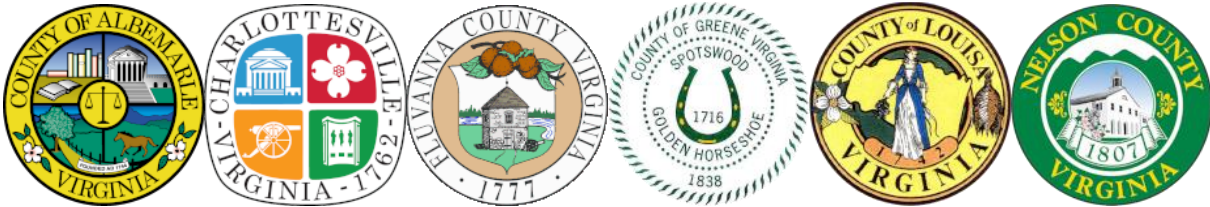


THOMAS JEFFERSON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Quarterly Update on Projects and Activities July through September 2022



Environmental

Hazard Mitigation Plan: TJPDC works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), and local emergency managers to develop and maintain a regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan on behalf of all localities in the region. The Plan documents current natural hazard risk and vulnerability and allows localities to plan for mitigation efforts over the next five years. Adoption of the plan allows localities to access certain federal funding sources.

- After a public comment period in June, staff submitted the draft plan to VDEM, which approved it with no required revisions. The plan then went to FEMA, which requested various revisions which staff is addressing. Following FEMA approval, staff will work with localities to begin the formal adoption process.

Watershed Implementation Plan: 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 Watershed Implementation Plan 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.

- TJPDC submitted the 2023 WIP Scope of Service to DEQ, which includes goals to further implementation of best management practices across the district's non-MS4 localities (Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson) through the development of BMP projects and cost assessments, grant assistance, and updating the environmental portions of planning efforts.
- TJPDC staff, in conjunction with the Rivanna Education Stormwater Partnership, developed an infographic and brochure on installing your own rain barrel.
- Staff is working toward earning the Chesapeake Urban Stormwater Professional Training Certificate.

Rivanna River Basin Commission (RRBC): The RRBC, formed in 2007 as a result of 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 has begun website updates as described in its strategic workplan, to include documentation of planning efforts about historical, cultural, and artistic works as they relate to the Rivanna. Suggestions for materials for inclusion can be shared with iobrien@tjpd.org.

- Staff planned and coordinated the 7th RRBC Annual Conference, held September 29th at the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center. Speakers discussed the topics of environmental justice and solar planning. The conference recording and materials are available on the [RRBC website](#).

Housing

Housing Development Program: In July 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 all 21 Virginia PDCs for new housing initiatives.

- The TJPDC is funding affordable housing development in all localities in the planning district with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville, Fluvanna, and Piedmont, as well as the Charlottesville Redevelopment & Housing Authority and Virginia Supportive Housing. In total, \$1.8 million will be leveraged to develop 160 new affordable housing units.
- Last quarter, five units were completed; this includes four in the City of Charlottesville and one in Fluvanna County. These units will be sold to families making at most 60% area median income.

Central Virginia Regional Housing Partnership (CVRHP): The TJPDC has been partnering the past four years with all of 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 formally adopted a five-year strategic plan at its quarterly meeting in June. Staff recently has been preparing to implement the plan, which focuses primarily on the creation of housing resources for localities and stakeholders and the promotion of regional collaboration.
- In the coming months, newly-formed implementation committees will guide staff as the strategic plan moves from vision to action.
- The CVRHP is planning for an in-person housing event at the Charlottesville Omni in March, 2023.

Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP): TJPDC administers an eviction reduction pilot (VERP) grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to address and prevent evictions in Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville.

- The TJPDC works with subgrantee Piedmont Housing Alliance to administer a \$250,000 grant that funds two staff members at PHA (eviction prevention case manager and landlord mediator). The funding also provides direct financial assistance for community members at risk of eviction.
- The TJPDC maintains and organizes an advisory committee of local governments, housing providers, landlords, and other relevant parties to help support these efforts.
- Last quarter, the TJPDC and PHA submitted an application for continued funding for this program for the next two calendar years.

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.

- For Federal Fiscal Year 2021 (FFY21), the TJPDC has drawn nearly \$190,000 in federal HOME funding that has been put toward 18 rehabilitation activities.
- The HOME Investment Partnership-ARP (HOME-ARP) is designated to support households and families that are experiencing housing instability. For FFY22, TJPDC is receiving over \$2.4 million, the majority of which (nearly \$2.1 million) will be split among the six participating localities in the consortium.

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.

- Staff has supported the rehabilitation of 37 projects, utilizing over \$133,000 in FFY21 HPG funding, over the past six months.
- The TJPDC was awarded HPG funds for FFY22, but the final amount has not been confirmed.

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 legislation program and advocating for locally-requested bills and budget amendments during the General Assembly session.

- Development of the 2023 Legislative Program got underway this quarter with the local governing bodies providing input into the program's content. Approval of the program by each local governing body is slated to occur in November.
- Various legislative meetings, as well as policy and workgroup meetings of VML and VACo were monitored. The Mayor & Chairs/CAOs quarterly meeting also was organized and held.

Local/Regional Support

The TJPDC supports the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson, and the City of Charlottesville, 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 is the grant administrator for the \$287 million VATI broadband project, in cooperation with partner Firefly Fiber Broadband, which includes rural internet expansion in all TJPDC counties.

- TJPDC finalized contracts with both partner Firefly Fiber Broadband and grant funder Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).
- In September, TJPDC facilitated an initial stakeholder meeting for all 13 county partners; these meetings will be held quarterly throughout the project.

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

- On a monthly basis, TJPDC processes cigarette tax reports and remittances from distributors for the eight jurisdictions; about \$250,000 in tax revenue is processed each month.
- TJPDC hired a compliance agent this past quarter and set in motion a process for on-site visits by the agent to retail establishments that sell cigarettes.

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

- TJPDC staff is convening a regional strategy committee to steer the project.

Transportation

Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO (CAMPO): This federally-required entity is responsible for carrying out 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.

- The MPO Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee received presentations on federal funding opportunities from the Association of MPOs at their meetings in July, and formally kicked off the next five-year update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan at their September meetings.
- Staff submitted eight SMART SCALE applications for Round 5. Four applications were for projects identified by the CAMPO, and four projects were submitted by the TJPDC on behalf of Albemarle County.

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 Regional Transit Vision Plan is a 28-month, \$350,000 project supported by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), Charlottesville, Albemarle and TJPDC. It is working to establish a single, unified, long-term vision for transit service in the Charlottesville area.
- A Regional Transit Governance Study is seeking to gain consensus and develop a regional body to collect and distribute funds for transit. This \$150,000 project is supported by the same entities.

Safe Streets and Roads for All: The region's six member localities supported, and pledged local funds toward a required match for, the TJPDC's submittal of a multi-jurisdictional application through the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All Discretionary Grant Program to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for each locality in the region.

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 Program, and assist with the localities with other transportation needs.

- TJPDC staff completed the final draft of the Zion Crossroads Gateway Plan for Fluvanna and Louisa Counties.
- TJPDC staff presented findings and recommendations from the Stanardsville and Scottsville Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Assessments to the Greene County Planning Commission and Stanardsville Town Council, respectively, in September.
- The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee met in July and September and discussed federal transportation grant opportunities and the benefits of leaving rural roads unpaved.

RideShare: RideShare is a TJPDC program that works to reduce traffic congestion and increase mobility throughout the region's localities by providing free carpool matching and vanpool coordination and operating a Guaranteed Ride Home Program to provide free rides home in an emergency. RideShare's "Rides and Rewards" app can also be used for transit trip planning and has incentives for commuters to share the ride.

- The RideShare Program Manager attended the Association for Commuter Transportation annual conference, conducted quarterly Park and Ride inventory in the region, and coordinated with Commute Enterprise for vanpools in the region.
- RideShare celebrated Discover Transit Month in September and the first successful year of the Afton Express Commuter Bus.