

THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Summary of Activities

July through September 2016

Environment:

TJPDC has nearly completed the **2016 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)**, the 5-year update to the 2011 Thomas Jefferson SWMP. This document serves as the regional plan for the Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit (TJSWPU), which consists of the Counties of Albemarle, Greene, and Fluvanna, the City of Charlottesville, and the towns of Scottsville, and Stanardsville. The plan meets the solid waste planning requirements for each locality participating in the planning unit by describing existing and proposed solid waste management systems that support the hierarchy of source reduction, reuse, recycling, resource recovery, incineration, and landfilling. It includes a description of existing and projected solid waste needs and facilities, and a plan for managing the solid waste generated by residential, industrial and commercial activities. A public hearing and consideration of adoption of the plan update is scheduled for the October 6 meeting of the TJPDC Commission.

Work on the 5-year update of the **Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan** is underway. The prior plan was adopted by all jurisdictions in the region and approved by FEMA in 2012. The plan is required to be updated every five years in order for our localities to be eligible for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This update will expand upon previous work by incorporating new data on natural disasters, engaging in public outreach, and revisiting and updating mitigation strategies. A thorough Hazard Mitigation Plan protects against future damage and facilitates a swift and orderly recovery. Public input and support is a key factor in developing an effective plan. The planning process is guided by a working group consisting of representatives from each locality in the Planning District. TJPDC was awarded \$45,000 by FEMA for the update through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Work began at the Annual Meeting on May 23. Data work for the Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis (HIRA) will be presented to the working group at its October 5 meeting. A public meeting is being planned for November 14.

Community Development

TJPDC is pleased to **assist our member localities with local projects** through specific agreements. Current projects include:

- The **Rockfish Valley small area plan** project with Nelson County: This project is expected to be completed later this fall. The County has achieved unprecedented community engagement with over 400 respondents of a community survey and over 100 attendees at a community meeting.
- An agreement with Nelson County to perform a corridor **economic development plan for the US 29 commercial corridor**. The project will include sub-contracting work by a marketing firm from Richmond to assist Nelson with an economic development marketing strategy.
- Economic Development data and a **marketing brochure for the Zions Crossroads** area for Fluvanna County.
- Project Management for **Albemarle County's Broadband grant** through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The goal of the Virginia Telecommunications Planning Initiative (VATPI) grant is to develop a community-based telecommunication plan. Recommendations will be presented to the Albemarle Board of Supervisors on November 2.

Design Work is underway for the federally-funded **Stanardsville Main Street Streetscape Revitalization Project, Phase II**. The project involves the design of a 350-foot sidewalk extension to the west of Phase I and a 900-foot sidewalk extension to the east of Phase I, construction administration for the west end, providing pedestrian access at the shopping center and schools. The

Town of Stanardsville is the project sponsor and TJPDC is serving as the Project Manager. 50% Design Development drawings were submitted to VDOT for review on September 9.

The Management Team for **Fluvanna County's Planning Grant for Senior Affordable Housing** met July 26 to wrap up work on the initial activities outlined in DHCD's May 20 letter. These tasks included a public meeting, two meetings of the Management Team, an inventory of senior housing in the region, a survey of potential beneficiaries, and a draft Request for Proposals for consultants. The results of this initial work were submitted to DHCD in early August, and were accepted by DHCD in a letter dated October 3, making available \$30,000 to Fluvanna County for developing solutions to the identified needs. The County is working with Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA) and the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA) to assess the need for senior housing in Fluvanna County and to evaluate the suitability of converting the Columbia and Cunningham Schools into affordable senior housing. TJPDC is represented on the Management Team by Senior Program Manager Billie Campbell.

The TJPDC Commission adopted a resolution of support for the Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development (CVPED) as the lead regional administrative agency for **GO Virginia**. CVPED has an existing board that could easily be modified to accommodate the GO Virginia requirements. With an expansion for additional regional business partners, elected officials and schools, the board could meet the GO Virginia requirements. CVPED intends to coordinate and contract with the two PDC's in its region for planning and possibly administrative assistance. In addition to support for CVPED, the Resolution also recommended including elected officials on the board, the development of a comprehensive economic development plan for the region with a chapter for each locality, and consistency with local government comprehensive plans.

The Geriatric Collaborative of Central Virginia (GCCV), a program of TJPDC Corporation, held the **Elder Care Conference** on September 8 and 9 at Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge. About 70 caregivers attended each day to be better equipped to provide effective care to elders. This interdisciplinary conference was offered for caregivers: family members caring for loved ones and health care workers and who work in a wide range of settings. The conference was supported in part by a Geriatric Training and Education (GTE) grant through the Center on Aging at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Session Topics included:

- Engagement in Life for Persons with Dementia
- Medication Management
- Community Resources for Caregiver Health
- Survival Techniques for Long-Term Caregivers
- Practical Techniques for Dealing with Dementia Patients
- Life Planning:
- Resiliency: Responding to Stress With SUCCESS

Housing:

Each year, the Charlottesville HOME Consortium and the City of Charlottesville submit a Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). This serves as the **HOME Performance Report** to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) describing its accomplishments over the past year. For the 2015 Program Year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016), the HOME Consortium completed 36 projects. These included 6 rental projects, consisting of 8 units; 12 homebuyer projects, and 18 homeowner rehabilitation projects, for a total of 38 units. The report was submitted through the on-line Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) on September 26

All funds from the FFY15 **Housing Preservation Grant (HPG)** were expended by the end of September 2016. Completed work met or exceeded the goals for the two-year grant, with all work completed within a one-year timeframe. The goal of 16 projects was met, serving 34 persons, 2 more than the goal of 32. Other funds applied to projects were double the required \$27,086, totaling \$54,761.

Federal Fiscal Year 2016 funds will be available beginning October 1, 2016, and will provide \$35,431 for projects, an increase of more than \$8,000 over the previous year. Funds must be expended by September 30, 2018, but are expected to be used within the next year. Emergency repairs, rehabilitation, and home safety modification projects are carried out by local housing non-profit organizations.

Legislative Liaison:

Development of the **2017 Legislative Program** is underway. David Blount visited the local governing bodies in September to receive suggestions for changes to the program. The draft program was distributed to localities in October, with program approval by each local governing body slated for November. Additionally, David worked directly with Charlottesville, Albemarle and Louisa on their local legislative initiatives, and assisted Fluvanna with a meeting it held with its local legislators.

The Legislative Liaison is **tracking several key issues during the interim**, including the state budget shortfall, and state-level studies of wireless infrastructure, transient lodging, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and the Standards of Quality (SOQ) study. He also is the VAPDC representative to a Commission on Local Government (COLG) examination of city/county structure and annexation issues. He attended various state level meetings, including policy committee meetings of the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties, and meetings of the General Assembly's money committees. He also attended meetings of the FOIA Advisory Council and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, and organized and facilitated the August Mayor & Chairs/CAOs meeting

Transportation:

The Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), which is staffed by the TJPDC, has been selected to receive one of five Capacity - PlanWorks Grants funded under the seventh and final round of the SHRP2 Implementation Assistance Program. FHWA and AASHTO announced the award of a \$100,000 to the CAMPO for creation of a PlanWorks Decision Guide for Corridor Planning, to develop a **multi-disciplinary study of the Blue Ridge region of I-64** spanning from the Exit 124 in Charlottesville-Albemarle to the junction with I-81 in Staunton (Exit 87). The CAMPO will partner with the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO (Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission), and the Virginia Department of Transportation district offices in Culpeper, Lynchburg and Staunton to build a permanent multi-jurisdictional planning partnership while initially focusing on improving traffic, congestion and crash issues experienced in this 40-mile section of I-64. The 12-month planning project should begin by this fall and be completed by fall of 2017.

MPO has initiated a review of **Regional Transit coordination and organizational options** within the MPO area. This work is carried out within the FY16 MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The final report will be presented to the MPO, PACC, City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County in November.

MPO is working with Charlottesville, Department of Rail and Public Transit, Amtrak and the local Amtrak Station property owner to explore the **new Amtrak rail service** and how this may be best met at the Amtrak Station site.

TJPDC staff worked with rural localities and the MPO to submit transportation funding requests under **VDOT's SMART SCALE process**. Formerly referred to as House Bill 2 (HB2), SMART SCALE is about investing limited tax dollars in the right projects that meet the most critical transportation needs in Virginia. Projects from the rural areas of the region included:

- Route 151/US 250 Intersection Improvements – Albemarle County
- Rt. 619 (Ruritan Lake Road) & Rt. 53 Roundabout – Fluvanna County
- Rt 618 (Lake Monticello Rd) at Rt 600 (S Boston Rd) – Fluvanna County
- Route 670 Connector Road – Greene County
- Intersection of Route 33 & Route 15 Traffic Circle – Louisa County
- Intersection of Route 22 & Route 15 Traffic Circle – Louisa County
- Intersection of Route 522 & Route 208 Roundabout – Louisa County

- Route 22 safety improvements at industrial road – Louisa County
- Route 208 Improvements between Route 652 and the new bridge – Louisa County
- Route 208 Upgrade UPC104110 – Louisa County
- Route 6/151 Intersection – Nelson County
- Route 29 Access Management – Nelson County

In the urban areas, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) submitted four projects and endorsed the following locality projects:

- Barracks Road at Emmet Street Intersection Improvements - Charlottesville
- Rio Mills Rd/ Berkmar Dr. Extended Connection - Albemarle
- US 250/ Radford Ln. Roundabout - Albemarle
- US 240/ US 250 Intersection Improvements - Albemarle
- Meeting Street Extended from Berkmar Drive to Innovation Drive /Airport Road - Albemarle
- Innovation Dr. Extended to Lewis and Clarke Drive - Albemarle
- Route 20/ 649 Intersection Improvements – Albemarle

The four submitted MPO projects were:

- US Route 250 Free Bridge – Bridge Capacity Improvements including turning lanes at High Street and Route 20 with separated bike/pedestrian improvements across the Rivanna River. Project submission is for Alternatives F and I of the Free Bridge Area Congestion Relief Project of November, 2014.
- Exit 124 (Interstate 64): Low-cost retrofits to existing interchange to improve congestion and safety by converting interchange to a divergent diamond on US 250
- Exit 118 (Interstate 64): Improvement of acceleration and deceleration lanes on I-64, addition of left turn lane on US 29 South, removal of cloverleaf from southwest side of the interchange
- Fontaine Ave: Addition of right bypass option lane on Rte. 29 onto Fontaine Ave

RideShare:

RideShare Program Manager Sara Pennington attended the 2016 **Association of Commuter Transportation (ACT) International Conference**, July 31 – August 3, in Portland, Oregon. ACT's International Conference is one of the largest gatherings of Travel Demand Management (TDM) professionals in the country. Regularly attracting over 400 attendees from across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia, representatives include individuals from major employers, departments of transportation, municipalities, transportation management associations, metropolitan planning organizations, consultants, transit agencies, vendors, and other shared use mobility providers.

New Staff:

Luke Juday began working part-time at the TJPDC over the summer, and became a full-time employee on October 1. Luke earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Grove City College in Pennsylvania, and his Master's Degree in Urban and Environmental Planning from UVA in 2014. He was a Research Analyst and Planner for the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at UVA prior to joining the TJPDC. Luke's initial work at the TJPDC is focused on updating the Transportation Analysis Zones for the Travel Demand Model, used for long range transportation planning. He is also working on the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan update and the I-64 Corridor Study. Luke had served as Chair of the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) of the Charlottesville Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).