NORTHERN SHENANDOAH REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission are partnering to evaluate the rural transportation system in the region and to recommend a range of transportation improvements that best satisfy existing and future transportation needs. This partnership will result in a regional plan that identifies needs based upon goals and objectives established by the region. Improving the transportation system remains vital to improving the quality of life and continued economic growth and prosperity in Virginia. Local benefits include: identification of transportation deficiencies and recommendations of remedies, assist with comprehensive plan updates, traffic impact studies-Ch.527, programming of transportation improvements, effects of land use and development. Providing for the effective, safe and efficient movement of people and goods is a basic goal of all transportation programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2035 STATE HIGHWAY PLAN

Once completed, the regional transportation plan will be incorporated into Virginia’s 2035 State Highway Plan. The statewide highway plan is developed by VDOT to identify needs and recommend solutions for the Commonwealth’s Interstate and primary highway systems. The regional transportation plans serve as the building blocks for the State Highway Plan and are being developed in cooperation with planning districts commissions throughout the Commonwealth. The plans will complement the transportation plans that currently exist for metropolitan areas of Virginia.

MOVING FORWARD

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Transportation Plan and the 2035 State Highway Plan will be key tools for identifying and understanding the magnitude of Virginia’s transportation needs and establish a foundation for making critical funding decisions for future highway projects.

These plans will provide real and tangible solutions to issues such as safety, capacity, and geometric deficiencies and will serve as key resources to determine future projects for implementation. The plans will address important regional issues such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit operations, intermodal connectors and park and ride lots, all significant elements in creating a comprehensive transportation network for the future.

Once completed, the 2035 State Highway Plan will serve as a key component to VTrans2035, Virginia’s Statewide Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan. VTrans2035 will rely heavily on the findings of the State Highway Plan to ensure other modes of travel, including rail, transit, aviation and shipping seamlessly blend into the highway network to form one single, integrated network.
REGIONAL COMMISSION

Formed in 1968, the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC) is one of 21 Planning District Commissions (PDCs) in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which bring together elected officials and citizens to identify needs and potential solutions for a variety of public policy and infrastructure projects in their communities, including transportation initiatives.

Specifically, the NSVRC serves nearly 215,000 citizens living in the following areas: the city of Winchester, the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah and Warren, and the towns of Front Royal, Middletown, Luray, Strasburg, Stephens City, Berryville, Boyce, Edinburg, Mount Jackson, New Market, Shenandoah, Stanley, Toms Brook, and Woodstock.

The main north-south transportation corridor in the region is I-81, which parallels Route 11. Other main routes in the area include 340, 7, 522 and 17. Primary industries for the region include manufacturing, retail trade, and education services.

As a regional planning agency, the NSVRC is currently focused on a number of community projects, including the development of a regional water supply plan and the coordination of grant funds for housing market stabilization. Transportation-specific initiatives include the development of a public mobility coordination program and the Valley Commuter Assistance Program, which provides rideshare services for residents commuting to Northern Virginia. The Commission is also working on a plan to expand transit services into Frederick County.

Mission

The NSVRC provides services to local governments, businesses, private citizens, and non-profits through several programs, including local and regional land use planning, environmental planning, transportation planning, data management and mapping services, regional collaboration, and municipal outreach support through grant writing and other administrative services.

Leadership

Dennis M. Morris, Chairman
John R. Riley, Vice-Chairman
John E. Vance, Treasurer
Charles R. Johnston, Secretary
Christopher M. Price, AICP, Executive Director
CONTACT LIST

Providing the most current information to the media and the public is very important to VDOT. To get additional information and have your questions answered regarding this important planning process please address your questions or comments to the key team members listed below.

Virginia Department of Transportation

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<thead>
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Please visit the VDOT website to find additional information regarding this and other important transportation initiatives in your area.

www.virginiadot.org

Northern Shenandoah Planning District Commission

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<th>Name</th>
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ANTICIPATED MILESTONE SCHEDULE

PLANNED DATES
2009
July
Public Information Meeting

September
Identification of Priority Transportation Problem Locations

October
Identification of Detailed Study Locations

2010
Identification of Existing and Future Transportation Deficiencies

September
Development of Draft Improvement Recommendations

October
Draft Report Available for Public Review

March
Public Hearing

March-April
Final Report

*Dates are subject to change.