

West Piedmont Planning District Commission





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WEST PIEDMONT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission are partnering to evaluate the rural transportation system in the region and to recommend a range of transportation improvements that best satisfy existing and future transportation needs. This partnership will result in a regional plan that identifies needs based upon goals and objectives established by the region. Improving the transportation system remains vital to improving the quality of life and continued economic growth and prosperity in Virginia. Local benefits include: identification of transportation deficiencies and recommendations of remedies, assist with comprehensive plan updates, traffic impact studies-Ch.527, programming of transportation improvements, effects of land use and development. Providing for the effective, safe and efficient movement of people and goods is a basic goal of all transportation programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2035 STATE HIGHWAY PLAN

Once completed, the regional transportation plan will be incorporated into Virginia's 2035 State Highway Plan. The statewide highway plan is developed by VDOT to identify needs and recommend solutions for the Commonwealth's Interstate and primary highway systems. The regional transportation plans serve as the building blocks for the State Highway Plan and are being developed in cooperation with planning districts commissions throughout the Commonwealth. The plans will complement the transportation plans that currently exist for metropolitan areas of Virginia.

MOVING FORWARD

The West Piedmont Regional Transportation Plan and the 2035 State Highway Plan will be key tools for identifying and understanding the magnitude of Virginia's transportation needs and establish a foundation for making critical funding decisions for future highway projects.

These plans will provide real and tangible solutions to issues such as safety, capacity, and geometric deficiencies and will serve as key resources to determine future projects for implementation. The plans will address important regional issues such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit operations, intermodal connectors and park and ride lots, all significant elements in creating a comprehensive transportation network for the future.

Once completed, the 2035 State Highway Plan will serve as a key component to VTrans2035, Virginia's State-wide Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan. VTrans2035 will rely heavily on the findings of the State Highway Plan to ensure other modes of travel, including rail, transit, aviation and shipping seamlessly blend into the highway network to form one single, integrated network.



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PLANNING DISTRICT

The West Piedmont Planning District (WPPD) is located in the South central portion of Virginia. Its southern boundary is the North Carolina State Line. Jurisdictions within the planning district include four counties (Franklin, Henry, Patrick, Pittsylvania), two independent cities (Danville, Martinsville), and seven towns. The WPPD encompasses some 2,587 square miles, with a population of 250,195 (Year 2000 Census).

Danville and the surrounding urban portion of Pittsylvania County have an on-going, continuous Urban Transportation Planning Process. Small Urban Area Transportation Plans exist for the City of Martinsville (including all of Henry County), and the Towns of Rocky Mount and Stuart.

The WPPD is served by numerous major roadways, including U.S. Routes 29, 58, 220, and 360. Two proposed Interstate Routes, I-73 and I-785 (U.S. Route 29) are expected to be constructed in the future. The Blue Ridge and Danville General Aviation Facilities are located within the WPPD. Air passenger service is available through Roanoke, Greensboro, and Raleigh/Durham. The Port of Hampton Roads, some 200 miles to the east, serves the WPPD. Some areas within the planning district are served by public transportation and bikeways.

Mission

The Mission of the WPPDC is to promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social, and economic elements of the region by planning and encouraging and assisting governmental subdivisions to plan for the future. Additionally, in its work the Commission also intends to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance. Areas of planning and cooperation may include, but are not limited to: transportation; economic and physical infrastructure development; water supply, solid waste, and other environmental management; emergency management; recreation; human services; and criminal justice. Commission activities may also be directed toward strategic plans it may develop, participate in, and/or adopt from time to time.

Key personnel at the WPPD involved with transportation include:

Bob Dowd – Executive Director/Transportation Planner (rdowd@wppdc.org)

Joan Hullett – Deputy Director (jhullett@wppdc.org)

Leah Manning – Chief Cartographer (lmanning@wppdc.org)

They can be contacted at:

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CONTACT LIST

Providing the most current information to the media and the public is very important to VDOT. To get additional information and have your questions answered regarding this important planning process please address your questions or comments to the key team members listed below.

Virginia Department of Transportation

William Guiher	VDOT Project Manager	Bob.Ball@VDOT.Virginia.gov	804-786-9483
Darrel Johnson	VDOT Central Office	Darrel.Johnson@VDOT.Virginia.gov	804-371-8868
Chad Tucker	VDOT Central Office	Chad.Tucker@VDOT.Virginia.gov	804-786-2974
Michael Gray	VDOT Salem District Planner	Michael.Gray@VDOT.Virginia.gov	540-375-3565
Paula Jones	VDOT Lynchburg District Public Affairs	Paula.Jones@VDOT.Virginia.gov	434-856-8176
Heidi Coy	VDOT Salem District Public Affairs	Heidi.Coe@VDOT.Virginia.gov	540-387-5493

Please visit the VDOT website to find additional information regarding this and other important transportation initiatives in your area.

www.virginiadot.org

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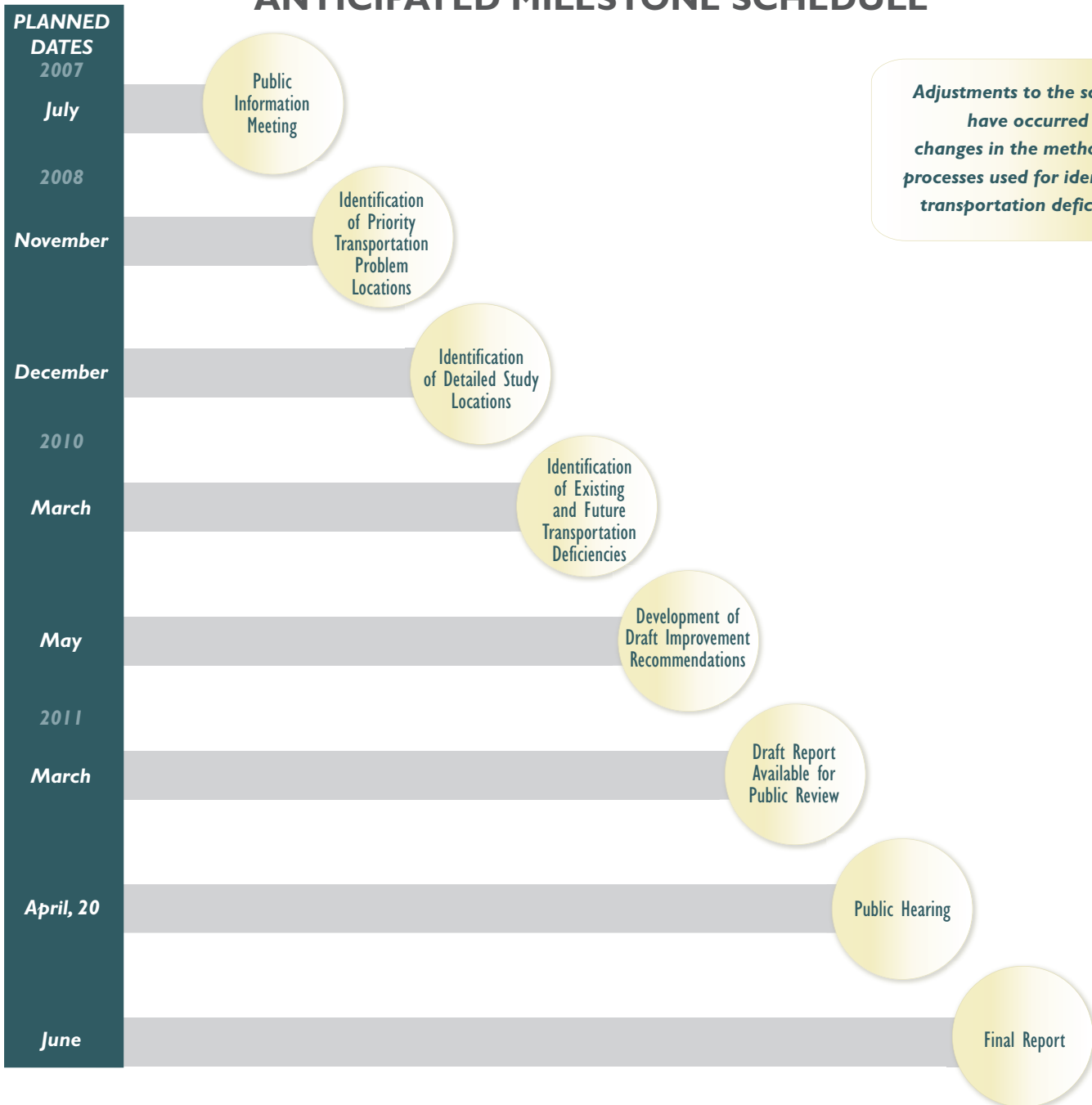


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ANTICIPATED MILESTONE SCHEDULE



Adjustments to the schedule have occurred due to changes in the methods and processes used for identifying transportation deficiencies.

*Dates are subject to change.



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