

# Annual Report

FY23





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Rappahannock-Rapidan  
REGIONAL COMMISSION

*The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission serves the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock, and the towns of Culpeper, Gordonsville, Madison, Orange, Remington, The Plains, Warrenton and Washington.*





# BOARD MEMBERS (AS OF JULY 2023)

**Chair: Fred Catlin** · **Vice-Chair: Robert Coiner** · **Treasurer: John Egertson**

Culpeper County

Gary Deal  
John Egertson

Orange County

James P. Crozier  
Theodore Voorhees

Town of Culpeper

Chris Hively  
Meaghan Taylor

Town of Remington

Richard Heflin

Fauquier County

Chris Butler  
Janelle Downes

Rappahannock County

Garrey Curry, Jr.  
Debbie Donehey

Town of Gordonsville

Robert K. Coiner

Town of The Plains

Lori B. Sisson

Madison County

R. Clay Jackson  
Jonathon Weakley

Town of Madison

William L. Lamar

Town of Warrenton

Frank Cassidy  
William Semple II

Town of Orange

Jeremiah Pent  
Greg Woods

Town of Washington

Fred Catlin





## STAFF

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- **MONICA CREEL** - Planning Assistant, [mcreel@rrregion.org](mailto:mcreel@rrregion.org)
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- **MALLORY GRADY** - Farm to School Associate, [mgrady@rrregion.org](mailto:mgrady@rrregion.org)
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- **PATRICK MAUNEY** - Executive Director, [plmauney@rrregion.org](mailto:plmauney@rrregion.org)
- **LINDSEY MORRIS** - Rideshare & Outreach Specialist, [lmorris@rrregion.org](mailto:lmorris@rrregion.org)
- **JOHN OTTO** - GIS Planner I, [jotto@rrregion.org](mailto:jotto@rrregion.org)
- **TERRY SNEAD** - Grant Administrator/Fiscal Officer, [tsnead@rrregion.org](mailto:tsnead@rrregion.org)
- **MATTHEW TOBIAS** - AmeriCorps VISTA Member, FHN, [mtobias@rrregion.org](mailto:mtobias@rrregion.org)
- **REBECCA WAREHAM** - Continuum of Care Coordinator, FHN, [rwareham@rrregion.org](mailto:rwareham@rrregion.org)



Aerial View, Rappahannock County, VA



## MISSION

The Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission exists to serve our members by providing professional planning and technical resources, a concerted approach to regional cooperation, planning assistance with program delivery, and a forum for the interaction of appointed and elected local government officials and citizen members.

## PURPOSE

"...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 resulting from this chapter is intended to facilitate the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services.

The [Regional Commission] shall also promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan for the future."

Virginia's 21 Planning District or Regional Commissions, of which the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission (RRRC) is one, provide a variety of technical services and programming to member local governments.





# 50 YEARS OF HISTORY

1973 Charter Members: Fauquier County, Orange County, Rappahannock County, and the Town of Warrenton

Culpeper County & Madison County Join Commission

Town of Culpeper Joins Commission

Town of Gordonsville & Town of Orange Join Commission

Town of Remington Joins Commission

Town of Madison Joins Commission

Town of Washington Joins Commission

Town of The Plains Joins Commission

**1974**

**1978**

**1982**

**1987**

**1997**

**2007**

**2009**

## RRRC CHAIRS, 1973 - PRESENT

- Richard McNear, Fauquier County
- Richard Sanford, Orange County
- Col. E.P. Luke, Rappahannock County (3 Terms)
- Stanley Haworth, Town of Warrenton
- J. Robert Miller, Town of Culpeper
- John B. Adams, Fauquier County
- Robert Schwartz, Orange County
- Ronald Fry, Town of Warrenton
- John Garr, Town of Culpeper
- Jane Walker, Town of Culpeper
- Ruth Updike, Culpeper County
- Grover Wilson, Orange County
- David Mangum, Fauquier County
- Waller Jones, Town of Culpeper
- Robert Anderson, Rappahannock County
- Thomas Huggard, Town of Culpeper
- James Arrington, Madison County
- Chester Stribling, Fauquier County
- James Risner, Town of Culpeper
- Robert Coiner, Town of Gordonsville (2 Terms)
- Sue Hansohn, Culpeper County
- Harry Hopkins, Town of Orange
- Doris Lackey, Madison County
- John McCarthy, Rappahannock County
- James Crozier, Orange County
- Meaghan Taylor, Town of Culpeper
- Fred Catlin, Town of Washington



# 50 YEARS

182 Commission Members, 27 Chairs



## 50 YEARS OF HISTORY

Minutes Exerpt - January 16, 1973:

*“The Rappahannock-Rapidan Planning District Commission meeting was called to order at 8:15 P.M. The meeting was held in the Culpeper Town Hall, Culpeper, Virginia...*

*Mr. Richard McNear, Commission representative from Fauquier, was elected temporary chairman...*

*Mr. McNear delineated the ratifying localities, giving the date of ratification. The status of non-ratifying localities was verified.*

*With no objections voiced, the charter ratifications, constituting about 62% of the population of Planning District 9 were formally presented to Ms. Stanley S. Kidwell, the State representative present at the meeting.”*

*Commission members from ratifying localities introduced themselves:*

*County of Fauquier:*

*Mr. Richard E. McNear and Mr. John B. Adams*

*County of Orange:*

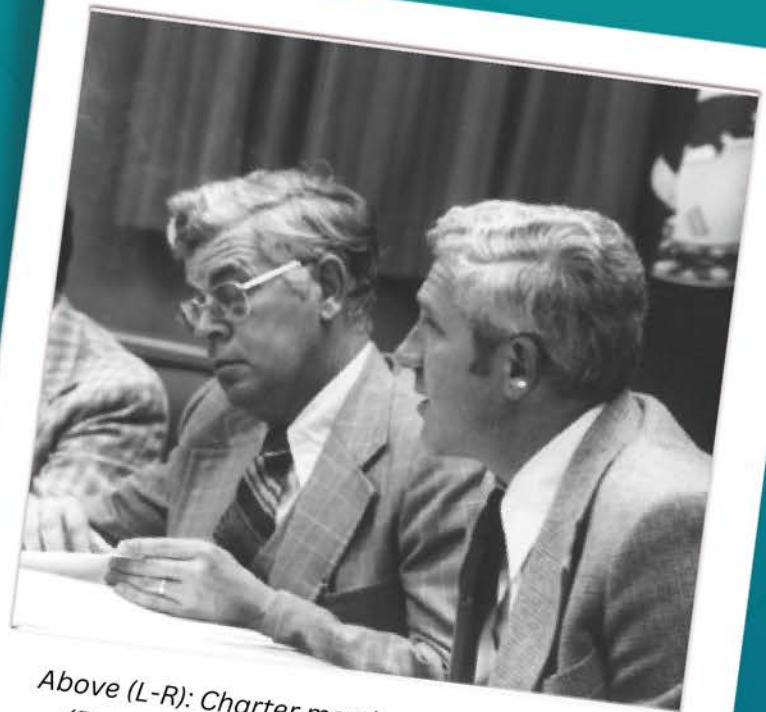
*Mr. Richard L. Sanford and Mr. Elbert W. Brown*

*County of Rappahannock:*

*Mr. J. Newbill Miller and Mr. Robert P. Anderson*

*Town of Warrenton:*

*Dr. William H. Allison and Mr. Edward.L. Brower*



*Above (L-R): Charter members Robert P. Anderson (Rappahannock County) and Richard E. ‘Dick’ McNear (Fauquier County)*

# 1973

**First Commission Meeting Held on January 16, 1973**



## 50 YEARS OF HISTORY

Initial activities of Planning District 9 included a focus on intergovernmental reviews and priorities based on state and federal funding availability. Significant effort was devoted to developing plans and approaches to:

Criminal Justice Planning and coordination

Regional Jail Study (1975-76)

Annual Comprehensive Criminal Justice Plan

Manpower / Workforce Needs of the Region

Physical Infrastructure planning

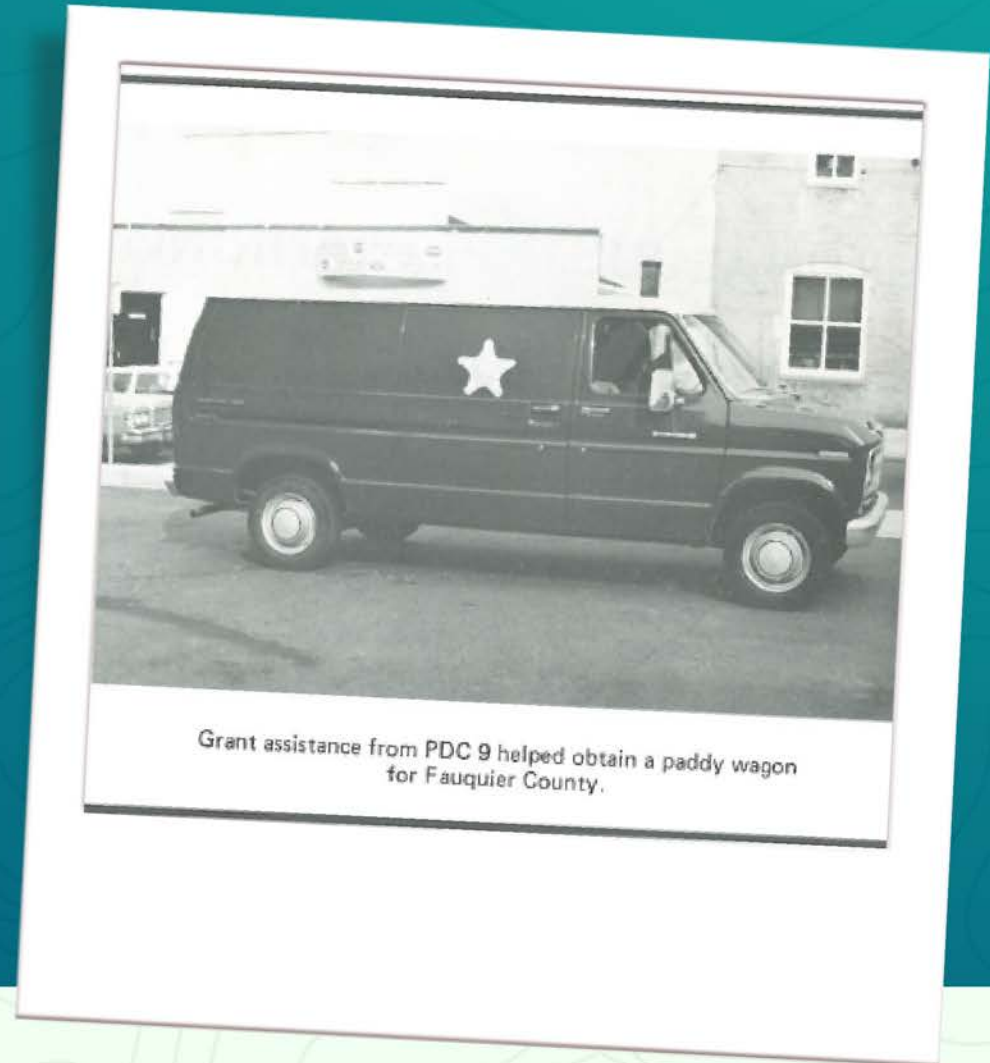
Orange County Water Line project (1976)

Housing Planning

Housing Programs for Rural Areas (1978)

A Regional Look at Mobile Homes, Modular Housing, and Trailers

Planning District Comprehensive Plan (1977)



# 1970s



## 50 YEARS OF HISTORY

Work in the Planning District's second decade transitioned to local project support and increased focus on infrastructure and regional partnerships:

### Transportation Planning and Coordination

Route 29 Corridor Study - Madison County (1980)

Ridesharing / Commuter Program Development (1982-83)

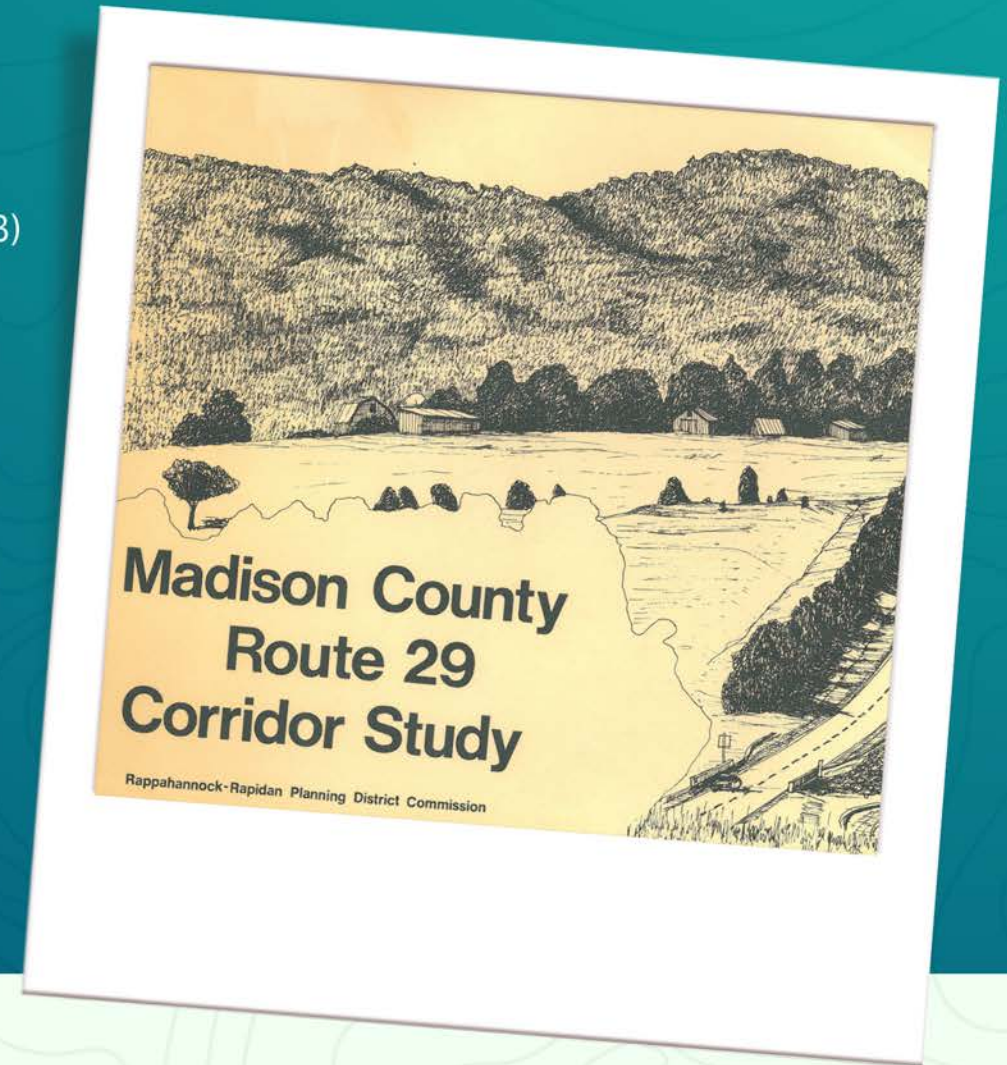
### Local Comprehensive Plan & Ordinance Development

### Physical Infrastructure planning

Community Development Block Grant Assistance

### Tourism

Foothills Tourism Association formed (1986)



# 1980s



## 50 YEARS OF HISTORY

In the 1990s, the Commission expanded efforts in environmental planning, responded to state changes focused on Regional Competitiveness and initiated the Rural Transportation planning program in partnership with VDOT that continues through the present day.

### Transportation Planning and Coordination

Rural Transportation Technical Assistance Program (1993)

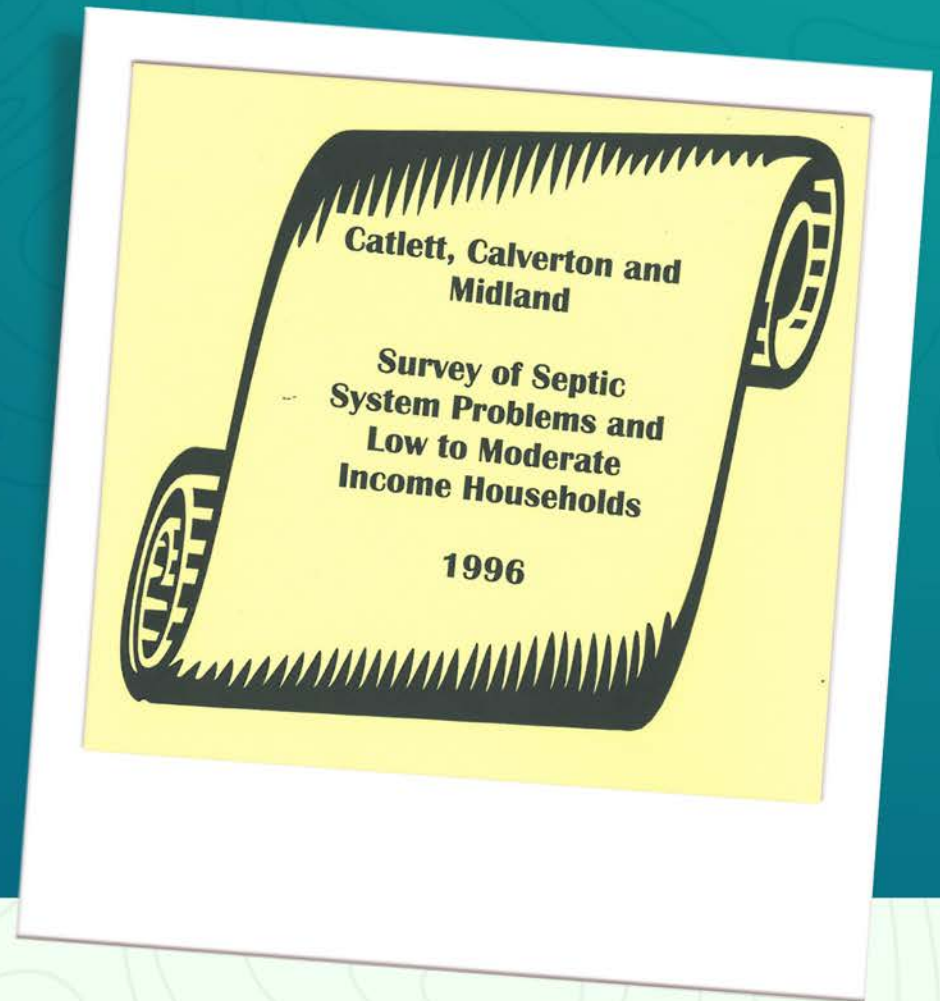
### Regional Cooperation Act (1995)

Redefined state's focus for PDCs and provided incentives for regional cooperation and strategic planning

PD9 serves as administrative agency for grant program supporting economic development planning projects

### Environmental / Infrastructure

Catlett, Calverton, Midland Septic System Survey (1996)



# 1990s



## 50 YEARS OF HISTORY

Moving into the 21st century, PDC9 rebranded as the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission and purchased office space in the Town of Culpeper.

With increasing need for multi-jurisdictional planning based on state and federal programs, the Commission's focus areas expanded.

### Community Development

The Living Towns Planning workshop series began in Orange in 2002 and was held annually through 2013.

RRRC Hazard Mitigation Plan (2005) with updates following in 2012, 2018 and 2024

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development and Implementation throughout the Rappahannock watershed (2004 - 2019)

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (2009)



# 2000s



## 50 YEARS OF HISTORY

In the last decade, RRRRC has taken on additional responsibilities in human services, from homelessness coordination to transportation and mobility support via the Regional Transportation Collaborative.

Regional planning and local technical assistance remain a cornerstone of the Commission's focus to the present.

### Transportation

Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (2011)

Active Transportation Plan (2019)

### Agriculture & Environmental

Farm & Food System Plan (2015)

G.W. Carver Feasibility Study (2016)

### Housing

Regional Housing Study (2020)

### Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (ongoing)



# 2010s

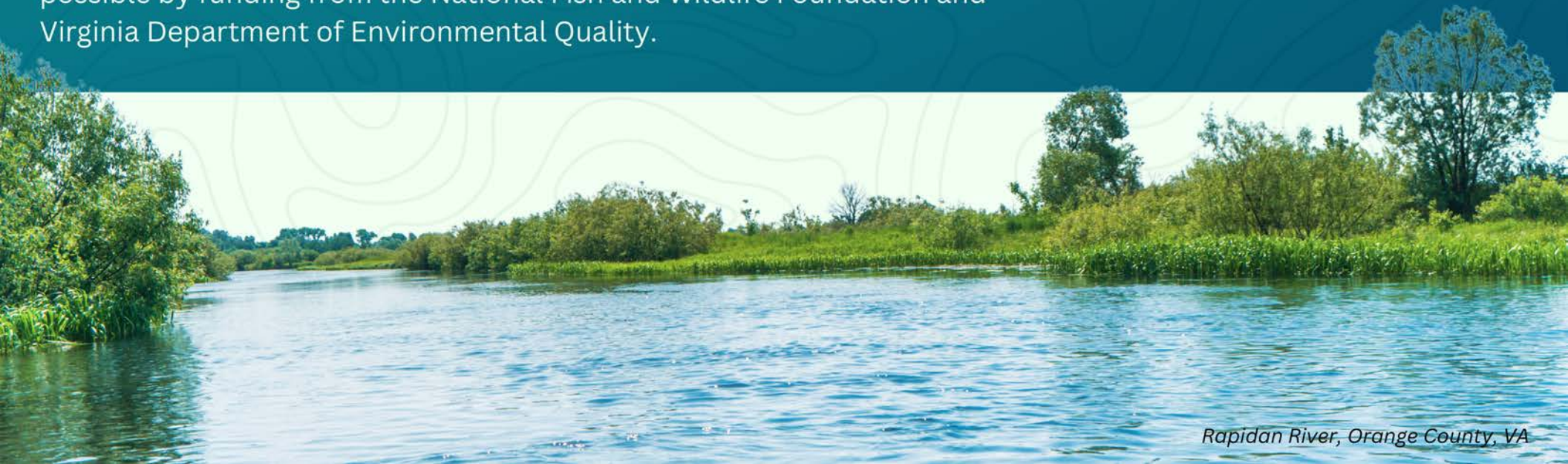


## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

The Regional Commission's environmental programs provided a variety of technical assistance to its member jurisdictions on topics ranging from water quality and wastewater treatment to resiliency and hazard mitigation. In addition to providing local government outreach and education through the Chesapeake Bay Programs Local Leadership Workgroup, and RRRC's Land Use and Environment Committee, staff provided grant writing and implementation assistance for on-the-ground results. Following are the highlights of this year's activities.

### **BMP Prioritization Tool Development**

As phase two of the Upper Rappahannock Watershed Plan project, RRRC worked with the Chesapeake Conservancy to develop a customized Best Management Practice (BMP) prioritization tool for the region. This GIS-based online tool is intended to assist local governments and other conservation partners in planning the implementation of urban and agriculture BMPs to improve the water quality of local streams. The tool is based upon new land cover and stream data the Chesapeake Conservancy developed for the Chesapeake Bay Program, as well as local stakeholder input and field verification by the Friends of the Rappahannock. Following stakeholder review and comment of the draft tool this spring, the final version will be presented to the Rappahannock River Basin Commission and released this fall. This effort was made possible by funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.





## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

### Stormwater Best Management Practice Installation

RRRC's \$300,000 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant also assisted in funding the construction of two BMPs in the Town of Warrenton to treat stormwater runoff—a bioswale near the Fifth Street dog park and a constructed wetland on Garret Street. Two additional stormwater BMPs are currently being designed for the Carver Center in Culpeper County. Furthermore, this project is assisting John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District in expanding its Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, which provides cost-share funding for voluntary urban BMP implementation in Fauquier County. The program addresses issues such as erosion and minor flooding, while improving water quality.

### Rappahannock-Rapidan Stream Gauge Implementation

As a joint environmental-emergency management effort, RRRC assisted Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) staff in convening local government staff for the final phase of the multi-year effort to install rain and stream gauges in the Upper Rappahannock River Watershed. The final site selections occurred in 2022 with local emergency manager's input. This summer, 16 gauges were installed and local government staff trained on routine maintenance and usage of the online data portal. This effort is intended to assist in flood monitoring, by giving localities real-time data needed to warn homeowners, motorists and recreators of impending threats before a situation becomes life-threatening. The project was included as a priority in the region's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which RRRC will kick off an update of this fall.



*Stormwater BMP, Town of Warrenton, VA*



# FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

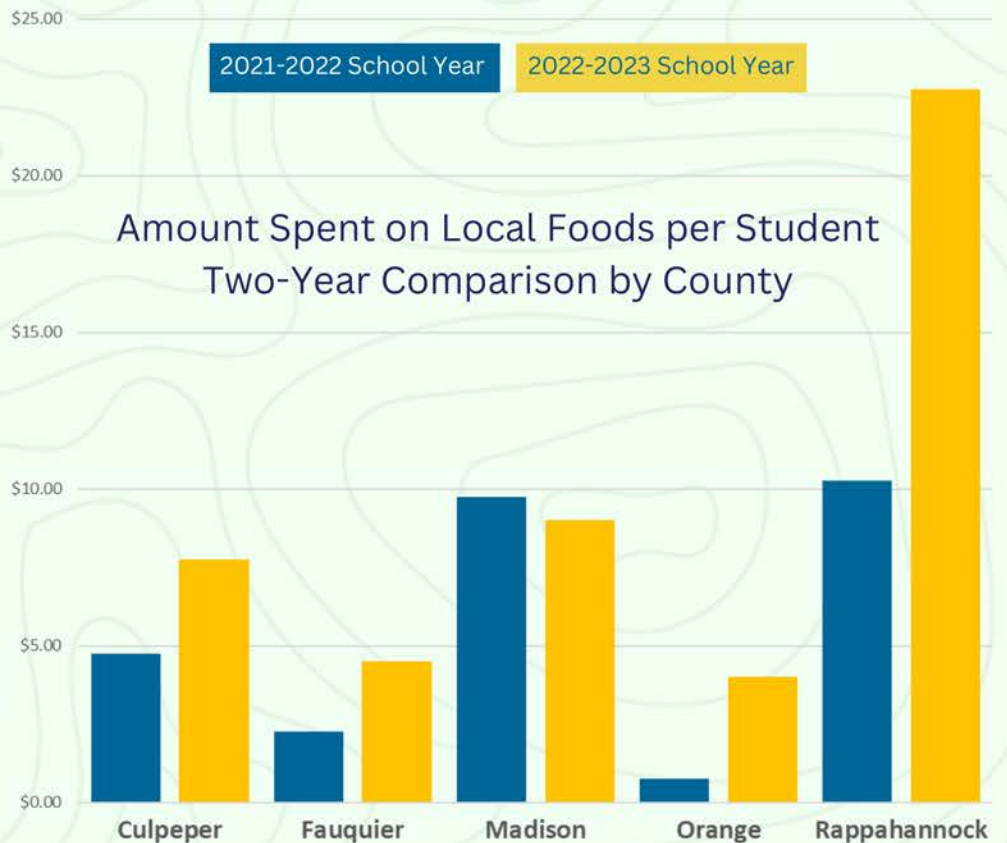
The Commission continues to collaborate with school districts in the region to increase the procurement of and access to local foods in the public school systems while educating students about the benefits of eating nutritious foods.

The Virginia Department of Education’s Harvest of the Month program provides the framework and supporting educational resources for the Farm to School program by featuring one seasonal item of produce monthly. By adhering to the Harvest of the Month calendar, students are able to experience new foods and are encouraged to choose healthy options. This series of local food tastings conducted by the Commission’s Farm to School Associate continues to have a positive impact on students throughout the region's schools.

During the 2022-2023 school year, RRRC’s Farm to School Associate conducted over 80 school visits for Harvest of the Month Events. Visits covered all of the elementary schools in Culpeper, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock counties, as well as collaboration with Fauquier FRESH for elementary schools in Fauquier County.



Farmers Market, Town of Orange, VA



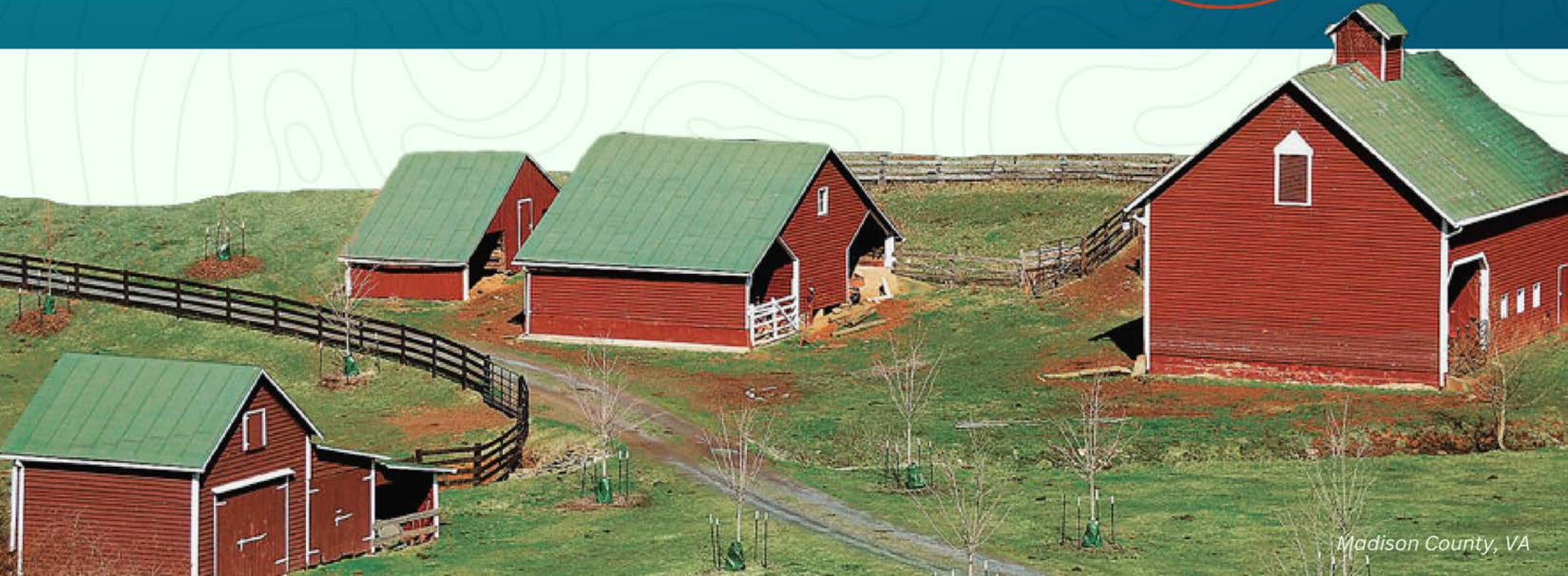
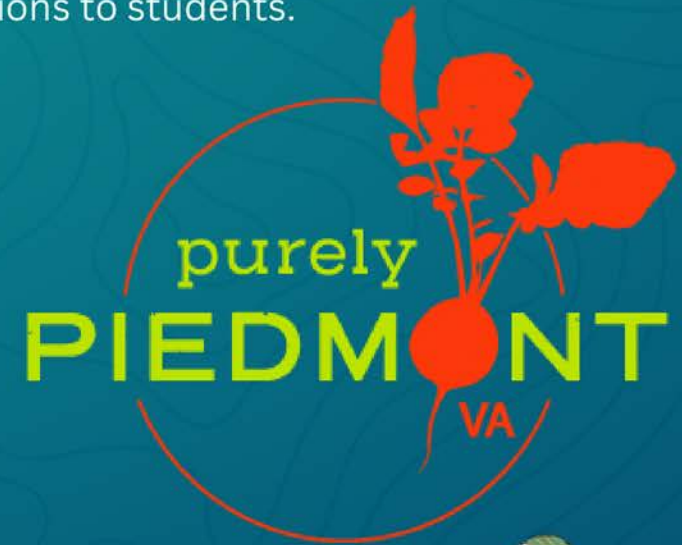


## FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

Additionally, four of the five school districts reported increased local food procurement between the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Local food purchases excluding fluid milk increased in Orange County over 700%, while Rappahannock County saw a 150% increase in local food purchases. These two examples highlight the dedication of our region’s school schools to provide nutritious options to students.

The associate’s work outside of the region’s schools included food tastings designed for children at the Culpeper Farmers Market. This effort was conducted in partnership with Culpeper Renaissance and Virginia Cooperative Extension’s “I’m SOW Healthy” program.

In August, 2023, the Commission hired a new Farm to School Associate, Mallory Grady, who will build upon previous successes and strengthen farm to school programming throughout the region.



Madison County, VA



# HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND PLANNING

In July 2021 RRRC was awarded a \$2,000,000 grant from Virginia Housing to develop a region-level Housing Development Program. The main objective was to incentivize the development of a variety of affordable housing options for all the citizens in the Rappahannock Rapidan region.

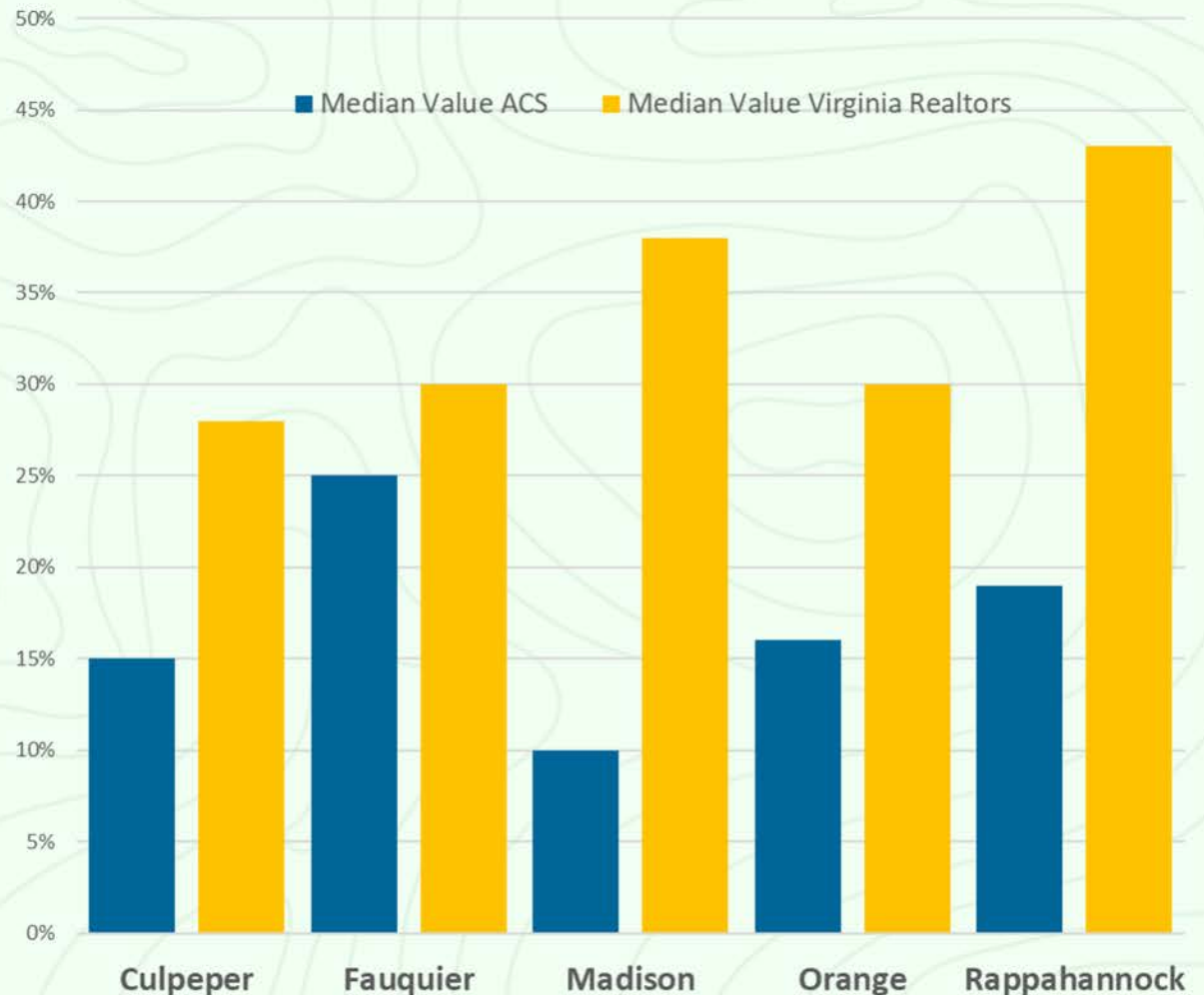
Following the development of the program over the fiscal year 2022, RRRC staff continued to work on furthering the program objective by integrating additional data capture and developing the framework for a regional housing strategy.

## Housing Strategic Focus



Development: J. Little, RRRC

### Home Value Comparison Virginia Realtors vs Census





# HOUSING

## Housing Strategy Planning (Regional Level)

Across the region, housing has been a challenge to address. RRRC staff has investigated opportunities and strategies to bring the housing supply in line with current demand. Driven by the outcomes of the Housing Study and additional data capture, the strategies developed also incorporate local-based housing planning found within comprehensive plans. Staff examined housing conditions between 2018 and 2021 using Census and Coordinated Entry data for additional data capture to identify any patterns and trends that may have emerged during the pandemic. Staff continues to promote awareness of unmet housing needs and a potential coalition of stakeholders through public engagement and planning processes providing the foundation for a local-regional housing strategy.



*The chart above demonstrates the progression from state-level to regional goals and objectives. The regional-level objectives are a synthesis of relative themes identified in local comprehensive plans that could be adopted at the local-regional level.*

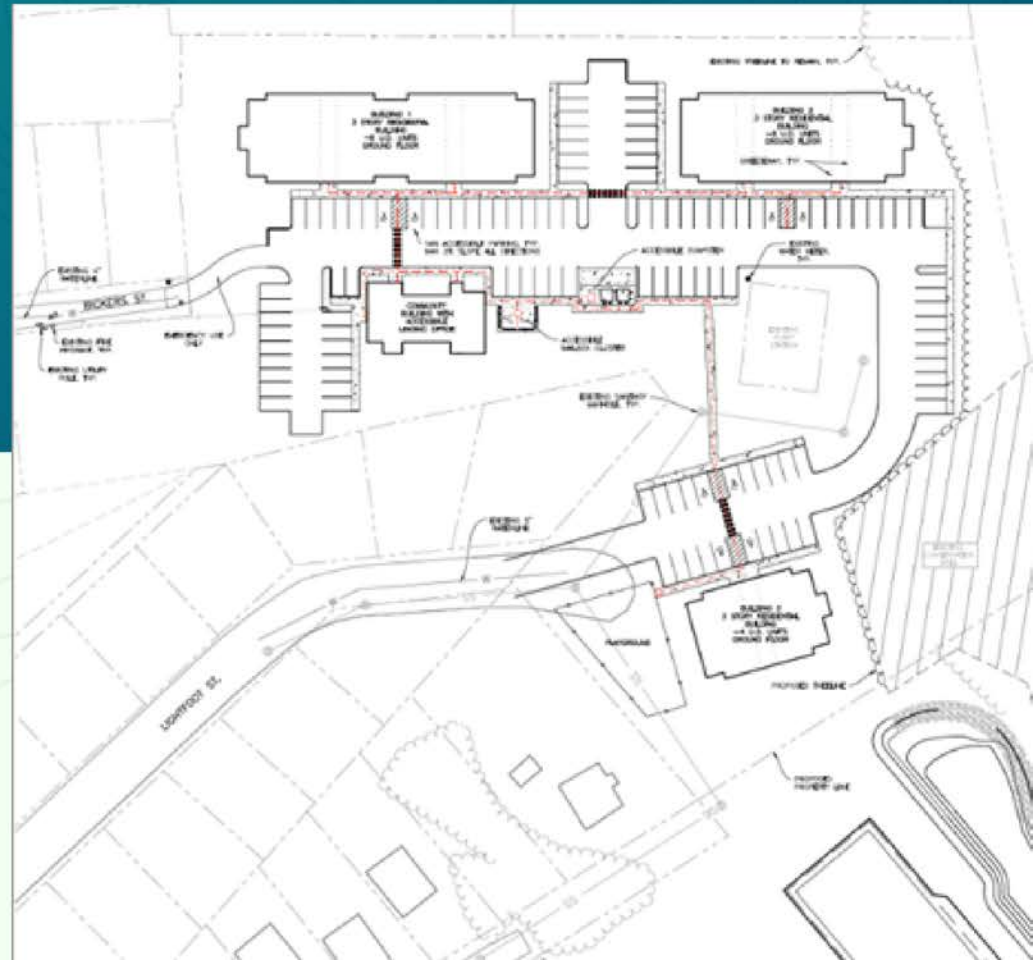


# HOUSING

Staff has continued to monitor progress and identify opportunities to further support for vital projects with grantee partners into fiscal year 2023. Currently one (1) project is completed and three (3) housing development projects are in the pre-development stages.

- In Madison County, the former Barbara’s House has been renovated from a temporary shelter into permanent housing. All six (6) units are fully leased following an overwhelming response. Skyline CAP had more applicants than apartment units.
- In the Town of Culpeper, two (2) are preparing to begin site development and anticipate providing ninety-seven (97) new affordable units.
- Near Warrenton, grant funds are also supporting an adaptive reuse project, renovating the former Ben and Mary’s restaurant into four (4) apartment units.

Due to inflation and increased project costs, RRRRC staff reallocated excess funds to support the two (2) largest projects in the Town of Culpeper. Although the total funding support provided is about 3% of the total cost, being able to provide some support has made significant impacts in addressing gaps in the housing supply.



*People Inc: proposed site plan example for Lightfoot Apartments; Town of Culpeper*



# FOOTHILLS HOUSING NETWORK

The Regional Commission serves as the lead agency for the Foothills Housing Network, a collaboration of partner agencies engaged in service provision and coordination for members of the community experiencing homelessness and housing instability. RRRC also provides Coordinated Entry services for FHN, serving as a point of access for individuals and households seeking assistance with Rapid Re-housing, Targeted Prevention and Permanent Supportive Housing options.

In addition to administration and coordination, RRRC staff also provide technical support to partner agencies for funding applications, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data reporting, case conferencing management among service providers and identifying gaps in services with strategies to address those gaps.

Foothills Housing Network Services provided to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Rappahannock-Rapidan region in 2022:




**5.4k+**  
NUMBER OF CALLS TO THE COORDINATED ENTRY HOTLINE



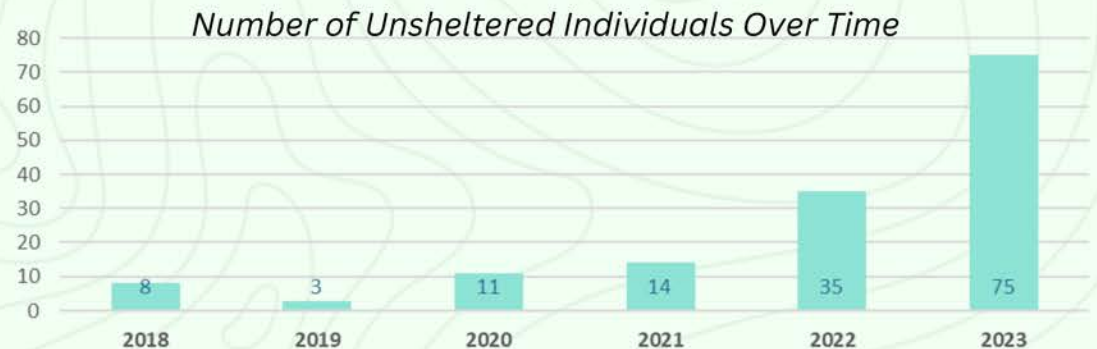
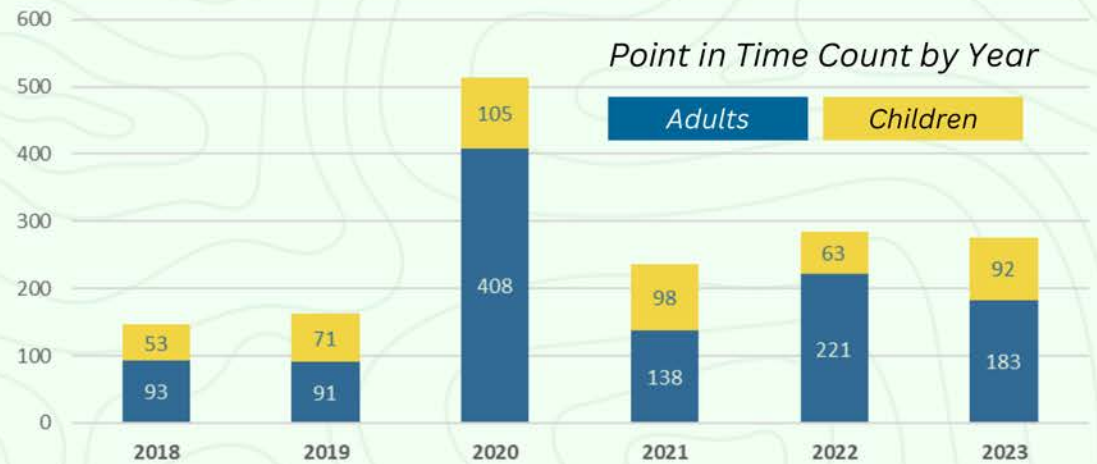
**346**  
HOUSEHOLDS REFERRED TO TARGETED PREVENTION SERVICES



**287**  
HOUSEHOLDS REFERRED TO RAPID REHOUSING SERVICES



**1k+**  
HOUSEHOLDS THAT AVOIDED HOMELESSNESS THROUGH DIVERSION EFFORTS



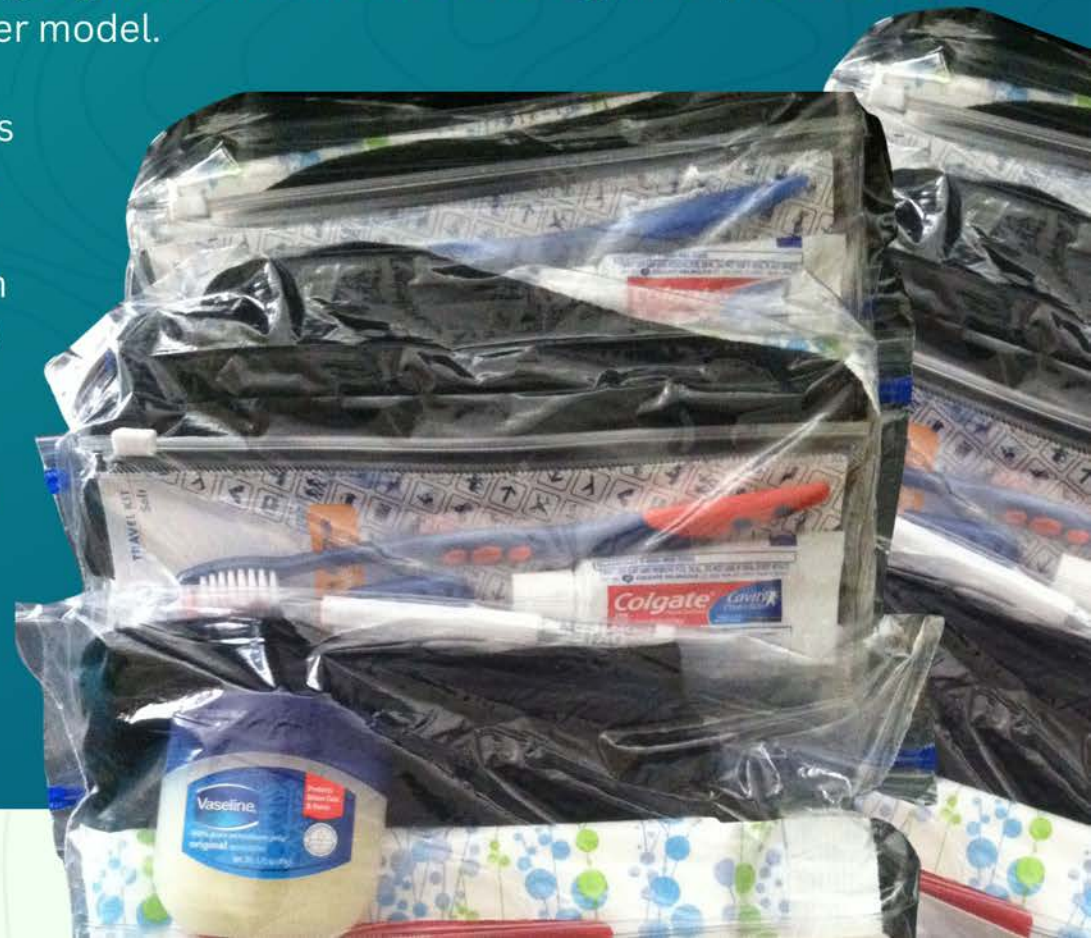
2023 Identified the largest increase in the unsheltered population - Individuals and Families who were forced to live in their vehicles.



RRRC and Foothills Housing Network have been fortunate to host an AmeriCorps VISTA member through a statewide Housing VISTA program administered by Virginia Housing Alliance. In 2023, RRRC VISTA Matt Tobias has focused his efforts on outreach and coordination with faith-based communities across the region. These activities typically begin with introductory meetings explaining the role of the partners that make up Foothills Housing Network, their programs focused on those literally homeless or facing immediate homelessness, and discussions of existing or potential church supports for housing vulnerable members of the region.

Two notable success stories over the past year include technical assistance and support to Orange Church of the Nazarene in considering implementation of a day center within the existing church building at its location in the Town of Orange. This church was already interested in such a service and the VISTA program was able to support with outreach and connection to other existing organizations outside of the region to provide best practices information to develop the overall day center model.

Initial outreach also increased the number of churches willing to offer resources and/or services to homeless members of the regional community. The Central Virginia Mission Hub, led by volunteers partnered with Culpeper Methodist Church, (CVMHUB) provided 300 hygiene kits for unsheltered individuals, distributed through FHN and partners across the five-county region. Additionally, two congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worked jointly to package more than 100 hygiene kits for distribution to Foothills Housing Network partners based on the initial connection made by the VISTA program at RRRC.





## COMMUTER SERVICES

RRRC Commuter Services, funded through the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, provides free ride-matching services and Guaranteed Ride Home program to commuters in and out of the region. The program has a long-term partnership with Commuter Connections to provide ride-matching services via carpools and vanpools for workers traveling to Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. During the past fiscal year, RRRC staff served as Chair of the Commuter Connections Ridematching subcommittee.

In 2022, program staff successfully worked with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to provide residents and workers in the region access to ConnectingVA! which offers similar ride-matching and non-single occupancy vehicle services for those traveling throughout Virginia. For the Rappahannock-Rapidan region, this enables those traveling within the region or to areas outside of Northern Virginia - Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Richmond or the Valley - for employment to access incentives and ride-matching opportunities that were previously unavailable.

RRRC Commuter Services staff participated with fellow Association of Commuter Transportation members at the 37th annual ACT International Conference in Seattle. The conference provided training and best practices approaches in key areas such as strategic planning, Transportation Demand Management marketing and education, and employer outreach.

The content and lessons learned will help program staff in executing existing goals for the Commuter Services program and influencing future program initiatives.



**connectingVA**  
BY DRPT

**COMMUTER SERVICES**  
creative commuting solutions by RRRC



## MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

During FY23, the RTC positioned itself as a model program for the State of Virginia and mobility management acted as subject-matter-experts for the development of state processes and metrics as well as local projects.

Efforts to frame the RTC as a scalable-replicable mobility program were particularly successful with selection to present at the Community Transportation Association of America's (CTAA) national conference in Oklahoma City, the Virginia PDC state conference in Norfolk, and the Community Transportation Association of Virginia's (CTAV) summer conference in Fredericksburg. In addition, the RTC model was demoed for state-level mobility programs in Alaska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and New Hampshire; all of which showed interest in replicating the program components in state-wide or regional programming.

Lastly, the RTC provided mentorship for the neighboring region, Thomas Jefferson Planning District's (Charlottesville) grant submission for state funding to implement a replica mobility program in their area. TJPDC's grant was awarded for FY24 and the RTC committed to an 18-month mentorship to support a scaled replication of its model in the neighboring region utilizing both RTC technology and mentorship from Mobility Center staff.

*Model and mentorship efforts demonstrate the incredible impact that PATH funding has made through its continued investment - reaching well beyond the small region served, across the state and onto the national stage. RTC is passionate about its commitment to serving the needs of the individuals in the area while fostering a "Livable Community" and creating tailored collaborative mobility solutions. Although RTC receives 70-80% of funding through state grants, funds are limited to specific large-scale solutions and traditional uses; PATH funding however, has empowered the RTC to fulfill its commitment with creative, innovative, lasting strategies, ultimately securing the long-term provision of supports in the region.*



*In 2023, the mobility program rebranded under the Regional Transportation Collaborative (RTC) and the Trusted Community Partnership (TCP) forgoing the previous name 'FAMS Call Center' in exchange for 'Mobility Center', a simple name to better encompass the variety of efforts and services provided.*



*The RTC acts as the partner-facing collaboration, while the TCP is maintained along with community logos as a public-facing collaborative connection.*



## Strategic Planning 2023:

In July 2023, one survey of political stakeholders along with approximately 45 individual strategic meetings were conducted with RTC partners and community programs. Strategic meetings act as an opportunity for in-depth review of the current fiscal year's efforts, partnership interaction, and need analysis. In addition, partners discuss trending needs, long-term project goals, unique challenges, and outline fiscal and program support needs for their services. The strategic process allows RTC to create a comprehensive picture of the mobility challenges and solution efforts in the region, critically review support systems, and develop an efficient recommendation for funding including distribution and spending plans for a variety of partner programs.

Strategic planning in 2023 involved approximately forty different organizations, programs, and localities. Approximately, 20 organizations put forth both short and long-term mobility service solutions for funding, resulting in a total initial budget of more than 1.3 million dollars. Through prioritization, resource leveraging/sharing, and multi-year planning, final FY24 funding recommendations total approximately 1 million dollars.





## MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

In addition to funding requests, strategic planning processes identified priority focus areas for FY24 to include: Dialysis Transportation Supports, Long-Term Planning Case Management Support for Individuals Aging in Place, and Enhanced Mobility Solutions to Support the Increasing Medical and Aging Vulnerability of Clients. In particular, as the RTC enters its fifth year of mobility supports in the region, data and analysis clearly indicate that mobility programming designed to support clients at specific mobility levels five years ago has not ‘aged-well’ with clients, especially the approximately 2/3 repetitive clientele who have experienced increased vulnerabilities due to age and natural progression of medical conditions. In researching neighboring programs, as well as national models, it is clear that RTC’s work is unique and the support of increased and specialized mobility needs is atypical. This highlights the need for long-term decision-making and policy infrastructure, and possibly the introduction of specialized external services that can be coupled with local mobility efforts.

As RTC completes the compilation of a half-decade of data surrounding mobility needs and collaborative impact, it is clear the region continues to rely heavily on the provision of Volunteer Transportation as a primary strategy for meeting the mobility needs of the population served. The region’s lack of alternative or private transportation justifies the RTC’s continued commitment to collaboration with, financial support of, and planning/programming aid for multiple volunteer driver programs and local non-profit transportation alternatives. As seen below, the commitment next fiscal year of funding is closely split between overall mobility programming and supports for volunteer programs, with a small portion designated for alternative local options.

### *In FY23, RTC/TCP Supported:*

- *Provided 9.9k+ Rides*
- *Served 24k+ Individuals*
- *Coordinated 13k Transportation Calls*
- *Tracked 130k Volunteer Miles & 7.5k Hours*
- *Distributed 10k+ in Gas Card Support*
- *Obtained \$1 Million in Funding for FY24*





## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Throughout the last year, Commission staff continued to provide administrative and project management support for technical assistance projects with funding from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and consultant support from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPi). RRRC continues to work with VDOT, local governments, and private consultants to identify areas in need of multi-modal related transportation planning meeting criteria of OIPi's Growth and Accessibility Planning Technical Assistance Program. Additionally, RRRC continues to support the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan, which was updated in April, 2022.



*STARS Route 17 Corridor Improvement Study Field Observation, August, 2023*

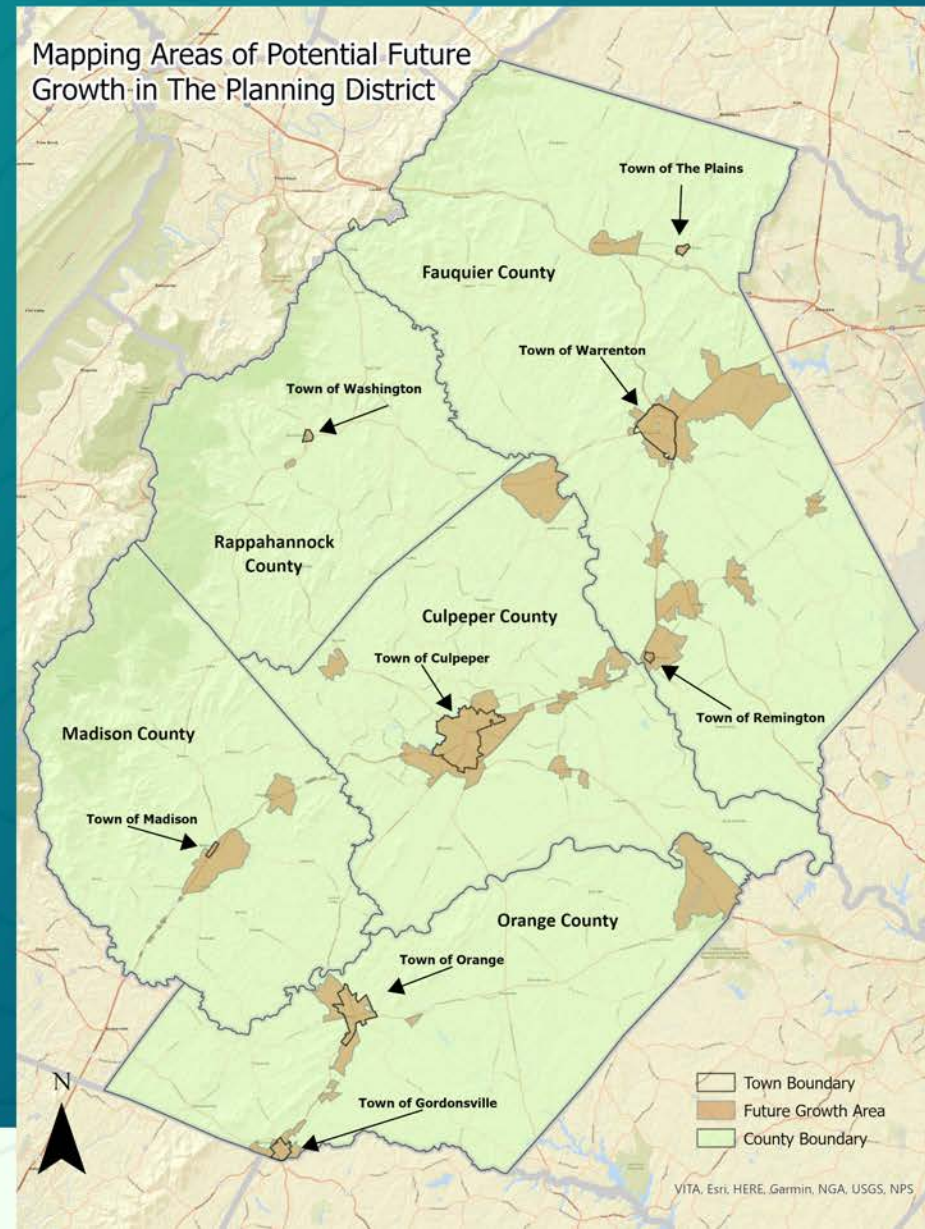


# TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

## Ongoing Projects:

- 2023-24 Project Pipeline Study: US 29 Business (Madison Road, Culpeper)
- 2023-24 Project Pipeline Study: US 17 Business (Shirley Avenue, Warrenton)
- STARS Corridor Improvement Study: US 17/15/29 (James Madison Highway, Fauquier County)
- Smart Scale Application support for Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Madison County, Orange County, Town of Culpeper & Town of Warrenton
- Blueway access discussions with Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Orange County, and Town of Orange.

RRRC continues to work in coordination with its local government partners and with assistance from VDOT to help identify urban development areas and future growth areas. This effort supports the development of future Arterial Management Plans which take into consideration future growth and potential multi-modal transportation improvements coinciding with those areas. Identifying these potential growth areas also helps to develop recommendations to address current safety and congestion issues throughout the region, coordinate transportation planning with future land use plans and provide opportunity for regional awareness of future growth areas. RRRC staff collected GIS data from local jurisdictions and utilized that data, along with comprehensive plans to identify potential growth areas. These areas were also utilized to review urban area changes under consideration at the Federal level based on the 2020 U.S. Census and that agency's urban area boundary changes.





## TOURISM

The Regional Commission and the local Tourism departments partnered on a Marketing Leverage Program grant application to the Virginia Tourism Corporation in early 2023. Governor Glenn Youngkin announced the award of more than \$3.2 million for 236 local and regional tourism marketing programs across the Commonwealth as part of the Virginia Tourism Corporation's Regional Marketing, Marketing Leverage, and VA250 Marketing Leverage Programs in May. Included among the awards was funding to support an agritourism Revitalization Campaign that will allow the Regional Commission and local tourism departments to re-imagine the various brands (Purely Piedmont, Tween Rivers Trail and the Virginia Piedmont) under a renewed and revitalized Purely Piedmont brand. The award will also allow the partners to develop new engagement opportunities for the regional agritourism economy, strengthen the agritourism economy within the RRRC footprint, increase visitation and enhance the owned media available to Tween Rivers Trail marketing efforts.

The Regional Commission is also partnering with its local tourism departments to support regional VA250 marketing opportunities in advance of the 250th anniversary of American Independence in 2026, with work on that program to begin in earnest in 2024.



*Town of Remington, VA*



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

During Fiscal year 2023, RRRC staff provided planning and technical services to Madison County to support the 2023/2024 comprehensive plan update. Staff assisted Madison County in:

- Co-facilitated monthly meetings to effectively engage with stakeholders and committee members
- Prepared a timeline and phased approach to complete the update
- Developed surveys for all committee members to provide input, feedback, and direction.
- Incorporated Madison County values into a refreshed vision
- Refreshed or revised existing goals and strategies
- Identified new goals, and strategies and developed a new housing chapter
- Examined data sources to provide data-driven goals and strategy development contextually appropriate to support Madison County's vision and values.
- Produced updated maps and data graphs

RRRC staff also assisted the Town of Madison with developing an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) planning grant, including:

- Coordination with Town staff
- Drafting the application
- Assessment and documentation of qualifying project targets.
- Mapping qualifying areas of the Town





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Regional Commission received a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration in 2022 to develop the region’s first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Working in collaboration with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission and GO Virginia Region 9, the project kicked off in January 2023 with support from Camoin Associates.

A CEDS provides a vehicle for individuals, organizations, local governments, institutions of learning, and private industry to engage in a meaningful conversation and debate about what capacity building efforts would best serve economic development in the region via a process that will include baseline economic analyses, goal and strategy identification, and performance measure development for local and regional strategies. The theme of economic resilience will be incorporated throughout the CEDS.

The CEDS process kicked off earlier this year with the formation of a CEDS strategy committee that includes representation from local economic development, planning, administration and tourism staff, Community Colleges in the region, workforce development and small business development organizations, Chambers of Commerce and private sector firms. The strategy committee held a kickoff meeting in February and an initial economic and demographic data review meeting in April.

Stakeholder engagement is currently underway with local government representatives, non-profit and private firms and a business climate survey to provide additional context for the strategy development process.

## CEDS Timeline (2023-2024)





## CITIZEN

*The Regional Leadership Citizen Award honored Hal Hunter of Rappahannock County for his leadership by example of numerous regional projects, his ongoing commitment to the betterment of the region, and his willingness to engage and encourage all members of the community in collaborations. Mr. Hunter is a founder of Rapp at Home, a key player in the development of the Rappahannock Food Pantry, a founding member of the Rappahannock County Conservation Alliance, Rapp Flow and the Rappahannock Conservation Roundtable, a committed volunteer driver and was cited for his "capable, unpretentious manner [which] inspires and motivates others to join him in achieving effective changes." Mr. Hunter noted that his late wife Beverly was a previous winner of the Citizen's Award and was proud to receive his award in her honor.*



2023 Citizen Leadership Award winner Hal Hunter (image credit: Jennifer Little, RRRC)

## GOVERNMENT

*The Regional Leadership Government Award was presented to Chief Chris Jenkins of the Culpeper Police Department for his 45-plus years of service to the region, and his sense of community and dedication to community service in and out of uniform. Chief Jenkins was notable in his neighborhood policing model and development of the mental health co-responder programs in Culpeper, as well as his service on the Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Academy on behalf of the region, service as board member of Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services, and development and leadership of Team Jordan, a non-profit which provides support, education and advocacy for survivors of suicide.*



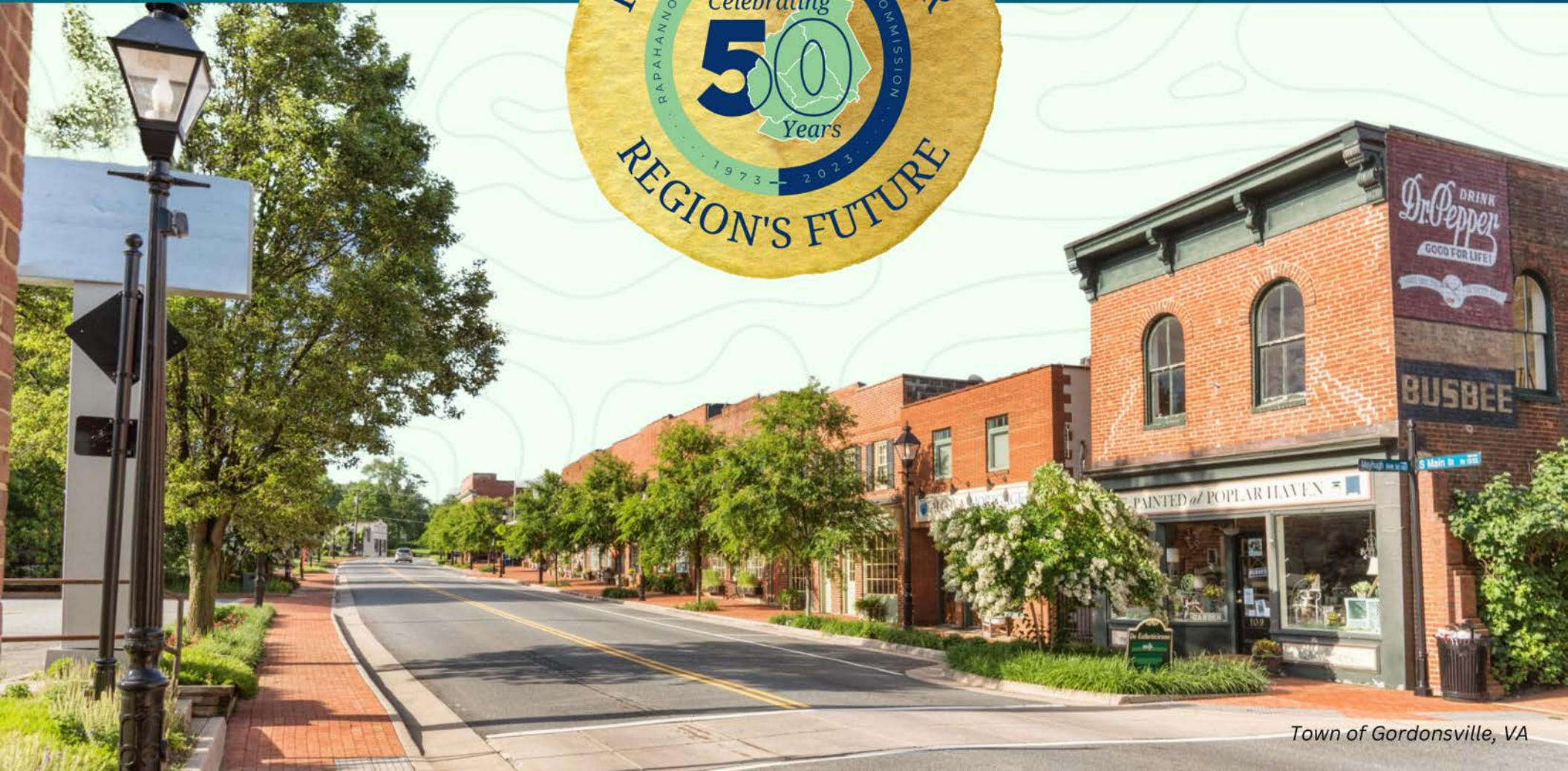
Government Leadership Award winner Chris Jenkins with daughter Kristen Jenkins (courtesy Town of Culpeper Police facebook)





Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission · 420 Southridge Parkway, Suite 106 Culpeper, VA 22701

[rrregion.org](http://rrregion.org) · [purely piedmont.com](http://purely piedmont.com) · [foothillshousing.org](http://foothillshousing.org) · [tweenriverstrail.com](http://tweenriverstrail.com) · [theviriniapiedmont.org](http://theviriniapiedmont.org) · [rtcmc.org](http://rtcmc.org)



Town of Gordonsville, VA