

THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Quarterly Update on Projects and Activities July through September 2025



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 partnered with the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Charlottesville, and the James River Association to host rain barrel workshops in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville this Fall. Thirty-five rain barrels were distributed and the workshops provided participants with kits to install the barrels at home.
- The quarterly Regional Environmental Coordination meeting on August 21 fostered shared knowledge and partnerships among local staff. Highlights included a presentation on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Updates and plans for Beyond 2025 by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, as well as a roundtable discussion.
- Staff continues to share information via the “Words from Your Watershed” newsletter and TJPDC website, as well as on the Rivanna River Basin Commission Facebook page, about funding opportunities, best management practices, and upcoming events to support local water quality.

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.

- On September 24, the RRBC hosted 64 people at the Center at Belvedere for the 10th Annual Conference. With an emphasis on state and local water supply due to increasing pressures from stressors like drought, climate change, and data center development, speakers provided context and perspectives on state water supply planning regulations, existing water supply plans, and what is being done to meet future demands and to be stewards of the Rivanna. Attendees included local elected officials and staff, regional planners, representatives of nonprofit organizations, and members of the public. Presentation materials are available [here](#).
- Staff completed the [Rivanna River Story Map](#), as part of the five- year work plan for the RRBC, which offers an overview of the natural and human history of the Rivanna River Basin, from pre-colonial times to present.

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 5-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 kicked off the update of the Solid Waste Management plan by establishing the Technical Advisory Committee with local planners, solid waste managers, climate staff, and staff from the University of Virginia and the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority. The update is due to DEQ in October, 2026.

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 \$8,884 by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the Middle James 1 Regional Planning Unit (RPU) to begin the water supply planning process for the region. The TJPDC is in the process of applying to DEQ for another for \$8,884 in October.
- The Middle James 1 RPU convened for a technical meeting on September 30, which included an update on the “70 80 100” DEQ Workbook and a presentation from DEQ staff on data collection.
- The TJPDC has organized a resource sharing site and a public facing website for the planning process and is beginning its stakeholder engagement process.

Housing

PDC Housing Development Program: In 2021, the TJPDC was awarded \$2 million from Virginia Housing to work 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 Virginia Supportive Housing. In total, \$1.8 million is being leveraged to develop new affordable housing units. TJPDC is close to having nearly 45 units completed across Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Louisa, and Nelson.
- The grant period for all the projects was scheduled to conclude in June, though the TJPDC’s contract with Virginia Housing has been extended to allow units to be completed by the end of 2025. The TJPDC anticipated that the entirety of the \$1.8 million in programmatic funds would be drawn down by the close of FY25. To date, about \$1,650,000 has been spent on units in our region.

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.

- The CVRHP has 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, Chris McNamara from Virginia Housing gave a presentation on their workforce housing grant program. Luis Oyola of the Piedmont Community Land Trust also presented about the recent developments with the area’s land trust.

- The 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. Click [here](#) to request access.
- The Regional Housing Study is now underway. Seven trainings have been provided to 30 regional partners, including locality staff, TJPDC staff, and non-profit partners. These trainings were designed to increase skills for identifying, collecting, and analyzing housing market data.

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 that began on July 1. These funds will be used to repair low-income owner homes, develop low-income rental housing, and provide direct assistance.
- HUD has approved our region to move forward with HOME-ARP funding on three rental unit projects, one each in Louisa, Fluvanna, and Nelson.

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.

- The TJPDC is leveraging more than \$111,000 through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for FFY24. With these dollars, TJPDC has committed to fund about 30 low-income homeowners in need of home rehabilitation across rural Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson counties, and the project has gotten underway. TJPDC has applied for the FFY25 USDA funds from Rural Development and is awaiting confirmation of our award of \$73,281.

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 2026 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 was 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 at the end of December, 2026, 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 the September, 2025, VATI 2022 progress report, the VATI 22 portion of the project had achieved about 1,600 miles of field data collection; 4,257 miles of fiber design; 2,203 miles of make ready construction; nine communications huts set; 1,802 miles of aerial fiber placement; 866 miles of underground fiber placement; 2,309 miles of splicing; and 25,821 passings.
- As of the September, 2025, VATI 2024 progress report, field data collection, fiber design and drops from aerial construction are underway, and this portion of the project has completed 27,000 linear feet of fiber and 135 passings.
- In early July, DHCD approved an amendment to the original VATI 22 agreement which expands the project in Campbell, Madison, and Greene Counties, adding more than 2,500 serviceable units project amount. Shortly thereafter, DCHD also approved an extension to the VATI project, stretching the project's end date from August 15, 2025, to June 30, 2026.
- In August, Firefly celebrated 40,000 total connections with a press event in Louisa County. TJPDC staff also attended Firefly's Broadband for Generations Event in a celebration of rural broadband connections in Buckingham, Appomattox, and Cumberland counties. U.S. Senator Mark Warner was among the guest speakers.
- On September 11, TJPDC partnered with Firefly to facilitate the 13th quarterly stakeholders meeting to provide VATI project updates for the 13 county partners.

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 welcomed Rappahannock County and its representative to the Board. Rappahannock implemented a new cigarette tax effective October 1. The Board also had an extensive review of BRCTB-adopted policies, given that more than half of the current individual Board representatives were not on the Board when it was established in late 2021.
- The Board also received a report on the end of fiscal year packs sold and revenues. FY25 gross tax revenue across the member jurisdictions was about \$3.3 million on more than 8.7 million packs of cigarettes sold. Administrative expenses were down by about 25% in FY25 when compared to the previous year.
- 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.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): TJPDC received a US EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance grant to develop a regional CEDS to benefit all TJPDC localities.

- The CEDS Implementation Committee met in early September 2025. The Committee heard from US EDA staff about available grant opportunities now that the CEDS is in place, as well as the advantages of forming an Economic Development District, such as reduced local match requirements for grants.
- An annual report of progress towards the CEDS goals and strategies is being developed with input from the Implementation Committee and key partners.

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.

- In August, CA-MPO staff received approval on a final scope of work for a Transportation Demand Management study to be conducted this fiscal year.
- One CA-MPO staff member attended the American Planning Association (APA) Virginia Conference.
- On September 30, the CA-MPO and Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO held their biennial joint Policy Board Meeting with presentations on the Afton Express, Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority, Statewide Rail Plan, Three Notched Trail, and state agency activities. Presentation materials from the meeting can be accessed on the [CA-MPO Policy Board webpage](#).

Regional Transit Partnership (RTP): The RTP serves as an official advisory board, created by Charlottesville, Albemarle, UVA, and JAUNT, to provide recommendations to decision-makers on transit-related matters.

- The RTP continues to hold regular meetings to receive updates from transit providers and subject matter experts and to discuss transit-related matters.
- TJPDC staff is supporting the newly enacted Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA) by staffing CARTA Board meetings. On behalf of CARTA, TJPDC was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to develop an implementation plan that prioritizes the services outlined in the Regional Transit Vision Plan.
- In July, the CARTA Board of Directors approved the final scope of work for the Transit Prioritization and Implementation Feasibility Study. The TJPDC worked with Charlottesville and Albemarle staff and regional transit providers to review submitted proposals from consulting firms.

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 staff attended meetings and events targeted at older adults and people with disabilities to share information about the program and its services. This included the Fourth Annual Healthy Streets/Healthy People event in Charlottesville; the Community Health, Wellness & Resource event in Mineral; the Nelson Community Health Fair in Arrington; Westhaven Day in Charlottesville and the Spring Creek Healthy Living Expo in Zion Crossroads.
- PATH staff held workshops at JABA's Mary Williams Senior Community Center, the Independence Senior Living, and the Crossing Community in Charlottesville. PATH also conducted five travel training sessions for seniors at The Center at Belvedere and presented to JABA employees and members of Charlottesville Area Alliance. PATH staff also met with JABA's new CEO and the Director of the Louisa County Resource Council to talk about mutual collaboration.
- PATH continued support for volunteer driver programs (Cville Village, Here to Stay in Wintergreen) providing staff time, answering calls, providing marketing support, consulting, and working on the Memorandums of Understanding with both partnering organizations.
- PATH staff continued answering calls through PATH Helpline and assisted older adults and people with disabilities with finding transportation services; the main requests have been for rides to medical appointments.
- PATH continued marketing efforts through the program's website, newsletter, digital marketing outreach campaigns, and distribution of printed and digital promotional materials. PATH was featured in local media (NBC29 WVIR, Charlottesville Right Now) and engaged in promoting the "Week without Driving" campaign.
- Together with AARP, CAA and MPact, PATH continued the "Listening & Storytelling for Inclusive Transit: Understanding Older Adults' Transportation Needs in Region 10" project. PATH and partners conducted 25 interviews and held two focus group sessions gathering 22 participants.

- PATH staff participated in the 2025 Conference and Expo organized by the Community Transportation Association of Virginia (CTAV) in Roanoke.
- PATH continued operating the Transportation Assistance Fund, supported by a \$5,000 grant from the Twice is Nice Foundation, to assist individuals facing urgent transportation needs who cannot afford the cost. Seven rides were provided with program's assistance.

Safe Streets and Roads for All: TJPDC is implementing a \$857,600 grant award for developing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for each locality in the region through the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program. The overall project is named "Move Safely Blue Ridge."

- In July, TJPDC submitted the FHWA Quarterly Report for the April 1 to June 30 period, coordinated with the consultant on administrative items, and projected closeout process readiness.
- In August and September, TJPDC finalized press releases and social media materials; reviewed and approved scripts and storyboards; and received final engagement videos in English and Spanish for post-plan approval.
- In September, TJPDC delivered the final plans for the East High Safety Demonstration Project for the City of Charlottesville, and provided public access to the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan on the www.movesafelyblueridge.com website.
- All SS4A project related activities have been completed and TJPDC is in the closing period of the grant, which could last up to 120 days.

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.
- Staff is conducting a rural transportation planning needs assessment to be completed in FY26.
- Staff completed the quarterly park-and-ride inventory for the TJPDC region's parking lots.

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's Guaranteed Ride Home program is now the statewide Ride Home Rewards program. This will allow for a more streamlined redemption for rides home in emergency situations, as all aspects are now in the ConnectingVA app.
- Staff attended the Association of Commuter Transportation Conference.
- Staff attended the Department of Rail and Public Transportation Post-Award workshop.
- RideShare promoted the statewide "Try Transit Week" and the "Week without Driving" in September.