

Introduction – MPO and RRTPO

Who Handles Transportation Planning in Our Region?

The RRTPO, the region's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization handles transportation planning in the region.

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. The RRTPO is comprised of the City of Richmond, Town of Ashland, and the Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, and Powhatan.

TPO 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."