

Memorandum

To: Christian Goodwin, Louisa County Administrator
From: Christine Jacobs, TJPDC Executive Director
Taylor Lowery, TJPDC Director of Transportation
Date: July 17, 2026
Subject: FY27 Rural Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Purpose

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) will begin an update to the Rural Long Range Plan (RLRP) in Fiscal Year 2027. The purpose of this memo is to inform local jurisdiction leadership of the upcoming planning effort, provide an overview of the process, and identify key milestones where policy decisions will occur.

Background

The RLRP serves as the region's long-range vision for transportation improvements in the rural portions of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. The plan identifies existing transportation conditions, evaluates future needs, and establishes transportation priorities to guide planning, programming, and future funding opportunities. The TJPDC receives State Planning and Research Funds (SPR) to support the development of the plan with support from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The current RLRP was adopted by the TJPDC in 2018¹.

The FY27 update will incorporate updated demographic information, regional travel patterns, and prioritized projects identified within each jurisdiction. If desired, local jurisdictions may adopt the RLRP as the transportation chapter in the local comprehensive plan or as an appendix/addendum for completed comprehensive plans.

Planning Process

The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) serves as the advisory committee for the TJPDC Rural Transportation Program. It consists of local jurisdiction, Jaunt, and VDOT staff. The TJPDC Commission serves as the decision-making authority for the Rural Transportation Program, providing policy direction and eventual plan adoption.

Because the TJPDC Commission is composed of elected officials, staff wanted to provide advance notice of the planning effort and the anticipated Commission actions throughout the planning process. While the Commission is the body ultimately responsible for adopting the RLRP, TJPDC staff welcome additional guidance regarding plan deliverables. If your locality would prefer that the final plan be presented to or adopted by your locality's governing body, staff will incorporate those requests into the project schedule to the extent possible. The schedule in **Figure 1** identifies the anticipated timeline as well as major decision points throughout the process.

¹ <https://tjpd.org/reports-archive/rural-long-range-transportation-plan/>

Figure 1. Plan Schedule and Key Activities

MONTH	JUL 2026	AUG 2026	SEP 2026	OCT 2026	NOV 2026	DEC 2026	JAN 2027	FEB 2027	MAR 2027	APR 2027	MAY 2027	JUN 2027	JUL 2027	AUG 2027	SEPT 2027
RTAC Meetings		●			●				●		●			●	
TJPD Commission Meetings			●			●				●		●			●

PHASE	Plan Initiation and Goals	System Assessment and Framework	Virtual Public Engagement and Draft Project Recommendations	Final Recommendations	Final Plan
Key Activities and Decision Points	- Kickoff and introduction - Existing conditions - Goals and objectives Action: Goals and Objectives	- Assessment of the regional transportation system - Prioritization framework - Engagement approach Action: Prioritization Framework	- Engagement in partnership with local jurisdictions - Engagement analysis and summary - Draft recommended project list by jurisdiction	Final project list Action: Final Project List Approval	Final plan drafting, review, and approval Action: Plan Approval

The proposed meeting schedule intends to allow for RTAC recommendations to precede Commission action. RTAC meeting dates include:

- August 4, 2026
- November 10, 2026
- *February 2, 2027 – *Pending Reschedule to March*
- May 4, 2027
- August 3, 2027

Meeting Dates of the TJPD Commission that will tentatively include RLRP agenda items:

- September 3, 2026
- December 3, 2026
- April 1, 2027
- June 3, 2027
- September 2, 2027

We look forward to working closely with each jurisdiction throughout the planning process. For questions, please reach out to Taylor Lowery (tjenkins@tjpd.org) and Sara Pennington (spennington@tjpd.org).

Attachment: FY27 Rural Long Range Plan – Scope of Work

CC:

Chris Coon, Deputy County Administrator
Linda Buckler, Director of Planning
Tom Egeland, Deputy Director of Planning

Rural Long Range Plan Update

Draft Scope of Work

The Rural Long Range Plan (RLRP) is the region's multimodal transportation vision for the rural jurisdictions of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC). The plan serves as a technical resource and implementation tool for the counties of Albemarle (non-urbanized), Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson.

Purpose

The last RLRP was updated in 2018 and had a planning horizon to 2040. The RLRP is intended to:

- Identify current and future transportation needs in the rural region
- Assist localities with comprehensive plan updates
- Prioritize transportation improvements and strategies that support local and regional goals
- Provide content and guidance for statewide transportation plans
- Establish recommendations for future studies and reports

The FY27 update will refresh the previous RLTP to reflect updated demographic and land use trends, changes in transportation conditions and travel patterns, and progress on previously identified projects and recommendations.

Plan Update Process

Task 1. Development of Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives will provide the broad policy direction for the plan and will serve as the foundation for the needs assessment, project prioritization, and recommendation development phases of the plan. In coordination with member jurisdictions, staff will review the goals developed for the previous RLRP and update them.

Task 2. Project List Review and Demographic Data Compilation

Staff will review and update the existing Rural Long Range Plan project list to reflect implementation status and document completed projects. In conjunction with the project list review, staff will compile and analyze updated demographic, socioeconomic, and land use data for the rural planning area. This will include data for population, employment, and commuting patterns.

Task 3. Assessment of the Regional Transportation System

This task will update chapter 3 of the previous RLRP. This effort will evaluate the condition, performance, and connectivity of the region's transportation network, including roadways, bridges, public transportation, park and rides, and VTrans Needs. The resulting assessment will provide a clearer understanding of existing conditions and establish the foundation for identifying transportation deficiencies, needs, and strategic investments.

Task 4. Project Recommendations List

Staff will coordinate with RTAC members to identify existing and anticipated deficiencies in the rural transportation system. Recommendations will include those still designated as priorities from the previous rural long range plan update, as well as new recommended strategies, projects, and actions to

address identified needs. Projects and strategies will be organized by local jurisdiction and implementation time frame.

Task 5. Report and Website Updates

Staff will complete draft and final reports and update the RLRP webpage on the TJPDC website.