



# What is the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC/PlanRVA)

## Our History

Planning District Commissions (PDCs) were established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1968 under the Virginia Area Development Act (Code of Virginia, Title 15.2, 2210) (revised and retitled the Regional Cooperation Act in 1995.)

The state was organized into districts based on the community of interest among its counties, cities and towns. Each Planning District Commission was created as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth. and chartered under the Regional Cooperation Act by the local governments of each planning district. As such, they are a creation of local government encouraged by the state. There are 21 planning districts in Virginia and each commission selects an Executive Director to manage daily operations.

The Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, now known as PlanRVA, was formed by the local governments in our region on August 14, 1969. The statutory framework for the creation of planning district commissions recognized that they would be voluntary associations of local government intended to foster regional cooperation. The intention was to provide a forum for state and local governments to address issues of a regional nature, things of greater than local significance.

PlanRVA is comprised of elected officials and citizens who address mutual challenges and develop solutions for our Region.

## Governance Structure

The Commission sets policy for the organization, appoints the executive director to manage the affairs of the Commission, and works to address issues of regional significance.

The Commission composition is unique in that all nine member local governments appoint elected officials. In addition, localities with larger populations may also appoint additional members, including planning commissioners and citizen representatives.

The Commission meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the [PlanRVA offices](#). All meetings are open to the public.

Each year, Commission members elect officers to serve on the Executive Committee in the positions of chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary. The Executive Committee typically meets monthly prior to the regular Commission meeting. There are two additional subcommittees of the Board: the Public Outreach and Engagement committee and the Audit, Facilities and Finance committee.

Commission Leadership

PlanRVA is governed by a 33-member Board of Commissioners consisting of 22 elected officials, seven local planning commissioners and four citizen representatives. The number of elected officials representing each locality is allocated according to the population of each locality.

## **What PlanRVA Does:**

PlanRVA's team of experienced planners and experts have been supporting the region's future development in the following areas to ensure the region is a place for all to live, work, play and thrive:

- Environmental justice and resilience
- Community outreach and engagement
- Emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation
- Transportation and pedestrian safety

## **How we do 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

## **PlanRVA helps to support the nine member localities by:**

- Conducting studies on issues and problems of regional significance
- Identifying and potential opportunities for local cost savings and staffing efficiencies through coordinated local government efforts
- Implementing services upon request of member localities
- Providing technical assistance to state government and member localities
- Serving as a liaison between localities and state agencies as requested
- Reviewing local government aid applications as required by applicable law
- Conducting strategic planning for the region as required by applicable law
- Developing regional functional area plans as deemed necessary by the commission or as requested by member localities
- Assisting state agencies, as requested, in the development of substate plans
- Collecting and maintaining demographic, economic and other data, acting as a state data center affiliate in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission
- Participating in a statewide geographic information system, the Virginia Geographic Information Network, as directed by the Department of Planning and Budget

**PlanRVA also provides staffing to the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) and the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) to assist in their, project evaluation and prioritization and other identified needs.**

## **What the PlanRVA Commission Does:**

The purpose of a planning district commission is "...to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing, on a regional basis, problems of greater than local significance". The cooperation facilitates the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and takes into consideration regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services.

Some examples of Commission actions:

- Set policies and procedures for the agency and any proposed amendments to those.
- Review and approve proposed amendments to the agency's bylaws.
- Review and approve the annual audit report
- Review and approve the annual work program and budget and any proposed amendments to those.
- Review monthly intergovernmental and environmental reports.
- Review and approve agency key imperatives.
- Review and approve memorandums of understanding with other agencies, including the CVTA and RRTPO for administration of those organizations.
- Review and approve quarterly and annual financial statements.
- Reviews and approves the submission of PlanRVA's allotted transportation projects for [Smart Scale](#).