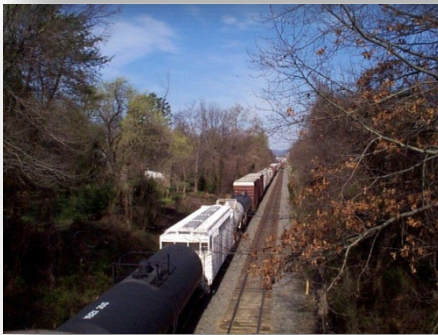


Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission FY-2027 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program

July 01, 2026 – June 30, 2027



Preface

Prepared on behalf of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, through a cooperative process involving Region 10's counties (Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson), Jaunt, RideShare, and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

This scope of work is required to include specific activities as requested by VDOT and/or the Federal Highway Administration. The scope of work also includes activities or studies addressing other transportation planning related issues that are of specific interest to the region. The criteria for the determination of eligibility of studies for inclusion as part of this work program are based upon 23 U.S.C. 307 (c), State Planning and Research.

The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed this work program at their February 3, 2026, meeting. The Commission reviewed the draft of the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee Work Program at their March 5, 2026, meeting and approved the work program at their April 2, 2026 meeting.

The preparation of this program was financially aided through administrative funds from the FY26 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program.

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Introduction

Purpose and Objective

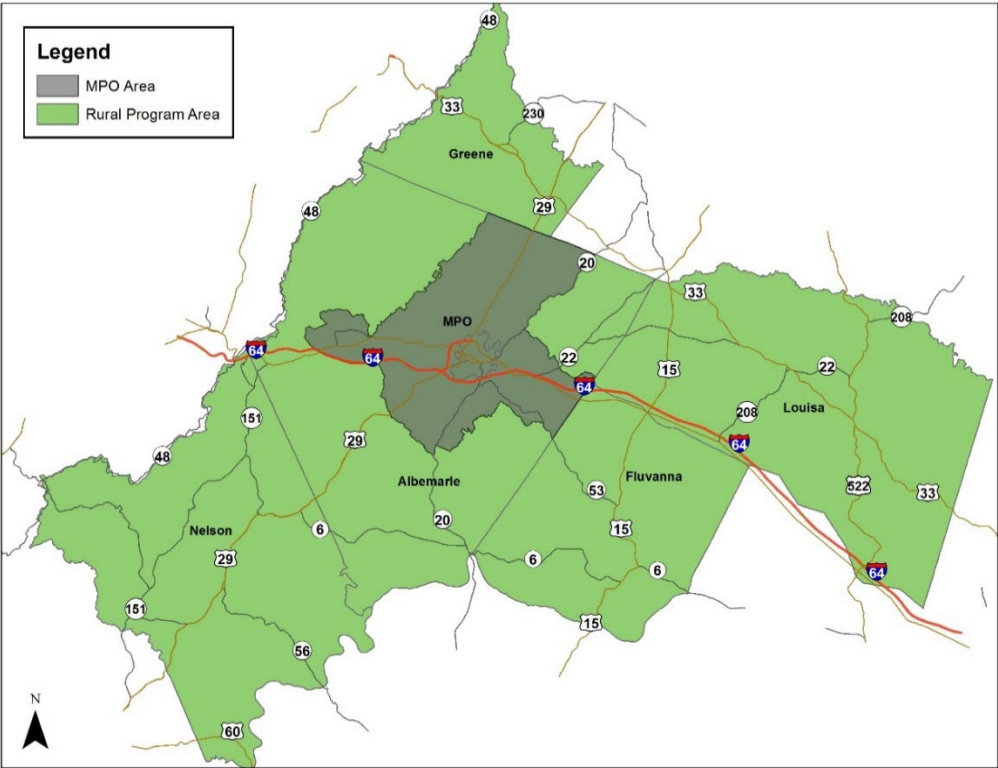
The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) allocates part of the State Planning and Research (SPR) funding to provide annual transportation planning assistance for non-urbanized areas within the Commonwealth. The Rural Transportation Planning (RTP) Program was created to aid the State in fulfilling the requirements of the State Planning Process to address the transportation needs of non-metropolitan areas. Funds appropriated under 23 U.S.C. 307(c) (SPR funds) are used in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia for transportation planning as required by Section 135, Title 23, U.S. Code. These Federal funds provide 80 percent funding and require a 20 percent local match.

In FY-2027 each planning district commission / regional commission that includes rural areas will receive \$58,000 from VDOT's Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program. The corresponding planning district commission / regional commission will provide a local match of \$14,500 to conduct rural transportation planning activities. This resource may be supplemented with additional planning funds. The arrangement of all such funds involves the development of a scope of work, approval, and other coordination in the Transportation & Mobility Planning Division's (TMPD) administrative work programs.

The scope of work shall include specific activities as requested by VDOT and/or the Federal Highway Administration. The scope of work may also include activities or studies addressing other transportation planning related issues that may be of specific interest to the region. The criteria for the determination of eligibility of studies for inclusion as part of this work program are based upon 23 U.S.C. 307 (c), State Planning and Research.

Rural Transportation Program

The scope of work includes specific activities as requested by VDOT and/or the Federal Highway Administration. The scope of work also includes activities or studies addressing other transportation planning related issues that are of specific interest to the region. The criteria for the determination of eligibility of studies for inclusion as part of this work program are based upon 23 U.S.C. 307 (c), State Planning and Research. The map below shows the rural program areas in light green.



Highlights of FY26

In FY26, the Rural Transportation Program focused on a variety of outcomes. The program dedicated significant time to continued work on the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and on reviewing prior plans throughout the region and the counties. While TJPDC staff conducted its regular administration of the program and provided a variety of other services to the region and its members, the following highlights the more substantive efforts.



COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN – In FY23, the TJPDC was notified that it was awarded a grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Safe Streets and Roads for All Discretionary Grant Program to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for all six of its member jurisdictions. To utilize the grant funding most effectively, the TJPDC allocated additional staff effort to support the plan development through the Rural Work Program and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (CA-MPO) Unified Planning Work Program. The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan was formally adopted by all six participating jurisdictions in FY26. TJPDC staff are supporting jurisdictions by facilitating regional coordination, aligning projects with SS4A program requirements, and preparing the region to submit competitive implementation applications.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING NEEDS ASSESSMENT – Staff reviewed existing plans for the five jurisdictions from the past ten years, and highlighted the priorities established in these plans in a memo. Next, a survey on transportation planning needs was conducted, as well as one-on-one discussions with locality staff to understand the individual needs, and the similarities as a region. This project helped staff to better understand how the TJPDC Rural Transportation Program can work with the jurisdictions in the years to come.

SMART SCALE ROUND 7 – TJPDC staff worked with the localities to coordinate and assist with pre-applications when requested.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Task	Description	SPR Funds (80%)	PDC (20%)	Total
TASK 1.0	PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	\$14,400	\$3,600	\$18,000
TASK 2.0	PLANNING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	\$43,600	\$10,900	\$54,500
TOTAL	RURAL PLANNING PROGRAM	\$58,000	\$14,500	\$72,500

FY2027 Scope of Work: This section of the Scope of Work details the administrative and technical tasks, staff responsibilities, and expected end products. The purpose of this work element is to facilitate regional participation and consensus building on transportation-related issues through a continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated (3-C) planning process.

Fiscal Year 2027 Activities by Task

FY 2027 – 1.0 Program Administration - \$18,000

The purpose of this task is to facilitate regional participation and consensus building on transportation-related issues through a continuing, comprehensive and coordinated planning process (*the 3 C's approach*). The PDC's Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) is the technical committee of the Rural Transportation Program, and is composed of professional staff from local governments, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), JAUNT, and the PDC's RideShare program. The Planning District Commission functions as the Policy Board of the Rural Transportation Program.

A. Reporting and Compliance with Regulations

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

TJPDC staff will coordinate rural transportation planning activities (committees, community workshops, studies) and prepare monthly progress reports and invoices. VDOT staff will process invoices and handle reimbursements.

DELIVERABLE TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

- Prepare and submit 12 monthly reports and invoices
- FY27 Rural Work Program Implementation
- Prepare the FY28 Rural Work Program
- Participate in meetings with VDOT staff regarding compliance

B. Staff committee meetings

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

The TJPDC will staff committee meetings by preparing materials, maintaining committee membership, writing minutes, handling public participation and mailings, updating committee websites, and coordinating with the CA-MPO.

DELIVERABLE TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

- Staff the Rural Transportation Advisory Committee
- Coordinate with VDOT staff to develop meeting agenda topics
- Conduct presentations to the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (Rural Transportation Program Policy Board).

C. Share information with agencies and the public

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

TJPDC staff will work to share transportation-related information with state agencies, local officials, other PDCs, stakeholders, and the general public. Staff will also attend relevant training sessions that will better inform rural transportation planning efforts.

DELIVERABLE TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

- Continue to update the Rural Transportation Program website to better share information with VDOT and stakeholders
- Participate in outreach meetings and provide/review data as requested by VDOT
- Attend Boards of Supervisors meetings in rural member localities in alignment with VDOT quarterly updates

- Participate with the MPOs and VDOT on setting performance measure goals
- Assist VDOT with local and regional input to annual statewide transportation improvement programs
- Conduct intergovernmental discussion and coordination of transportation projects and developments
- Provide informational updates in TJPDC news distribution channels (newsletters, Quarterly Reports, etc.)
- The RTAC and Commission will continue to include public comment periods in its meeting agendas
- Provide social media informational articles through TJPDC social media pages
- Attend Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meetings, as applicable
- Host VDOT work sessions at the TJPDC Water Street Center or virtually

D. Computer and Other Technology Purchases

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

If necessary, purchase computer hardware, software, and technology necessary to carry out scope of work activities.

E. Training and Travel

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

Attend conferences, including but not limited to: Rural Planning Caucus, American Planning Association (APA), Virginia Transit Association, Governor’s Transportation Conference. Also attend trainings in alignment with rural planning needs administered by those including but not limited to: Virginia Association of Zoning Officials, Land Use Education Program (Planning Commissioners and Board of Zoning Appeals programs) and trainings from state agencies, including VTrans webinars and SMART SCALE meetings.

Administration Budget	
SPR Funds (80%)	\$14,400
PDC Funds (20%)	\$ 3,600
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Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Administration	\$18,000

FY 2027 - 2.0 Planning & Local Technical Assistance - \$54,500

The following tasks highlight the planning and technical services that the TJPDC will provide to its member localities in Fiscal Year 2027. The TJPDC will provide general technical assistance to its member localities, as well as undertake specific endeavors on projects throughout the region to move towards the goals established in the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan.

Task 2.1 – Short Range Planning and Local and State Assistance

A. Prepare transportation infrastructure grant applications

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

The TJPDC staff supports its regional members in the identification and submission of SMART SCALE and other transportation grant applications at their request.

CURRENT/PLANNED PROJECTS:

- Assist the TJPDC region's counties, towns, and villages with grant applications related to transportation improvements
- Pursue grants for implementation of RLRP or Comprehensive Safety Action Plan projects
- Provide assistance for SMART SCALE grant applications upon request

B. Provide assistance to local and state partners as requested

Unanticipated rural transportation planning needs and issues arise during the fiscal year and the Rural Transportation Planning Program of the Planning District should be a resource for addressing these issues.

TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

- Provide support and technical assistance with plan reviews, rural transportation and corridor studies, strategic planning efforts, and bikeway plans and studies
- Participate in VDOT studies as part of the project development process, including Project Pipeline, STARS, and others
- Participate in the VDOT Transportation Meeting
- Conduct park and ride lot use counts and conditions assessments
- Provide assistance with tracking and documenting active transportation facilities and/or accommodations
- Provide assistance with updating the VDOT freight generators inventory
- Develop and provide GIS information, as requested
- Work with regional members to identify and understand rural localities' needs to help inform and shape the program each year
- Support the development of local Comprehensive Plan chapters and recommendations, as requested

C. Regional Transit Planning, Travel Demand Management, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Activities

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

There are several regional efforts to promote and support alternative transportation modes that will need to coordinate with the Rural Transportation Work Program, including regional transit planning initiatives and commuter assistance program initiatives.

TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

- Coordinate with local jurisdictions, the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA), and Jaunt to ensure that rural interests are represented in regional transit planning efforts
- Provide ongoing support for transit initiatives to expand the Mobility Management program and support rural locality engagement in establishing the Regional Transit Authority
- Collaborate with RideShare to support programming that will improve participation in the regional Travel Demand Management activities and initiatives

Task 2.2 – Long Range Planning

A. Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

In FY26, CA-MPO staff completed Move Safely Blue Ridge, the region’s comprehensive safety action plan. Following adoption by member jurisdictions, TJPDC staff will consider pursuing opportunities for plan implementation and coordinate with jurisdictions on individual project pursuits.

TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

- TJPDC will partner with VDOT to complete an analysis of crashes throughout the region to determine the priority corridors outside of the federal grant in order to maximize the use of the grant resources.
- Conduct ongoing monitoring, reporting, and sharing of regional crash data.
- TJPDC will continue to work with localities to seek implementation funding for any of the projects identified through this plan.

B. Travel Demand Management Study

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

In FY26 staff began a comprehensive regional Travel Demand Management Study and will continue this work in FY27. This study will be used to help identify long-term initiatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled throughout the region. This study will provide a high-level understanding of travel demand factors and support the identification of long-term infrastructure and multimodal transportation improvements needed to support mode shift. Staff support for this study will be supported by both the Rural Work Program and the CA-MPO’s Unified Planning Work Program.

TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

- Review regional transportation demand model to determine future growth impacts
- Identification of TDM strategies to accommodate future traffic volumes, including park and ride infrastructure, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and transit service implementation.

C. Rural Long Range Plan

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

Staff will assess the existing long-range priorities and status of projects from the 2040 Rural Long Range Plan (RLRP). By holistically assessing the needs and funding for projects in the region’s rural areas, staff will begin an update of the rural long range plan this fiscal year.

TASKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

- Assess status of projects identified in 2040 RLRP
- Develop a Scope of Work for updating the RLRP
- Identify transportation deficiencies and recommended improvements
- Identify a regional vision for the rural transportation system
- Collect demographic, land use, and employment data
- Research and apply for funding for the development of the RLRP, if needed

Planning & Technical Assistance Activities Budget

SPR Funds (80%)	\$43,600
PDC Funds (20%)	\$10,900
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Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Activities	\$54,500

FY28 Anticipated Work Tasks

To provide a longer view of the Rural Transportation Program, staff anticipates work tasks for the next fiscal year to create better continuity between fiscal years and manage commitments to member localities.

With the development of the Rural Long Range Plan 2050 during FY27, staff will pursue adoption of the plan in FY28.

In FY28, continued work on developing a coordinated regional strategy for SMART SCALE funding application projects that prioritize projects by both need and likelihood of funding. The TJPDC will once again assist local governments in application preparation.

Appendices

Appendix A: FY-2027 Budget Summary

Tasks	VDOT (SPR) 80%	PDC (Match) 20%	Total 100%
Program Administration			
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Administration	\$14,400.00	\$3,600.00	\$18,000.00
Program Activities			
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Activities	\$43,600.00	\$10,900.00	\$54,500.00
Task 2.1 – Short Range Planning and Local and State Assistance			
Task 2.2- Long Range Planning			
Total Budgeted Expenditure for Program Administration and Program Activities	\$58,000.00	\$14,500.00	\$72,500.00