

Annual Report — 2004-2005

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Regional Commission Becomes Local Government Council

Four Region 2000 organizations are creating the **Virginia's Region 2000 Partnership** to better coordinate their activities and services.

The Region 2000 Economic Development Partnership, Region 2000 Regional Commission, Region 2000 Technology Council and the Region 2000 Workforce Investment Board will work more closely together and have agreed to centralize their offices. The new Virginia's Region 2000 Partnership is structured to provide a single point of contact to the public and private sector for regional services, economic development, marketing, and work force training.

The name of the Regional Commission will transition to "Local Government Council" under the new network structure.

The new organization will provide an opportunity to develop a unified and compelling centralized vision as to how the Region should develop economically and what efforts will be needed to accomplish that vision. The single Virginia's Region 2000 organization simplifies where to inquire with all areas of regional interest in Region 2000.

434 845-2000 and www.virginiaregion2000.org have been set up as a one stop source of information and access to any of the Partner organizations.

Message from the Chairman

2004-2005 has been an exciting year of transition for the Local Government Council.

We're building a new platform for cooperation with the Virginia's Region 2000 Partnership. And we're changing our name from the Regional Commission to the Local Government Council.

I especially appreciate the dedication and hard work of the elected and appointed officials who represent their jurisdictions on the Local Government Council. I am proud to say that these Council members tackle multi-jurisdictional problems with a good regional perspective, wisdom and diplomacy.

Immediate Past President Joe Albert of Amherst County's leadership during the past year has been outstanding. His guidance has been invaluable in maintaining consistency during the staff transition and in setting strong goals for the Local Government Council to achieve.

The Local Government Council now moves forward into this new Partnership with renewed energy to support our local governments and promote regional cooperation, coordination and communication.

Samuel Carter, Chairman

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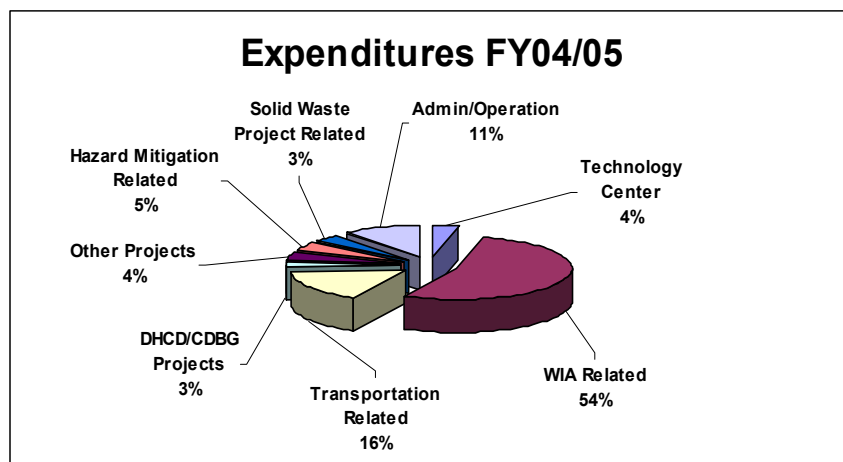
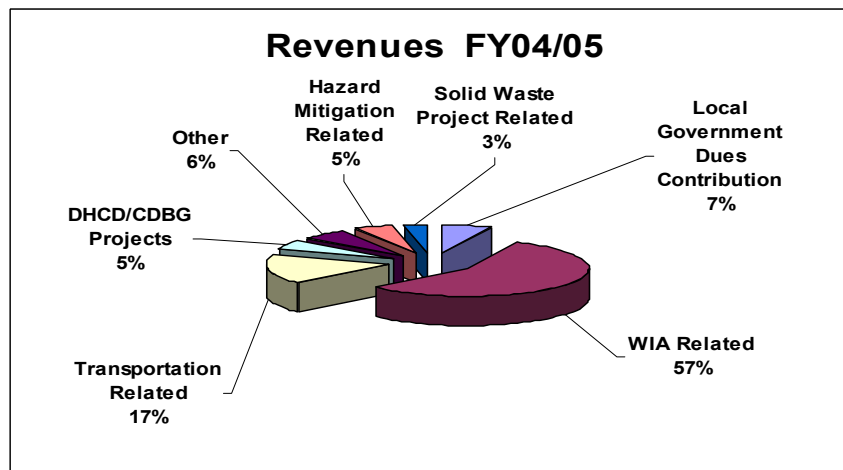
Local Government Council's Chairman, Samuel Carter and Executive Director, Gary Christie

Transportation News

The Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization consists of representatives from local governments and VDOT who meet regularly to guide transportation planning in our region.

- The **2030 Transportation Plan** is under development and designed to provide a multi-modal blueprint for the Central Virginia Transportation System. It is expected to be completed in FY 06.
- Council staff and Parsons Transportation completed a **transportation corridor study of Route 460** west of the City of Bedford. This study identified changes in access to Rt. 460 that will be needed to address expected traffic growth.
- Deputy Director Bob White successfully wrote an innovative proposal that will be funded with a \$200,000 VDOT grant to **coordinate the development of the transportation component of local comprehensive plans** throughout the MPO area.
- The Local Government Council also received VDOT funding for additional **corridor studies** along Route 24 in Bedford County and on Independence Boulevard in Bedford City.
- A **Greenways Development Committee** has been working to design the framework for an organization which will take a leadership role in the development, expansion, and/or connection of walking and biking trails in the region. Once developed, the new committee will be charged with raising funds and regional awareness to strengthen the regions capacity for walking, biking and water opportunities.

Finances



Infrastructure in Region 2000

- Amherst County was awarded a **\$1 million grant** this year from the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Ebenezer Road area waterline project. Most of the funding will be used to run a public water line to serve 49 homes who now struggle with muddy water from shallow wells. The project will also provide for a connection with the Amherst Town's water system so that both systems will have a backup water supply. Five low to moderate income families will have their homes significantly improved and renovated by the grant. Grants writer Pam Green worked with Amherst County through the planning Grant and CIG application process.
- Pam also helped Amherst Town receive a **\$210,000 TEA-21 grant** from VDOT for sidewalk improvement along Main Street from downtown to Ambrier shopping center. This project will improve pedestrian safety and improve the entrance to the community.
- Appomattox County is working through a CDBG planning grant application to compete for funds to **renovate the former Carver Price school building** to become a multi-purpose facility. A number of uses are being considered for the facility including space for the Central Virginia Community College's workforce development program, a museum featuring local history, and a visitors and interpretive center.
- Local Government Council staff member Kelly Hitchcock has been working with the following communities managing **infrastructure development projects**:
 - Amherst County on the River Road CDBG project
 - Pamplin City Housing Improvements CDBG project
 - Brookneal's Claytor/Mattox CDBG project will provide housing for nine families, road, water and sewer upgrades to a three street area within the Town. The Local Government Council is administering the \$1.3 million CDBG grant.
- Commission staff is assisting the Town of Altavista's Main Street organization, AltavistaOnTrack, and the Town of Brookneal as they manage CDBG planning grants for **Downtown Revitalization** and develop their applications to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

Economic Development

The Local Government Council invested \$65,000 as seed money to begin efforts to create the **Center for Advanced Engineering and Research**. This Center would specialize in supporting technical and engineering firms of the region by providing research and development opportunities. In partnership with Virginia Tech, this project is now seeking support and funding from the Virginia General Assembly and the Tobacco Commission.

The Local Government Council continues to support the **Central Virginia Workforce Investment Board** as they work to formulate policies and opportunities to expand the quality and quantity of the region's workforce. Local Government Council members serve as the WIB's Policy Board and Local Government Council staff provide financial and advisory staff support to the WIB.



Ebenezer Road Water Line Project

Staff Changes

- Gary Christie, previously County Administrator in New Kent County, joined the Local Government Council in December. Gary's experience in Virginia's local and regional government systems will be a strong asset for the Council.
- Former Executive Director Bill Gillespie served the Local Government Council since 1998 and continues to serve the region as the Brookneal Town Manager.
- A new position of Grants Writer was created this year. Pam Green stepped into this role and has successfully developed projects for communities in the region with grants from the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Community Development. The position is funded in part by the Local Government Council, the Economic Development Council and the Workforce Investment Board
 - Marjorie Gilley joined the Local Government Council staff as the Administrative Assistant. Among her many duties will include coordination of meetings and events, development of newsletters and assistance with project administration.

Regional Projects Update

The Local Government Council has coordinated a number of multi-jurisdictional projects to share costs or better coordinate local activities.

Regional Solid Waste Disposal: Many of the local governments in the region have joined together to look for better, more cost effective ways to dispose of trash and solid waste. Local Government Council Deputy Director Bob White has coordinated a Phase I cost benefit study using nationally recognized consultants who have outlined scenarios to reduce the number of operating landfills and share landfill space.

Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning: The Local Government Council also coordinated a project with Virginia Tech's Center for Geospatial Information Technology which researched possible natural and man-made potential disasters and is developing implementation plans to respond to disasters both locally and regionally.

Local Governments throughout the region utilize a **regional waste tire recycling** contract that was secured by the Local Government Council to dispose and recycle used tires.

The Local Government Council provides staff support to the locally appointed members of the **Central Virginia Disabilities Services Board**. This Board meets regularly to review accessibility issues and opportunities to expand accessibility for handicapped people in Region 2000.

Regional training opportunities were provided to local governments of the region this year. Educational sessions on Conservation Easements and automated procurement using the state's eVA system were presented. Also, the Local Government Council coordinated the regional GIS user's group providing education and information to GIS professionals who work in Region 2000 local governments.

In addition, the Local Government Council coordinated and developed a **regional legislative agenda** which was presented to local General Assembly members.

Local Government Council Meeting October 20th in Appomattox

Mark your calendar to join us on Thursday, October 20 for the Fall Local Government Council dinner meeting in Appomattox.

Dr. Joseph Freeman, former professor of Government at Lynchburg College and former member of Lynchburg City Council, will be the keynote speaker with remarks on "Planning in the Real World".

The Local Government Council meeting starts at 5:00 with a reception at 6:15 and dinner at 6:45.

Contact Marjorie Gilley at the Local Government Council offices for more information, 845-5678 x 10.

VIRGINIA'S REGION 2000 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Altavista Town

Rudy Burgess*
Waverly Coggsdale

Amherst County

Joe Albert*
Bryan David

Amherst Town

Jack Bailey*
Jack Hobbs

Appomattox County

Samuel Carter*, Chairman
Aileen Ferguson

Appomattox Town

David Garrett
Ronnie Spiggle*

Bedford County

Bob Bashore*
Kathleen Guzi

Bedford City

Craig Meadows
Thomas Messier*

Brookneal

Phyllis Campbell*
Bill Gillespie

Campbell County

David Lurrell
Hugh Pendleton*

Lynchburg City

Joan Foster*
Kim Payne

Others

V. Lee Cobb, Economic Development
Hon. Stephen Newman, Virginia Senate
Hon. Preston Bryant, House of Delegates

* Elected Official

Local Government Council

915 Main St. Suite 202
Lynchburg, VA 24504

Voice ~434-845-3491

Fax~434-845-3493

E-mail~mail@regcomm.org

Web~www.regcomm.org