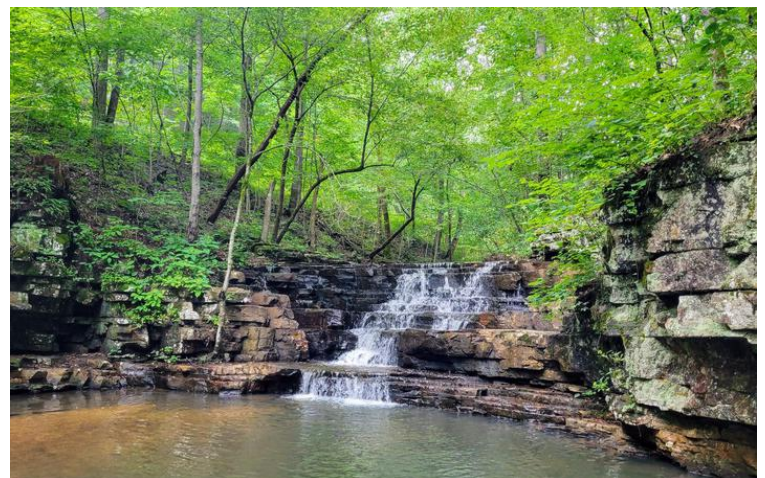
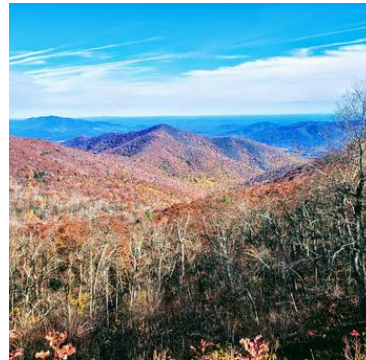




Roanoke Valley-Alleghany
REGIONAL
commission

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



rvarc.org

Driving Regional Progress Together

Message from the Chair

rvarc.org



Lorie Smith, RVARC Chair
Franklin County

On behalf of the Roanoke-Alleghany Regional Commission, I am honored to present our 2025 Annual Report. The Commission released its initial Annual Report fifty-four years ago. However, our mission remains the same: **to convene and coordinate with our member governments around issues and opportunities that promote and support jurisdictional needs and services.**

Over many decades, the Commission's work has experienced significant changes in methodologies, service needs and evolving technologies. Today, the Commission continues to work in a unified manner in areas such as broadband, highways, greenways and a host of other programmatic areas that challenge our localities and the region as a whole. We are honored to be that collective voice for all of the localities we serve!

This annual report reflects **over 40 projects that impacted our 11 local government members.** Project highlights include assisting the Town of Clifton Forge on their comprehensive plan update, working with the Town of Vinton on project management for the Glade Creek Greenway Phase 3, the construction of several new homes in Roanoke City with support of our PDC Housing Development Grant, our Chesapeake Bay Watershed program's Septic Pump-Outs in Roanoke County, and many others. In addition to our major work program items, the Commission took on innumerable technical support and grant-writing assistance efforts throughout the year.

Over the last few years, the Commission has become more actively engaged at the legislative level. A Legislative Committee, comprised of staff and Commission members, have worked to solicit locality feedback, develop an agenda, and advocate these needs to our General Assembly representatives in Richmond.

In addition to the projects and programs that this Commission undertakes, it's important to remember our primary role as a Convener. Each month, our Commission meetings are an opportunity to discuss the issues that are affecting each of us, to hear from experts in various fields to help inform our collective decision-making, and to build strong relationships and friendships with each other. To that end, I also want to thank all of you, citizens, administrators, and elected officials, whose engagement and transformative ideas keep the Commission relevant and impactful fifty-four years later.

Working together, we will realize positive impacts for our localities and seek to move our organization into its future with optimism and steadfast leadership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorie M. Smith". The script is fluid and cursive.

Commission Members

rvarc.org

The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission is composed of voting members consisting of elected officials and citizens appointed by local governments, together with non-voting liaison representatives from chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and community colleges.



ALLEGHANY COUNTY

The Honorable James Griffith
Kenneth McFadyen



CITY OF COVINGTON

Allen Dressler
The Honorable Fred Forbes



BOTETOURT COUNTY

The Honorable Brandon Nicely
The Honorable Amy White
Gary Larrowe
Alternate: Billy Martin



CITY OF ROANOKE

The Honorable Peter Volosin, *Vice Chair*
The Honorable Terry McGuire
Dawn Erdman
Barbara Duerk



CRAIG COUNTY

The Honorable Jesse Spence
Dan Collins
Alternate: Woody Lipps



CITY OF SALEM

The Honorable Anne Marie Green
The Honorable Hunter Holliday
Denise P. King



FRANKLIN COUNTY

The Honorable Mike Carter
The Honorable Lorie Smith, *Chair*
Steve Sandy
Chris Kebler



TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE

The Honorable Debbie Laudermilk
Chuck Unroe



TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT

The Honorable David Clements
Robert Wood



ROANOKE COUNTY

The Honorable Phil North
The Honorable Tammy Shepherd
Dean Martin, *Treasurer*
J. Lee E. Osborne
Alternate: Richard Caywood
Alternate: The Honorable Kevin Hutchins



TOWN OF VINTON

The Honorable Bradley E. Grose
Richard "Pete" Peters
Alternates: Cody Sexton, Sabrina McCarthy

LIASON (NON-VOTING) MEMBERS

John Hull, **Roanoke Regional Partnership** | Josh Taylor, **Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce & Tourism** | Landon Howard, **Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge** | Amanda Livingston, **Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce** | Virginia Western Community College | Dr. John Rainone, **Mountain Gateway Community College** | Eric Sichau, **Roanoke Regional Chamber**

Our Mission

The Regional Commission is a leader in driving collaboration and strategy within our communities on issues that are critical to the economic growth, quality of life, and sustainability of the region.

What We Do

The Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission brings together local governments and other organizations to promote discussion and actions on issues of regional importance.

Since 1969, our commission of elected officials, citizens, and staff, has focused on regional priorities like economic growth, transportation, and legislative action. The RVARC is one of 21 regional planning agencies in the Commonwealth and serves local governments, businesses, citizens and community organizations.

By providing services in planning, grants, and project implementation, we empower our members to make positive change. Our efforts foster partnerships while addressing issues that span municipal borders. We believe the region thrives when communities work together.

Our Team



Jeremy Holmes, *Executive Director*

Sherry Dean, *Finance Director*

Amanda McGee, AICP, *Community Development Director*

Chris Robertson, *Transportation Director*

Andrea Garland, PTP, *TDM Director*

Bailey Medeiros, *Roanoke Valley Collective Response Director*

Bryan Hill, AICP, CZA, *Senior Planner*

Virginia Mullen, *Office Manager*

Jessica Mahuron, *Public Engagement Manager*

Alison Stinnette, *Transportation Planner II*

Jinren Yuan, *Transportation Planner II*

Terra Famuliner, *Regional Planner I*

Amya Matthews, *Regional Planner I*

Shira Goldman, *Regional Planner I*

Curtis Jones, MPH, *Grants and Program Administrator, RVCR*

Anna Bauter, MPH, *Peer Recovery and Community Engagement Coordinator, RVCR*

Boards and Committees

rvarc.org



We thank community stakeholders, businesses, citizens, elected leaders, and member government staff for their partnership and contributions to RVARC boards and committees. Their individual and combined efforts build a stronger region through ongoing cooperation and collaboration.



Scan the QR code for comprehensive information on RVARC boards and committees.



Boards

- Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
- Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO)

Committees

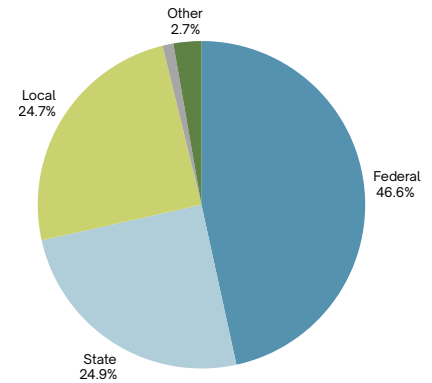
- RVARC Executive Committee
- RVARC Legislative Committee
- Air Service Task Force
- Transportation Technical Committee (TTC)
- Roanoke Valley Collective Response Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS)
- Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Roanoke River Blueway Advisory Committee
- Stormwater Advisory Committee

2025 Financial Statement

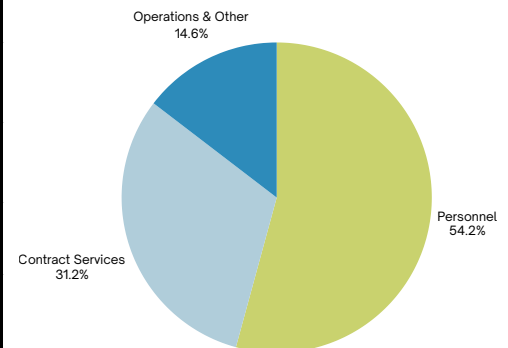
rvarc.org

Revenue, Grants and Appropriations	\$
Federal Grants and Appropriations	\$1,152,081
State Grants and Appropriations	\$617,073
Local Grants and Appropriations	\$610,210
Contract Income	\$26,538
Other	\$68,010
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,473,912
Expenses	\$
Personnel	\$1,209,497
Contract Services	\$694,727
Operations & Other Expenditures	\$325,631
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,229,855
Federal Funding Breakdown	\$
Regional Transportation Programs	\$510,248
Appalachian Regional Commission	\$70,092
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission	\$15,843
Economic Development Administration	\$62,545
Environmental Protection Agency	\$74,287
Federal Emergency Management Agency	\$34,476
American Rescue Plan	\$68,841
Housing and Urban Development	\$6,513
Health and Human Services Administration	\$309,236
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDING	\$1,152,081

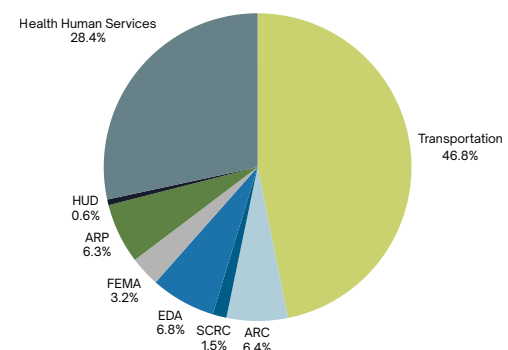
Revenues



Expenses



Federal Funding



Economic Development

Regional Commission staff provide a variety of services for the region's localities and economic development organizations. These services include data analysis, mapping, economic impact studies, and coordination of regional initiatives. The Regional Commission also works with local chambers of commerce, tourism groups, and other partners to support local tourism, business recruitment, workforce development, and branding.



HOUSING PROGRAM

This year we leveraged **\$467,000 to create 8 new units of affordable housing for a total of 13,428 square feet of new housing**. In August 2025, the Allegheny Highlands Economic Development Corp. and RVARC co-hosted a **housing summit** featuring regional housing and workforce experts. The summit convened 125 attendees from public and private sector agencies from around the region and state.



CHILDCARE ACCESS

Designed to help navigate the process of finding affordable childcare in the Roanoke Valley, this resource provides **valuable insights and practical tips for accessing childcare, including facility listings and employer resources**. RVARC staff collaborated with our Collective Response, Economic Development, and United Way stakeholders to discover better opportunities to push forward the need for childcare within our region. See the online guide at rvarc.org/childcare-access.



Photo by Martin Kraft - CC BY-SA 3.0

LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

The Regional Commission's legislative outreach efforts helped **Craig County secure a \$1.9 million appropriation to complete construction of a new radio emergency tower**. This will help provide 911 service to previously inaccessible parts of Craig County.



CEDS UPDATE

Staff and the CEDS Committee developed the new **2025-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**, adopted by the RVARC Board in June 2025. This CEDS document assesses **regional economies, establishes regional goals and objectives, and outlines an action plan of priority projects**. This document will be updated annually, outlining progress made in implementing the strategy. Learn more at ceds.rvarc.org

Environment & Resiliency

RVARC plays a pivotal role in addressing environmental concerns in the region, working alongside member localities, state, and federal entities. Focus areas include water supply planning, watershed improvement, air quality, and stormwater management. We foster regional partnerships, develop funding strategies, and provide community outreach and education to promote environmental sustainability and conservation.



SEPTIC PUMP-OUT PROGRAM

Made possible by Virginia Environmental Endowment and the Department of Environmental Quality, RVARC **administered two successful septic pump-out programs** this year. **108 pump-outs** have been completed since the beginning of this initiative in 2022. A combined value of **\$50,687** has gone directly to Roanoke and Botetourt County citizens. RVARC secured funding to continue these efforts beyond 2025.



CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED

RVARC collaborates with the Department of Environmental Quality, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, other Planning District Commissions, and environmental nonprofits to increase education, outreach, and implementation of best management practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. **Two free rain barrel workshops took place in Botetourt County, distributing 20 barrels.**



ARBOR DAY MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

RVARC, through the Virginia Trees for Clean Water initiative provided by the Virginia Department of Urban Forestry, assists in funding localities for their annual Arbor Day Celebrations. This year, the **Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, and the City of Salem collectively planted 32 trees, securing \$8,789 in funding** to achieve this initiative.



SOLAR ENERGY

In 2025, RVARC became a **SolSmart Designated Regional Organization**. We created a **solar energy resource page** to make it easier for residents and businesses to install and access solar energy. SolSmart is a national program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy that has helped hundreds of local governments become “open for solar business.” Learn more at rvarc.org/solar.

Transportation

RVARC plays an active role in various transportation-focused planning initiatives. This includes offering staff support to the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization (RVTPO) and overseeing the planning services for rural transportation in the region. The commission's responsibilities encompass tackling challenges related to different modes of transportation such as transit, pedestrian, bicycle, freight, rail, air, and trucking.



TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PROGRAMS

The RVTPO administers the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). This funding program gave additional funding for **four projects, totaling \$3,366,222 in surface infrastructure improvements in our region.**



RVTPO PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

RVTPO coordinated significant outreach for public input throughout the region for FY25 projects. The 2045 Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan Amendments had **126** public engagement site visits and **76** survey takers. STBG and CRP grant projects had **169** public engagement site visits and **63 survey takers.** The Bus Stop Accessibility Study had **541** public engagement site visits, with **108** completed surveys, including in-person outreach at the Third Street Station in downtown Roanoke.



Photo courtesy of RADAR Transit

RURAL MICROTRANSIT SUPPORT

We supported **Franklin County in learning more about microtransit and improving transportation opportunities between our communities.** This resulted in us successfully securing a technical assistance grant with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to develop a RVARC-FC Microtransit Feasibility Study by the end of FY26.



BUS STOP ACCESSIBILITY STUDY

The Bus Stop Accessibility Study is in collaboration with Valley Metro, RADAR, and CORTAN. The study will **review and develop improved infrastructure and bus stop recommendations.** The study collected substantial public input and aims for completion in FY26.



Roanoke Valley Transportation
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Staffed by the
REGIONAL commission

Transportation Demand Management

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) is a set of strategies and programs designed to make transportation systems more efficient by reducing the demand for single-occupancy vehicle trips. **RIDE Solutions** is a TDM program of the Regional Commission that encourages use of transit, ridesharing, bicycling, and walking in the RVARC region. Through education, incentives, and innovative programs, TDM helps create a more connected, sustainable, and livable community.



BETTER BUS STOPS FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

We coordinated the installation of **three new pollinator-themed bus shelters in Southeast Roanoke** with designs by local artist Molly Kernan in partnership with Roanoke Arts Commission and Valley Metro. These “Bee City” bus shelters add color and vibrancy to Jamison Avenue while providing needed shelter for riders.



Photo courtesy of Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

ELECTRIFYING THE REGION

RVARC developed an **EV Infrastructure Implementation Strategy** for localities and businesses in the region. **This toolkit assists jurisdictions in identifying optimal locations for EV charging station deployment.** This strategy is designed to guide efforts over the coming years, supporting a sustainable and connected regional transportation future. Learn more at rvarc.org/evplan.



EMPLOYER OUTREACH

We developed new materials to engage with regional employers to help them achieve sustainability goals while retaining their workforce. Our spring marketing campaign provided significant outreach to 100+ regional employers. **RIDE Solutions employer services are free of charge, providing access to expert assistance and resources.** Learn more at ridesolutions.org/employer-resources



CONNECTING VA APP

Residents throughout the region log their sustainable transit trips in the **ConnectingVA** app. Collectively, members in our region reduced **10,417** vehicle trips, saved **8,757** gallons of gas, and reduced **171,600** lbs. of carbon emissions. **1291** carpool matches in our region were made through the app.

Roanoke Valley Collective Response

The Collective Response, a program of the Regional Commission, combats the opioid and addiction crisis using a collaborative, multi-sector strategy focusing on the root causes of addiction. Their approach combines evidence-based practices with local insights, creating regional-specific solutions. Strategies include prevention, advanced treatment programs, long term recovery support, and resources for families impacted by addiction, ensuring a comprehensive response to this complex challenge.



SUPPORTING STAKEHOLDERS

RVCR convened **281 participants in FY25, hosting over 24 meetings, workshops and trainings - expanding its footprint to localities across the region.** These stakeholder events featured strong collaboration, sharing of community resources and collection of valuable data and input. Monthly “**Peers and Pizza**” events at the **Bradley Free Clinic** provided significant support to the peer recovery community.



BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION UPDATE

Working with Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance, RVCR organized participation in the 2025 update of the Blueprint for Action, **a community-driven plan to abate the addiction crisis in the Roanoke Valley with identified solutions and priorities for maximum impact.** Stakeholders participated through a virtual meeting, in-person engagement and online survey.



Photo by Diane Deffenbaugh for Virginia Tech

RECOVERY ECOSYSTEMS CONFERENCE

In September 2024, RVCR partnered with Virginia Tech, Carilion Clinic and Fralin Biomedical Research Institute to host an **inaugural conference with 125 participants across sectors and multiple states.** The conference highlighted the collective work of organizations serving the recovery ecosystem – providing space to uplift, educate, create connections and share best practices.



OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY & RECOVERY MONTH

Hosted at the Taubman Museum of Art, the 2024 Overdose Awareness Day brought together **250 community members to honor lives lost and provide hope, with 37 organizations** sharing resources. **4,161 purple awareness ribbons and Recovery Month toolkits** were distributed to organizations, businesses and individuals.



ENGAGE RVARC

In 2025, we launched **Engage RVARC**, an interactive, centralized public engagement platform for Regional Commission projects.

Scan the QR Code to download this Annual Report and explore our current projects!



engage.rvarc.org



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

REGIONAL commission

313 Luck Ave SW Roanoke, VA 24016

540-343-4417 | rvarc@rvarc.org | rvarc.org



Subscribe to our newsletter at engage.rvarc.org