has served over 20,000 jobseekers since it was started in 2003 and 225 employers during 2006.



The **Technology Council** held a Future Focus Career Expo in November targeted to those looking for employment/career exploration in technological/skilled jobs.

Senior Level Executives spoke representing the area's five largest employers: AREVA, BWXT, Genworth Financial, Centra-Health and Liberty University.

Over 1000 job seekers were in attendance (1/2 of which represented 24 area high-schools, colleges and universities). Forty-four organizations exhibited and several companies have indicated they have hired people from the EXPO. Exhibitor survey showed overwhelming positive response to the event, will do again next year.

Wired Wednesday meetings have been a periodic event for the Technology Council. On March 7, the Wired Wednesday program will feature a panel discussion on teleworking and telecommuting. Representatives from ARREVA, M/A-COM, and Genworth will talk about how their employees work through telecommuting. Contact Jonathan Whitt at 847-1447 for more information.

Roundabouts – alternatives to signalized intersections

VDOT officials briefed the **Local Government Council** in November about the safety benefits of using roundabouts instead of signalized intersections. Virginia has 22 roundabouts in service and 25 more are in the planning stages.

VDOT's Senior Planner Walter Pribble noted that there has been a roundabout in Region 2000 in Amherst for years.

A roundabout at the intersection of Route 60 and Route 29 Business in Amherst has been there as long as most people can remember. (Locally, it is called the Amherst Circle...) An attractive 850-gallon basin water fountain was installed in its center on June 28 thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Village Garden Club and the Town of Amherst. Interestingly, the facility was designed in 1936 by W. M. Jeffries, a state engineer who might have been years ahead of his time. "According to our records, the Amherst facility pre-dates the official modern roundabout in this country by more than 50 years," said Walter Pribble, VDOT Senior Transportation Planner. "The first "modern" roundabout in the U.S. was constructed in Nevada in 1990."

Pribble pointed out a number of statistics about roundabouts:

- The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports a 39 percent crash reduction in places where roundabouts were installed in the U.S.
 - And a 76 percent reduction in injury crashes
 - And an 89 percent reduction in fatal and incapacitating crashes where roundabouts have been installed
 - Compared to traffic signal intersections, roundabouts can reduce delays for motorists
 - And can reduce fuel consumption by 30 percent
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Roundabout requests are reviewed by a three member Roundabout Review Committee, which consist of one representative from Location and Design, Traffic Engineering, and Transportation and Mobility Planning.

In 2001, the Chief Engineer authorized the Districts to approve roundabouts located on Secondaries with total approach volume up to 10,000 vehicles per day and for existing and proposed Subdivisions. The State Location and Design Engineer has the approval authority on Primary and Secondary routes having traffic volumes exceeding 10,000 vehicles per day.

Contact Bob White of the LGC staff or Walter Pribble of VDOT at (804) 786-2982 for more information on roundabouts.

Information also from The VDOT newsletter, The Planner's Page, from November 2006.

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