

Richmond Regional
**Transportation
Planning Organization**

New Member Orientation

Introduction

The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) is the region's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization and handles transportation planning in the region.

The region is comprised of the following localities:

- Town of Ashland
- Charles City County
- Chesterfield County
- Goochland County
- Hanover County



- Henrico County
- New Kent County
- Powhatan County
- City of Richmond

What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

MPOs lead the transportation planning process for each designated region in the country. They are responsible for:

- Prioritizing transportation initiatives
- Policy-making for financial programming
- Carrying out the planning process in partnership with VDOT, VDRPT and other partners.
- Tracking the influence of demographics on transportation.

The MPO is a federally mandated and federally funded transportation policy-making organization. It's made up of member governments and a representative group of local stakeholders.

MPOs were created to ensure regional cooperation in transportation planning. They also safeguard that expenditures of governmental funds for transportation projects and programs are made based on "Comprehensive, Cooperative and Continuing (3-C) planning process." Federal funds for transportation projects and programs are channeled through this process. Area highway and transit projects must be approved by the MPO to be eligible for federal funds.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) was signed into law by President Biden in November of 2021. This sweeping infrastructure package has many positive implications for metropolitan planning organizations and regional planning in general. RRTPO staff will keep RRTPO Policy board members apprised of funding opportunities as they are released.



What is our Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization?

Our Region's MPO, known as the **Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO)**, helps facilitate collaboration and cooperation among all interested parties, including residents, in regard to funding and planning the future of the region's transportation network. It's important to make transportation decisions on a regional level because people and goods cross jurisdictional boundaries every day.

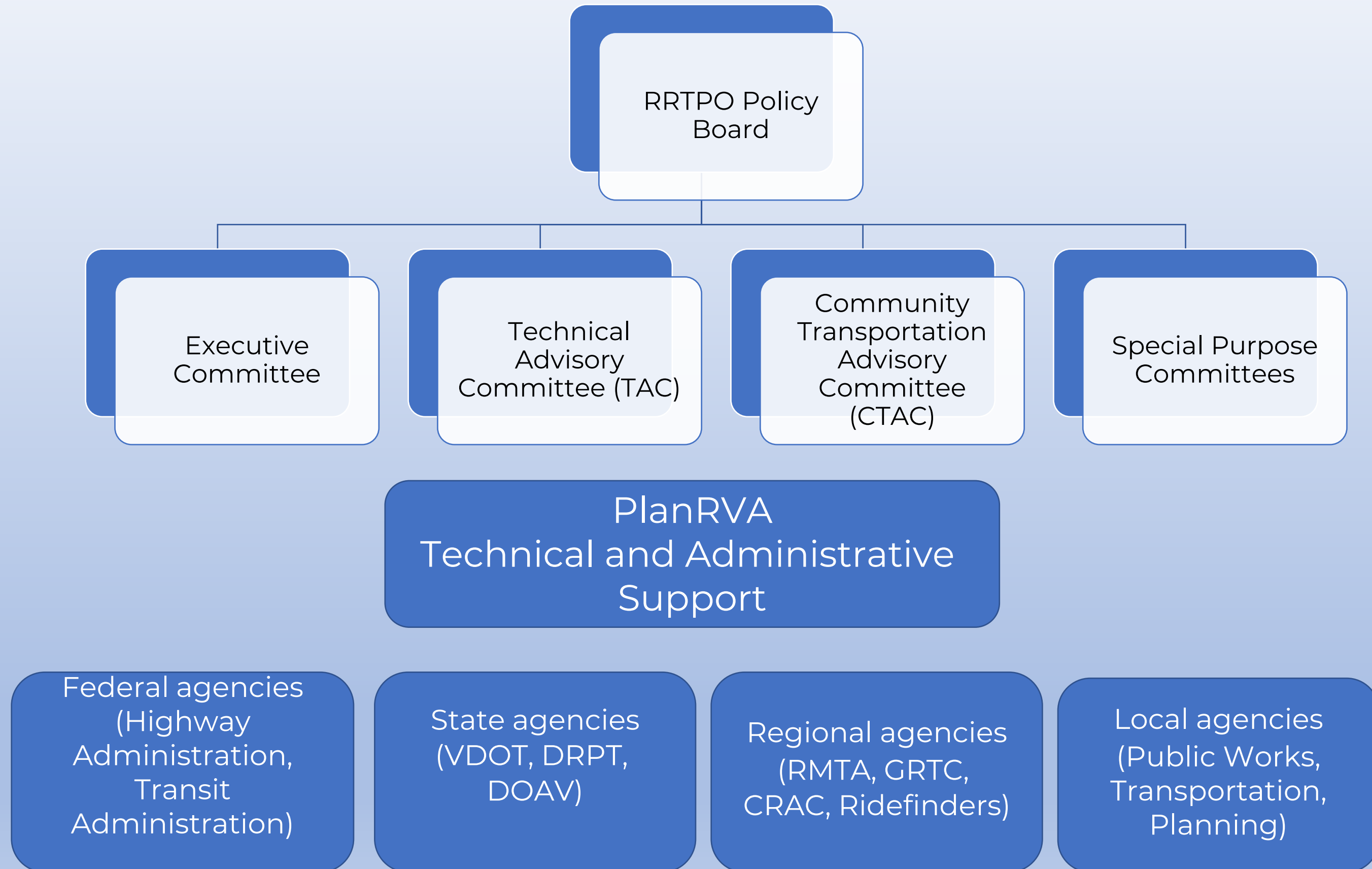
The RRTPO is the federally-designated forum for regional transportation decision-making, planning, and programming. The agency's board is the only transportation organization in the Richmond region that includes elected officials from all nine of the Region's localities. Policymakers from regional, state, and federal transportation agencies also sit on the board.



Mission Statement

“To serve as the federal and state designated regional transportation planning organization that serves as the forum for cooperative transportation decision-making to assure excellence in mobility and safety within and through the Richmond region.”

TPO Organizational Structure



Membership

Voting Member Organizations (Number of votes)

Local Governments:

- Town of Ashland (1)
- County of Charles City (1)
- County of Chesterfield (4)
- County of Goochland (2)
- County of Hanover (3)
- County of Henrico (4)
- County of New Kent (2)
- County of Powhatan (2)
- City of Richmond (4)

Agencies:

- Capital Region Airport Commission (1)
- GRTC Transit System (1)
- Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority (1)
- Virginia Secretary of Transportation Designee (1)

Total number of votes = 27

Nonvoting Member Organizations

- Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee Chairman
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- RideFinders
- Virginia Department of Aviation
- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

RRTPO Policy Board

Purpose and Duties of the RRTPO Policy Board:

- a. Perform policy and technical functions for Richmond Urbanized Area transportation planning reflecting a multimodal process founded upon coordination and cooperation between planning, transit, and service providers.
- b. Make transportation policies to develop and implement the Richmond Regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan and related efforts.
- c. Establish policy for continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process;
- d. Annually evaluate the current Transportation Plan, accept it when appropriate, determine when a re-evaluation of the Transportation Plan is necessary, and recommend appropriate action;
- e. Review the results of the re-evaluation;
- f. Determine the influence of current data upon the Transportation Plan in relation to previous data and projected trends;
- g. Cooperate in the evaluation of forecasts of transportation demands;
- h. Work cooperatively on any proposal, alternate lines, and work performed on the study, location, and design of facilities and programs in the Transportation Plan;
- i. Assign special or standing committees, or ad hoc working groups to specific assignments;
- j. Establish priorities for consideration in the development of the areawide Unified Planning Work Program, and to approve the areawide Unified Planning Work Program;
- k. Approve programs of planning projects and programs of capital expenditures and construction projects, including the annual Transportation Improvement Program, its Annual Element, the Short-Range Transportation Plan, the Unified Planning Work Program; and
- l. Perform and approve other plans and programs as may be required by state and federal regulations, and Executive orders and directives.

RRTPO Policy Board Actions

- Review and approval of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and any proposed amendments
- Review and approval of annual budget* and any proposed amendments
- Review and approval of amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Review and approval of the Long Range Transportation Plan
- Review and approval of Regional Funding Framework
- Review and approval of amendments to the Transportation Alternatives Program
- Review and approval of amendments to the CMAQ Program
- Review and approval of Section 5310 applications
- Review and approval of Smart Scale project applications
- Review and approval of Safety Performance Targets
- Review and approval of organizational bylaws amendments (as needed)

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within a metropolitan planning area. At a minimum, a UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, who will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source of funds. The UPWP also serves as the RRTPO budget and work program for the current fiscal year.

The two primary funding sources supporting the UPWP work program are FHWA Planning funds (PL) and FTA Section 5303 funds. These two federal fund sources are generally matched by state and local sources on an 80% federal (FHWA and FTA) 10% state (VDOT and DRPT), and 10% local (RRPDC member dues and RRTPO special assessment) basis.



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Under Federal law and agreements with state agencies, the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) has authority to select projects and program regional Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, including the Transportation Alternatives (TA) set-aside.

For other funding programs, the RRTPO does not have authority to select projects but is responsible for adding projects to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Based on federal regulations and RRTPO policy, all projects proposed to be added to the TIP are screened for consistency with the regional long-range transportation plan, ConnectRVA 2045, and the regional air quality conformity assessment. All proposed revisions are also evaluated for fiscal constraint, or the ability to fund the project with projected revenues.

Long Range Transportation Plan

Richmond region's Long-Range Transportation Plan, **ConnectRVA 2045** was adopted by the RRTPO Policy Board in October 2021. The plan guides the Richmond region's multi-modal transportation infrastructure investments over the next 23 years. The plan addresses major issues that needs to be addressed in the long-term for all modes of travel including transit, highways, bicycles, pedestrians, and freight.

ConnectRVA 2045 represents the 25-year vision for the community's transportation needs and expectations. Developed collaboratively by the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) and supported by PlanRVA, it considers all types of travel and identifies projects that will best serve bicyclists, pedestrians, people using public transportation, and occupants of single occupancy vehicles, as well as ensure the efficient movement of goods and services. A coordinated transportation plan for the Richmond Region's future depends on a clear understanding of how people and goods move around the country today and how these movements are expected to occur in the next 20 to 25 years. Every five years, urban planners at PlanRVA, along with partners from member localities, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) have brought their expertise to the development of the long-range transportation plan. Regional plan development is critically influenced by ideas and opinions of community members participating in public meetings, workshops, and surveys, and have been essential to the creation of a successful plan. The last plan was adopted in 2016 and evaluated needs through 2040; ConnectRVA 2045 projects regional needs out to the year 2045.

BikePedRVA 2045

The purpose of BikePedRVA 2045 is to update the 2004 Richmond Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, document the progress that has been made in the past 16 years, and forecast a vision for the next 25 years. This plan has been prepared in coordination with the ConnectRVA 2045 long-range transportation plan, and was adopted by the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Policy Board on May 5, 2022.

Transportation Alternatives Program

The Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set Aside program is dedicated to bicycle and pedestrian projects and programs. Applications for the TA program are administered through a statewide program and the RRTPO and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) have shared responsibility for selecting projects for funding. The RRTPO has a defined methodology for project prioritization which incorporates both the statewide merit score prepared by VDOT and region-specific factors including proximity to equity emphasis areas (EEA) and inclusion in BikePedRVA 2045, the regional active transportation plan.

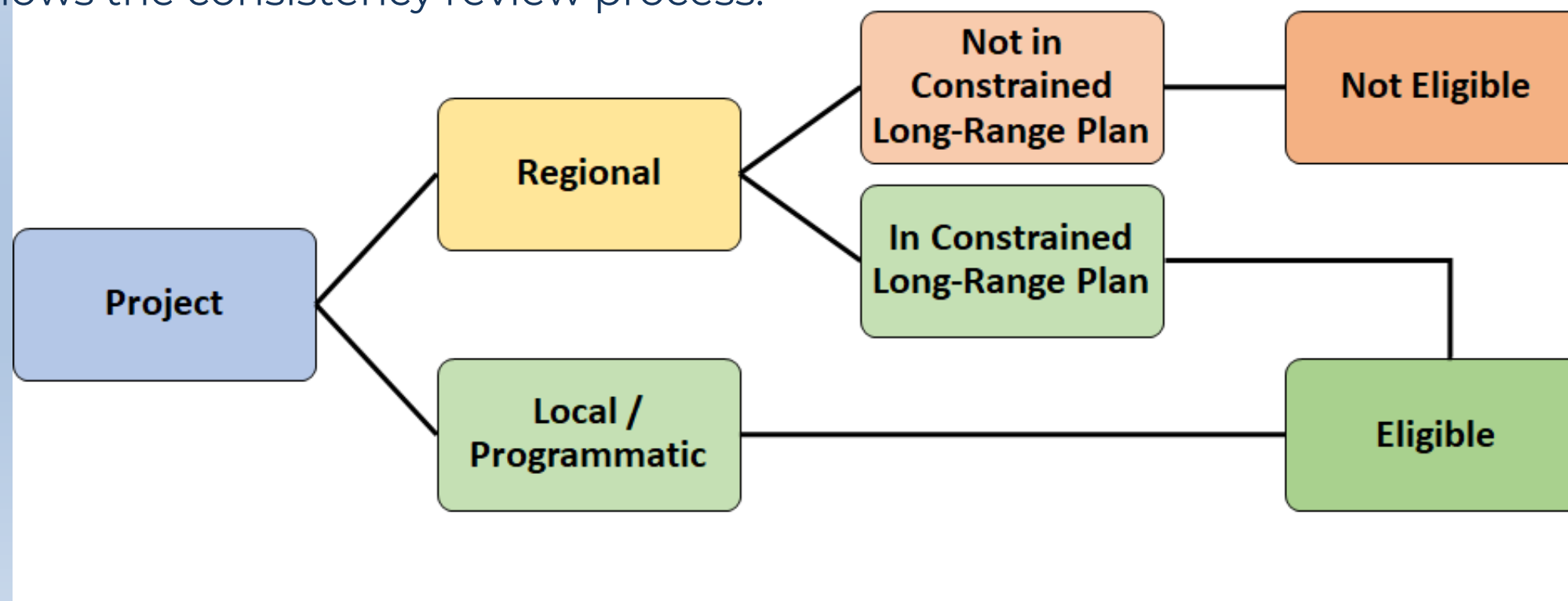
Annual Safety Targets

The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) requires a data-driven, strategic approach to managing highway safety on all public roads, focusing on performance (see 23 CFR Part 490). The regulations in 23 CFR Part 490 establish safety performance targets that assess fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. The Commonwealth is required to set a target each year; every Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to adopt either the state target or set our own targets for safety. The deadline for the MPO to set safety targets this year is February 29th. In recent years, the RRTPO has followed the state targets, but MPOs may choose to set different regional targets. The draft targets follow a hybrid approach, aiming for a level number of fatalities and declining number of serious injuries based on current trends.

SMART SCALE

The SMART SCALE program is the principal program for awarding state and federal transportation funding in Virginia. This process helps Virginia meet its most critical transportation needs using limited tax dollars. It evaluates potential transportation projects based on key factors like how they improve safety, reduce congestion, increase accessibility, contribute to economic development, promote efficient land use, and affect the environment. Each round, the RRTPO is eligible to submit regional projects to compete in the statewide High-Priority Projects (HPP). In recent practice, the RRTPO also recommends projects to PlanRVA for planning district commission consideration.

ConnectRVA 2045 Consistency: ConnectRVA 2045 establishes categories of projects which are regional in nature and must be included in the constrained long-range plan (CLRP) prior to inclusion in the TIP. Conversely, other project types are considered either local or programmatic in nature and can advance without being specifically listed. The project types under each category can be reviewed in Chapter 5 of ConnectRVA 2045. Each proposed project was reviewed for consistency with ConnectRVA 2045. Figure 1 graphically shows the consistency review process.



SMART SCALE continued

VTRANS Needs: All SMART SCALE projects are required to meet a need identified as a mid-term need in the statewide transportation plan, VTRANS. For high-priority projects, the project must meet a need on a Corridor of Statewide Significant (CoSS) or on the regional network (RN). Safety needs and Urban Development Area (UDA) needs are not eligible as regional applications; these projects must be submitted by localities to be considered. All projects were screened against the 2021 mid-term VTRANS needs.

High-Priority Projects (HPP) Eligibility: The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has made significant changes to the types of projects that are eligible for the high-priority projects program this year. Each project was screened against the available guidance for Round 6. The following project types are eligible for RRTPO or PlanRVA submission:

1. Highway Capacity: Adding New Lanes, Roadway on New Alignment, and Managed Lanes (HOV/HOT/Shoulder), New Bridge
2. Interchanges: New Interchange-Non-Limited Access Facility, Improve Grade-Separated Interchange, New Interchange-Limited Access Facility, and Ramp Improvements
3. Transit or Freight Improvements: New or Improved Passenger Rail Stations or Service, Freight Rail Improvements, High-Capacity / Fixed Guideway Transit (including Light Rail Transit or Bus Rapid Transit), Transit Transfer Stations

Other Project Types: preferred alternative in a STARS, Pipeline Study, or Arterial Management Plan or regionally significant projects from an MPO, transit, or local study consistent with VDOT methodology

Executive Committee

Purpose and Duties of the RRTPO Executive Committee:

- a. Facilitate work program planning and management of the regional transportation planning process by providing policy guidance and input on future agenda items.
- b. Any other power granted to it by an affirmative vote of the MPO policy board in an open meeting, provided a quorum is present at said open meeting, such as but not limited to
- c. Recommend amendments to the MPO-adopted Unified Planning Work Program and Transportation Improvement Program;
- d. Recommend additions and/or revisions to the highway functional classification system;
- e. Approve socioeconomic data and forecasts; and
- f. Recommend endorsements of requests from local governments, agencies, and other organizations seeking state and federal grant funds.

Technical Advisory Committee

Purpose and Duties of the RRTPO TAC:

- a. Serve as a technical advisory committee to the MPO, providing technical review, comments, and recommendations on specific transportation plans, programs, studies, and other appropriate documents and regional transportation issues.
- b. Address other matters and concerns if directed by the MPO or the MPO Chairman. TAC shall specifically be responsible for reviewing, and providing technical comments and recommendations to the MPO on the following:
 1. Unified Planning Work Program
 2. Transportation Improvement Program
 3. Long Range Transportation Plan
 4. Air Quality Planning
 5. Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

The Purpose and Duties of the RRTPO CTAC: Advise the MPO on issues, plans, studies, and matters necessary and appropriate for providing viable and reasonable citizen input. Recently, the RRTPO increased the role of the CTAC to include the following:

Public Engagement Plan

CTAC leads development and revisions to the RRTPO's public engagement plan, a federally required plan that shapes all outreach efforts.

Long-Range Planning

CTAC coordinates with Community Engagement Manager and project lead to develop project-specific Engagement Strategies for each major planning project and helps gather input during specified public comment period.

Short-Range Planning

CTAC coordinates with Community Engagement Manager and project lead to develop Engagement Strategies for the Transportation Improvement Program and helps gather input during public comment periods on funding-related decisions.

General Outreach & Engagement

CTAC coordinates with Community Engagement Manager to prioritize and develop community events for RRTPO promotional activities. CTAC members take a direct role in representing the agency along with staff at public events.

Commonly Used Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
CMP	Congestion Management Process
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (federal funding)
CTAC	Community Transportation Advisory Committee, RRTPO advisory committee
CVTA	Central Virginia Transportation Authority
DEQ	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
DRPT	Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
FAST Act	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FY / FFY	Fiscal Year / Federal Fiscal Year
GRTC	Greater Richmond Transit Company
IMR	Interchange Modification Report
L RTP	Long Range Transportation Plan
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization, federally mandated and funded transportation policy-making organization such as the RRPTO
MRAQC	Metropolitan Richmond Air Quality Committee
OIPI	Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment
PL	Planning funds (federal funding category)

Commonly Used Acronyms continued

Acronym	Definition
PlanRVA	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
Policy Board	Decision-making body of the RRTPO, composed of elected officials from nine jurisdictions
RAMPO	Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (aka MPO/RRTPO)
RMTA	Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority
RRPDC	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, which
RRTPO	Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization
RSTP	Regional Surface Transportation Program (federal funding)
RSTBG	Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (federal funding)
RTC	Richmond / Tri-Cities MPOs
STARS	Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program, list of upcoming transportation projects
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program, the RRTPO annual budget and work program
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VTrans	Virginia statewide, long-range transportation plan

HELPFUL TRANSPORTATION LINKS

<u>What is transportation planning?</u>
<u>Transportation planning in our region</u>
<u>Regional transportation funding</u>
<u>Statewide planning and programming</u>
<u>Federal and State requirements</u>
<u>Transportation planning – how does it all fit together?</u>
<u>Best Practices</u>
<u>Bike Ped Plan</u>
<u>Congestion Management Process</u>
<u>GIS Geo-Hub</u>
<u>Long Range Transportation Plan</u>
<u>Transportation Improvement Program</u>



What is the CVTA?

Created in 2020 through legislation passed by the General Assembly and powered by PlanRVA, the Central Virginia Transportation Authority helps move our region forward by directing priority transportation funding to improve mobility and the quality of life for people living here.

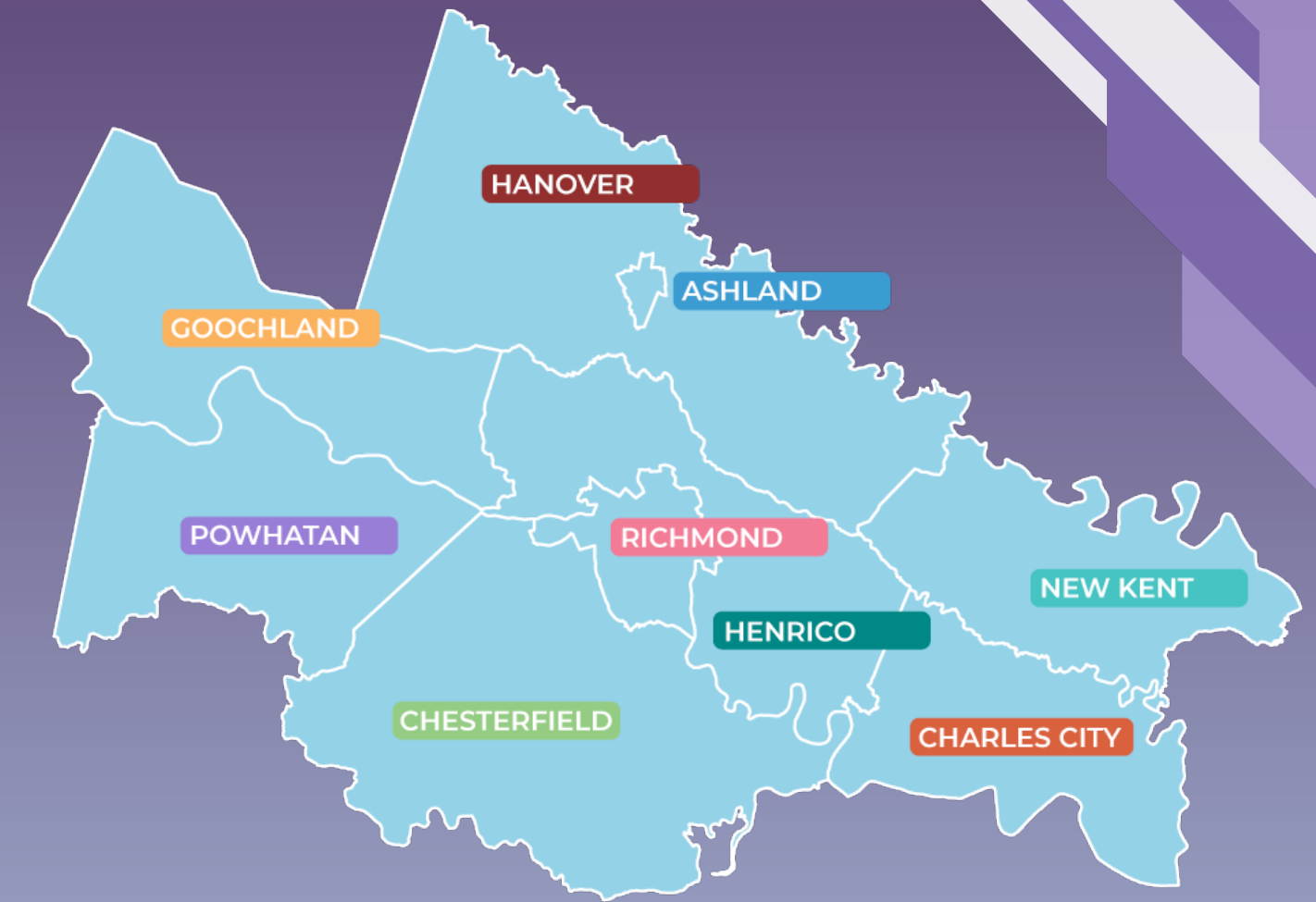
The CVTA focuses on transportation projects across nine jurisdictions: the town of Ashland, the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan and the city of Richmond. Member localities and other regional bodies serve on the Authority's Board of Directors and committees.

The CVTA provides a resource for member governments and agencies to focus on regionwide needs and serves as a partner to help efficiently leverage local dollars to access larger funding opportunities such as the Virginia Smart Scale Program, the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other competitive programs.

The Authority allows the community to look to the future because there is a stable foundation of financial resources to support investments in Central Virginia, while giving jurisdiction members more ownership of local transportation funding. It's an exciting road ahead.



What is the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (PlanRVA)?



PlanRVA is a regional organization focused on community development, emergency management, the environment and transportation, and it provides staffing to assist the RRTPO in its administration, project evaluation and prioritization and other identified needs. Established in 1969, PlanRVA has been the home of cooperation among the nine jurisdictions of Central Virginia for more than 50 years.

PlanRVA is where the region comes together to look ahead.

What PlanRVA Does

PlanRVA's team of experienced planners and experts have been supporting the region's future development in the areas of:



Environmental
Justice & Resiliency



Community Outreach
& Engagement



Emergency Preparedness
& Hazard Mitigation



Transportation &
Pedestrian Safety

How PlanRVA Does It



- Use data to identify future challenges and opportunities
- Convene local governments to facilitate regional collaboration
- Cultivate partnerships and resources to develop innovative solutions
- Draft and implement plans of action

...to ensure the region is a place for all to live, work, play and thrive.

PlanRVA

Where the region comes together to look ahead.



Stay connected!

www.planrva.org





How it all connects...

The Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization leads transportation planning in the region by identifying priorities in collaboration with residents and interested parties.

The CVTA works to collect and pool regional dollars. The CVTA uses the dollars to fund transportation projects across the region that align with the plans developed by the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

PlanRVA provides the staffing, administrative and other support to allow the RRTPO and the CVTA to accomplish those things.