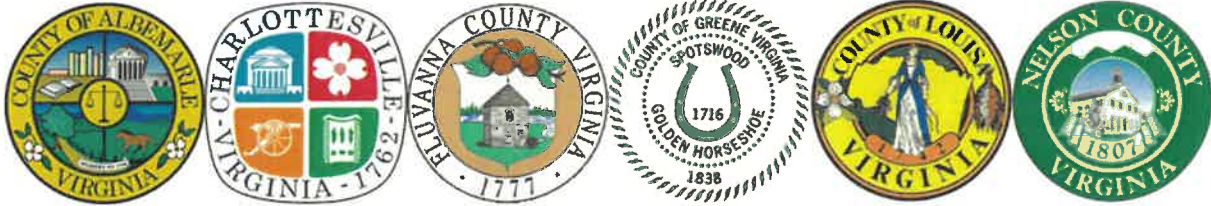


THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Quarterly Update on Projects and Activities July through September 2026



Environmental

Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP): The TJPDC, pursuant to a contract with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), collaborates with DEQ and other partners to provide educational resources and technical assistance related to the WIP to the local governments of Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson and regional stakeholders, in an effort to reduce loads of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

- The TJPDC partners with the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District and the James River Association to host rain barrel workshops across the PDC. At each workshop, 15 rain barrels are distributed, and participants are provided with kits to install barrels at home. Fall workshops are scheduled in Albemarle, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Greene.
- Staff continue to share information via the TJPDC website and the Rivanna River Basin Commission Facebook page about funding opportunities, best management practices, and upcoming events to support local water quality.
- In partnership with UVA's Biophilic City Initiative, the TJPDC is updating the 2023 Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP) to better capture the diverse network of environmental stewards across the region. To launch the effort, we hosted a kickoff event on August 21 at the UVA School of Architecture, where stewards shared insights and feedback to help shape the project.

Solid Waste Plan (SWP): The TJPDC provides oversight and management of the Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit (TJ-SWPU). The TJ-SWPU is responsible for developing and maintaining a five-year regional solid waste management plan that meets the requirements set forth in § 10.1-1411. Current members of the TJ-SWPU include the City of Charlottesville and the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, and Greene. As part of the solid waste planning efforts, the PDC also conducts the annual Recycling Rate Reporting assessment, an annual report to the state used to ensure that the TJ-SWPU meets the state mandated minimum recycling rate of 25% on an annual basis.

- Staff continued convening Technical Advisory Committee meetings to support the update of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, which is due to DEQ in October. The final committee meeting was held in July, where staff presented the draft plan for review prior to its release for public comment.
- A public comment period was held during the month of August.
- Staff presented the draft plan to participating local governing bodies in August and September.
- The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan was adopted by each participating local governing body as well as the TJPDC Commission.

Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC): The RRBC, formed in 2007 utilizing state enabling legislation and whose members are Albemarle, Fluvanna and Greene Counties and the City of Charlottesville, recommends programs for the enhancement of the water and natural resources of the Rivanna River and its watershed.

- The RRBC's Annual Conference, held September 30 at the Center at Belvedere, brought together nearly 60 participants to explore watershed stewardship and public access initiatives across the region. Speakers shared perspectives on the Virginia Outdoors Plan, grant funding opportunities, the Biophilic Region Initiative, local stewardship projects, and lessons from park stewardship efforts along Richmond's James River. Attendees included local elected officials and staff, planners, representatives of nonprofit organizations, and members of the public. Presentation materials are available at <https://rivannariverbasin.org/meetings-events/>

Debris Management Planning: The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) has the opportunity to receive funding through the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to support development/updates of debris management plans for localities impacted by Tropical Storm/Hurricane Helene in September 2024. Localities include Albemarle, Greene, and Nelson counties. A debris management plan is a pre-incident planning document that establishes how a locality will manage debris generated by future disasters and enables access to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding for event response.

- Staff collaborated with local emergency management personnel to assess each locality's needs related to debris management planning. Based on those discussions, participating staff expressed interest in developing debris management plans through a regional planning framework with locality-specific annexes. This approach would allow participating jurisdictions to benefit from shared planning resources while ensuring that local procedures, contacts, facilities, and operational considerations are reflected in each locality's plan. Staff applied for the maximum available funding of \$110,000, which includes \$30,000 for each locality and \$20,000 to support a regional tabletop exercise to validate the plan.

Regional Water Supply Planning: In October 2024, in response to legislation approved by the General Assembly, new state regulations took effect to require a regional approach to water supply planning. TJPDC is coordinating this effort for the Middle James 1 watershed, which includes the City of Charlottesville and the Counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, and Louisa.

- The TJPDC was awarded an additional \$39,240 in FY27 state funding by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the Middle James 1 Regional Planning Unit (RPU) to continue the water supply planning process for the region. This grant will run from the middle of October 2026 to the end of April 2027.
- TJPDC has organized a resource sharing site and a public-facing website for the planning process and is developing an independent cost estimate and scope of work for a technical consultant. The TJPDC continues to process water source and use data with the aid of our localities.

Housing

PDC Housing Development Program: In 2021, the TJPDC was awarded \$2 million from Virginia Housing to collaborate with community partners to develop 20 new housing units in the TJPDC region. This was part of \$40 million committed to the 21 Virginia PDCs for new housing initiatives.

- The TJPDC is administering funding for affordable housing development in all member localities with Habitats for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville, Fluvanna, and Piedmont, as well as with SupportWorks Housing, the Fluvanna-Louisa Housing Foundation (FLHF), and the Nelson County Community Development Foundation (NCCDF). A total of \$1.8 million is being leveraged to develop new affordable housing units. TJPDC has completed 45 units across Albemarle,

Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson. Four units (two sets of duplexes) were completed in the second quarter of 2026 by FLHF and NCCDF using TJPDC grant funding.

- All \$1.8 million in program funds have been allocated and spent on affordable housing units. Three partner organizations (FLHF, NCCDF and SupportWorks Housing) have had their construction timelines extended through 2026. FLHF and NCCDF have now finished construction and SupportWorks Housing is on track to complete its Vista 29 supportive housing units by December.

Central Virginia Regional Housing Partnership (CVRHP): The TJPDC has been partnering in recent years with all the region's localities, as well as the private and nonprofit sectors, as part of the CVRHP. It serves as an official advisory board to the TJPDC charged with enhancing regional coordination and effectiveness in addressing the unmet housing needs in the region.

- CVRHP restarted its Speaker Series to bring together thought leaders, policy experts, and practitioners to share insights on housing trends, projections, and funding opportunities. At the September CVRHP meeting, Ryan Price from Virginia Realtors gave a presentation on the current state of housing markets both across the state and specific to our region.
- CVRHP's Central Housing Hub is live and ready for engagement. This SharePoint site is designed to be our primary platform for sharing information, collecting insights, and promoting collaboration across the region. Please reach out to Laurie Jean Talun at ljtalun@tjpd.org to request a link.
- Regional Housing Study: TJPDC is partnering with the Virginia Center for Housing Research and HousingForward Virginia to complete a two-year process that will produce a Needs Assessment and Strategies to address both local and regional housing needs. The research team is working with localities and regional leaders to identify strategies that will be included in the report. A final version of the study will be available to the public in early 2027.
- Regional Housing Summit: In partnership with the RHP, TJPDC is developing its fourth bi-annual Regional Housing Summit, titled "A Shared Investment in Community." This Summit will engage housing stakeholders, funders, those with lived experience, elected officials and private businesses to advance affordable housing efforts in our region. Block off your calendars for April 15, 2027.

Thomas Jefferson HOME Consortium: TJPDC is the administrator for the first regional HOME Investment Partnership Consortium in Virginia. This program provides annual entitlement funding through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing rehabilitation, down-payment assistance, or new construction for qualifying households in all localities in the region.

- The HOME Consortium has been awarded a total of \$687,009 for the region for the program year. These funds are being used to repair low-income owner homes, develop low-income rental housing, and provide direct assistance.
- Programs like AHIP, NCCDF, and Building Goodness Foundation are providing housing repairs throughout the region.
- The CAPER report on the previous fiscal year has been submitted to HUD.

Housing Preservation Grant (HPG): TJPDC annually receives these funds that are an important supplement to the HOME program, providing additional dollars for rehabilitation projects in the counties of Albemarle (eligible rural areas), Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson.

- TJPDC recently closed out its FFY24 Housing Preservation Program with USDA Rural Development, during which it served 29 households with \$112,627 in funds for home repairs.
- TJPDC continues to utilize its \$73,281 in grant funding through the FFY25 award. All funding has been committed for the FFY25 grant and work is underway on 18 projects, 15 of which have been completed.
- The TJPDC has applied for and awaits confirmation on receipt of two additional Housing Preservation Grants through USDA Rural Development, one grant totaling \$83,819 and another totaling \$50,000 (both figures include administrative funds), the latter related specifically to disaster relief.

Legislative Services

Legislative Services Program: This long-standing program represents the interests and positions of the region's localities with state policymakers, producing a regional legislative program and advocating for locally requested bills and budget amendments during the annual General Assembly session.

- Development of the 2027 Legislative Program got underway this quarter with the member localities providing input into the program's content. Approval of the program by each local governing body is slated to occur in November.
- Assistance continues to be provided to the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) and to several localities working on their local legislative positions and initiatives.
- Various legislative meetings, as well as policy and steering committees of VML, VACo and VFC, were monitored.
- The Legislative Director continues to serve as part-time Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions.

Local/Regional Support

The TJPDC supports its member localities by leading or managing various programs that benefit an individual locality or several/all localities in the region. This work currently includes the following:

Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI): TJPDC, in partnership with Firefly Fiber Broadband, has obtained \$97 million in funding from two Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants to expand broadband throughout 13 Central Virginia counties. The \$352 million project is supported with matching funds of \$255 million from the utility partners and counties. When completed in 2027, nearly 5,000 miles of fiber construction will provide high speed internet access to over 44,000 homes and businesses throughout the project area.

- As of September 2026, the VATI 2022 portion of the project had achieved about 1,716 miles of Field Data Collection, 4,962 miles of Fiber Design, 2,474 miles of Make-Ready Construction, 15 Communication Huts set, 2,296 miles of Aerial Fiber Placement, 1,356 miles of Underground Fiber Placement, 3,359 miles of Splicing and 37,346 Passings.
- As of September 2026, the VATI 2024 project had field data collection, fiber design and drops from aerial construction underway, and this portion of the project had completed 173,462 linear feet of fiber and 500 passings.
- On July 31, TJPDC staff visited multiple sites in Madison County, in the areas of Syria and Etlan, to observe recently completed fiber installation in the VATI 24 project area.
- On August 27, TJPDC staff visited multiple sites in Greene County to observe completed overhead fiber in both the VATI 22 and VATI 24 project areas.
- On September 10, TJPDC partnered with Firefly to facilitate the 17th quarterly stakeholders meeting to provide VATI project updates for the 13 county partners.
- On September 25, TJPDC staff visited multiple sites in Amherst County to observe recently connected VATI 24 locations.

Blue Ridge Cigarette Tax Board (BRCTB): TJPDC provides administrative support to the Board, which includes four PDC localities (Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, and Greene) and seven other jurisdictions outside our region.

- At its July meeting, the BRCTB 1) approved an FY27 budget of \$3.44 million, all but \$135,000 of which is pass-through; 2) extended a probationary period for one distributor; and 3) adopted a "Policy on Late Reporting and Payments," which provides for a six-month permit suspension for late reporting/payment while on probation.

- The Board also received a report on the end of FY26 packs sold and revenues. FY26 tax revenue across the member jurisdictions was \$3.46 million on approximately 8.4 million packs of cigarettes sold. Administrative expenses were low, at just 3.4% of gross FY26 revenue.
- The BRCTB's compliance agent continues on-site visits to retail establishments in the Board's 11-jurisdiction footprint that sell cigarettes to seek compliance with local cigarette tax ordinances.

Transportation

Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO (CA-MPO): This federally required entity is responsible for conducting ongoing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning and programming in Charlottesville and the urbanized area of Albemarle County. The MPO considers long-range regional projects and combines public input, technical data, and agency collaboration to develop forward-thinking solutions.

- TJPDC staff received notification that we were not awarded a BUILD grant for the Rivanna River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge preliminary engineering project. Staff attended a debrief meeting with USDOT in late September.
- CA-MPO staff prepared four final applications for SMART SCALE Round 7 submission.
- CA-MPO staff received the final regional travel demand model, which is now available for use.
- CA-MPO staff attended stakeholder engagement meetings in June and July for the 2026 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan. Staff were asked to provide feedback on passenger rail stations and access, funding, freight rail, and rail data.
- As part of the approved FY27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), CA-MPO staff are conducting a benchmarking effort to identify how other MPOs organize and carry out transportation planning activities. As part of this effort, staff will review MPO governance and committee structures; planning, programming, and public engagement processes; and project prioritization.
- Two STARS studies for the US 29 Corridor and US29/250 Bypass at Emmet Street Interchange have public surveys scheduled for October 13– 27. Once live, links will be posted on the project webpage: <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/culpeper-district/stars-study-us-29-corridor-and-us-29250-bypass-at-emmet-street-interchange/>.
- VDOT, in partnership with the City of Charlottesville, will hold a Design Public Hearing for the Avon Street Multimodal Improvements project on Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 5 - 7pm at Monticello High School. The project proposes construction of a shared use path along the east side of Avon Street between Avon Court and Druid Avenue, including a new pedestrian bridge over Moores Creek, upgrades to existing bus stops, and new crosswalks at key locations. Community members will be able to review proposed plans and environmental documentation, speak with VDOT representatives, ask questions, and provide comments. This project was submitted by the CA-MPO and funded in Round 5 of SMART SCALE. Public hearing display boards and detour plans can be found at <https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/culpeper-district/avon-street-multimodal-improvements/>.

Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA): The 2023 [Regional Transit Governance Study](#) recommended that stakeholders implement the existing CARTA structure, approved by the legislature in 2009, while pursuing a funding mechanism to accomplish the regional goals identified in the [Regional Transit Vision Plan](#).

- TJPDC staff produced and reviewed informational materials for the CARTA Workgroup.
- Staff has managed the ongoing Regional Transit Service Prioritization and Implementation Feasibility Study project.
- CARTA Workgroup meetings with Albemarle and Charlottesville staff were scheduled and held on 7/2, 7/16, 8/20, 8/27, 9/3 and 9/17.
- The Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority held board meetings on 7/23, 8/24 and 9/24.
- TJPDC hosted Transit/CARTA workgroup meetings on 7/15, 8/14, 9/10.

- Staff attended the City Council meeting for a transportation planning update on 7/20 and the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors meeting on 9/16 for presentation on the Regional Transit Service Prioritization and Implementation Feasibility Study project.

PATH (Partnership for Accessible Transportation Help): PATH is a regional mobility management program, funded by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and administered by TJPDC, that builds partnerships and assists transportation providers with improving and increasing transportation options for non-drivers. PATH has a website and toll-free number to assist older adults and people who cannot drive to find rides.

- During this quarter, PATH collaborated with Jaunt to hold a travel training for special education program students at Louisa County High School and participated in the Crozet Food Bank open house event.
- PATH staff conducted community outreach during the Nelson County Community Fair, as well as the Back to School Bash and Free Rural Health Clinic event in Palmyra.
- PATH hosted a Transportation Solutions Workshop at the Independence Senior Living community in Pantops and for the Cville Village Low Vision group. During these sessions, local residents learned in detail about the full range of transportation services available in Charlottesville.
- PATH staff participated in DRPT's Accessible Transportation Workshop at PlanRVA in Richmond.
- PATH has held monthly meetings with the leadership of the Cville Village volunteer program to discuss current activities and plans for the rest of the year.
- In collaboration with members of the Charlottesville Area Alliance Transportation Group, PATH continued work on the AARP Local Communities transportation project focused on improving communication, accessibility, and public understanding of transportation services for older adults.
- PATH continued updating and expanding its webpage to include more comprehensive information about transportation options in the region, making it easier for residents to learn about local transit providers and mobility resources.
- In collaboration with Charlottesville Area Transit and The Center at Belvedere, PATH held three travel training sessions for seniors living in the Charlottesville Area.
- PATH continues to work with partners on the transportation-related part of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).
- PATH staff participated in a quarterly meeting of the Charlottesville Area Alliance group and gave an update on the work of CAA's Transportation group.
- PATH updated policies and prepared a marketing plan for the launch of the new year for the Transportation Assistance Fund program.
- During monthly meetings, staff exchanged updates on agencies' activities with members of the Louisa, Fluvanna, and Nelson Inter-Agency Council meetings, as well as Move2Health Equity and Charlottesville Area Alliance meetings.
- The PATH program continued and finalized outreach to Volunteer Driver Programs (VDPs) operated nationwide.

Rural Transportation Program: This program started in 1993 as a cooperative forum for transportation planning in the counties of Albemarle (rural areas), Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson. The program provides local planning assistance to the rural governments, maintains the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan, and assists the localities with other transportation needs.

- The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) held its regular meeting in August.
- TJPDC staff supported Nelson County in the preparation and submission of an application for the SMART SCALE statewide transportation funding program.
- Staff completed the first quarter Park and Ride Inventory.
- Staff filled in the VDOT Freight Activity Centers map, identifying manufacturing and distribution centers in the district.

- Staff kicked off an update to the Rural Long Range Plan (RLRP), which is the long-range vision for transportation improvements in the TJPDC region's rural jurisdictions over a 20-year planning horizon. Staff have completed existing conditions and have started work on the assessment of the regional transportation system chapter.
- Effective July 1, a new Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) member was appointed for the VDOT Culpeper District. Jim Moye of Mineral is Senior Vice President and Senior Council of the American Bankers Association.

RideShare: RideShare is a TJPDC program working to reduce traffic congestion and increase mobility throughout the region by providing free carpool matching and vanpool coordination and operating a Ride Home Rewards Program to provide free rides home in an emergency. RideShare is part of the statewide "ConnectingVA" app that can be used for transit trip planning and for commuters to share the ride.

- RideShare staff attended the Post Award webinar for their FY27 operating grant awarded through DRPT.
- Staff also attended the Association for Commuter Transportation Annual Conference in July.
- RideShare hosted a carpool contest, which included a drawing for two \$100 gift cards for those who logged carpool trips in the ConnectingVA app during the month of August.

