



Memo

To: Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

From: Logan Ende, Regional Planner II

Date: November 13, 2025

Re: Rural Transportation Needs Assessment: Plan Review

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of rural transportation planning priorities across rural jurisdictions in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. By gathering targeted data and engaging with locality staff, TJPDC will be well-positioned to support regional coordination, plan future infrastructure investments, and develop an informed Rural Transportation Annual Work Program. This memo will provide the basis for the TJPDC's understanding of recent planning efforts by our rural localities and will ensure that the transportation needs of rural communities are understood and effectively addressed within the scope of TJPDC's regional planning efforts.

Plan Review:

Locality: Greene County

Plans Reviewed:

Greene County Comprehensive Plan (2023)

VDOT 29 Corridor Study (2023)

Multimodal Corridor Study for the US 29 and US 33 Development Areas in Greene County (2009)

Greene Capital Improvement Plan FY24

Ruckersville Area Plan (2018)

Priorities and Initiatives:

- Utilize land use planning to alleviate traffic concerns by directing growth into distinct villages and neighborhoods – reassess growth area boundaries
- Improve parallel road network and corridors of travel outside of US 29 as part of a larger thoroughfare plan to alleviate traffic and safety concerns
- Manage access to 29 and limit separate entrances by improving connectivity across parcels – explore phasing out of signalized intersections and replace with a grid system or grade-separated routes
- Establish an improved network of on-street bicycle routes and off-street greenways, including a Shared-Use-Path (SUP) along the west side of US 29 and clear crosswalks
- Study strategies to connect residents with increased access to CAT and Jaunt service lines, as well as plan for an internal loop transit service; improve RideShare usage

Locality: Nelson County

Plans Reviewed:

Nelson County Comprehensive Plan 2042 (2024)
FY26 Capital Improvement Plan
Rockfish Valley Area Plan (2017)
VDOT Route 151 Corridor Study (2024)
Route 29 Economic Development Corridor Plan (2019)

Priorities and Initiatives:

- Address safety concerns on rural roads related to poor lines of sight and unpaved roads
- Facilitate the study of village and urban development areas (UDAs) to expand alternative transportation options – focus on Nellysford and Lovingson (VTRANS 2040)
- Explore the possibility of an updated Lovingson Safety Plan (2006) and a Route 29 Pedestrian Study near Lovingson (Jefferson Area Bike and Pedestrian Plan)
- Work with VDOT to address traffic safety concerns through alternative intersections, additional turn lanes – perform speed limit studies at select intersections along Route 151
- Conduct pedestrian study to analyze sidewalk expansion and connectivity to trails (i.e. Blue Ridge Tunnel Trail and Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail)
 - Install SUPs, particularly in Nellysford, and connect to Rockfish Valley Trail Network – identify areas for sidewalk expansion
- Develop updated Recreation Master Plan (2003) and expand & update Small Area Plans
- Evaluate demand and value for new Park & Ride lots, particularly along the Route 151 corridor – explore the opportunity for a county-owned shuttle service in high-traffic areas

Locality: Fluvanna County

Plans Reviewed:

Fluvanna County Comprehensive Plan (2015)
Rivanna (Lake Monticello) Community Plan (2015)
Palmyra Community Plan (2005)
Zion Crossroads Community Plan (2005)
Northwest Fluvanna/Southwest Louisa Multimodal Corridor Study (2007)
Zion Crossroads Gateway Plan (2022)

Priorities and Initiatives:

- Improved traffic safety through paved shoulders for bicyclists and pedestrians and maintain scenic byways– increase connectivity of SUPs to trail systems in Pleasant Grove
- Explore opportunity to expand the number of Park & Ride lots, targeting fixed stops for Jaunt, particularly in Palmyra village – encourage participation in RideShare. Provide affordable transit access to employment centers and commercial areas within five years

- Develop a coordinated plan to improve traffic flow, particularly on Route 15, through pedestrian improvements and traffic calming measures at key intersections. Work with VDOT to study alternatives at key intersections for improved traffic flow. Work with VDOT and adjacent counties to plan and design necessary improvements to Route 250.
- Encourage directed growth in areas like Zion Crossroads and clustered development in rural areas to preserve rural character. Ensure zoning emphasizes pedestrian access between commercial and residential centers and requires sidewalks in new development
 - For Zion Crossroads, consider opportunities for Planned Unit Development ordinances
- Revisit the Northwest Fluvanna/Southwest Louisa Multimodal Corridor Study for updated streetscape design guidelines for the county
- Updated community plans for population clusters, i.e. Fork Union, Lake Monticello, etc.
- Develop joint branding strategy with Louisa County

Locality: Louisa County

Plans Reviewed:

Louisa County Comprehensive Plan (2019)

Louisa County Transportation Plan (2011)

Northwest Fluvanna/Southwest Louisa Multimodal Corridor Study (2007)

Zion Crossroads Gateway Plan (2022)

Priorities and Initiatives:

- Focus transportation improvements into growth areas, i.e. new local roads and SUPs, to develop economic potential and reduce congestion. Avoid new entrances along Routes 250 and 522. Encourage infill development in towns due to lack of transportation thoroughways.
 - Identify easements for SUPs connecting residential and commercial areas
 - Reassess collector and arterial road designations
 - Develop multimodal travel and enhance public transit services across the county; add fixed routes and study the opportunity for new fixed stops/commuter routes to Charlottesville from Zion Crossroads. Research bus circulation option between Mineral and the Town of Louisa to alleviate congestion on Route 22.
 - For Zion Crossroads, consider opportunities for Planned Unit Development ordinances
 - Work with TJPDC on the travel demand model and measure volume-to-capacity ratio of key roadways.
 - Work with VDOT to study possible expansion of existing Park & Ride lots
 - Develop recreation and transportation opportunities between growth areas, schools, and residential areas – revisit 2003 Mineral Rail Trail Master Plan and consider new rail trail planning initiatives.
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Locality: Albemarle County

Plans Reviewed:

Albemarle County 2044 Plan (2025)

Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan (2015)

Priorities and Initiatives:

- Prioritize investment in rural area projects that maintain safety and preserve rural character; safety improvements such as guard rails and the utilization of VDOT's Rural Rustic Roads Program for maintenance should not encourage growth outside of development areas
 - Integrate recommendations from Safe Streets for All Action Plan
 - Support communities seeking through-truck restrictions and investing in Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS)
 - Improve regional transit system to serve commuters in rural areas; improve access to JAUNT Connect service, Brite Bus Afton Express, and expand Park & Ride lots to serve employment centers.
 - Emphasize equitable access to walking and bicycling opportunities, particularly across physical barriers, for both transportation and recreation. Prioritize the federally supported Three-Notched Trail SUP initiative between Charlottesville and the Blue Ridge Tunnel
 - Support land use strategies in accordance with Albemarle's Growth Management Policy, directing future growth into development areas.
 - Create small area plans studying rural interstate interchanges, i.e. Shadwell and Yancey Mills exits, as opportunities for economic development
 - Coordinate with VDOT to improve multimodal safety and support bike routes like U.S. Bike Route 76
 - Align priorities with Virginia's Long Range Multimodal Transportation Plan and Virginia's Surface Transportation Plan.
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Locality: State and Regional

Plans Reviewed:

Jefferson Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2019)

Bike Route 76 Corridor Study (2015)

2040 Rural Long Range Transportation Plan (2018)

VTRANS 2040 (2017)

- Plan for greenway path along US 250 corridor in Albemarle, identified in the AC 2044 Plan. Improve regional connectivity of these SUPs through the planned Three Notched Trail and James River Heritage Trail processes.

- Improve select roads In Fluvanna for bicycle safety and create “rural shared roads” by widening and paving shoulders, particularly along Route 15 and U.S. Bike Route 76, as outlined in the corridor study.
- Improve straight lines of sight along rural shared roads, widen road shoulder, and add guardrails, in accordance with recommendations from the Bike Route 76 Corridor Study
- The Greene County Comprehensive Plan (2023) indicates a desire for a multimodal transportation system that provides options for citizens to travel by walking, bicycling, vehicle or transit. Interconnected street and sidewalk infrastructure will disperse traffic and allow for multimodal transport in anticipated mixed-use communities.
 - Complete outlined streetscape projects in Stanardsville and Ruckersville; plan to build bike lanes complementing future road connecting U.S. 29 and U.S. 33
- The VTRANS 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan identified mode choice and safety needs along US 29 between Charlottesville and Culpeper. The plan also identified Fluvanna’s UDAs as having network connectivity and pedestrian/bike access issues.