



September 2024 Update



NRV
PRSA

New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority Update

The New River Valley Passenger Rail Station Authority met on August 29th and received an update from the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) regarding the recent news to relocate the New River Valley station to the Cambria area of Christiansburg. This was welcomed and exciting news as the service with Amtrak is projected to begin sooner at this location (2027) and cost much less. VPRA and Norfolk & Southern (NS) agreed to terms that utilizes existing NS property in Cambria while NS delivers the additional pocket track for boarding, the boarding platform, and a layover facility in Radford for servicing the train overnight. At the August meeting, the Station Authority began conversations about their role in the new location pertaining to evaluating the existing historic depot currently utilized by NS. Now that the final station location is determined, the architecture/engineering team of Wendel and Foresight Design will be under contract soon to commence the station evaluation process.

For more information, contact Kevin Byrd at kbyrd@nrvc.org.

NRV Recovery Ecosystem Received Award from VAPDC

At the August Regional Commission meeting the NRV Recovery Ecosystem was presented the Robert M. deVoursney Best Practices Award from the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions. The Best Practices Award recognizes organizations that have initiated innovative regional activities which have contributed significantly to the effectiveness of a region. The NRV Recovery Ecosystem is a five-year collaborative, regional opioid abatement program bringing together five jurisdictions for project delivery. It has received just under \$4.4 million in funding through two years from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority, along with more than \$1.5 million in local matching funds to date. In addition to the local governments that are involved, several other regional organizations and school divisions are partners in the project. More on the Recovery Ecosystem can be found on the Health page of the Regional Commission website.



Fresh Vegetables. Commuter Savings. It's all at Your Local Farmers Market

You can get fresh veggies and the details on how to improve your commute. RIDE Solutions is heading out to your local farmers markets and spreading the word about how to find a better commute. This summer and fall and next spring we'll be talking with market shoppers about the benefits of carpooling and how to take charge of their commutes with the [ConnectingVA app](#).

This past year commuters using the app to log their trips reduced 153,256 vehicle miles and 8,308 trips. While it's just a fraction of people not driving alone in the New River Valley, they saved \$99,537 over the last 12

Giles County Rt 100/Rt 42 Corridor Broadband Project

Giles County received a \$4,199,596 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant for the RT 100/RT 42 Corridor Broadband Project, and Pembroke Telephone Cooperative (PemTel) received another \$700,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant funds for the same project. Both grants are from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the purpose of these funds are to not only provide broadband services to a large unserved/underserved area in Giles County, but also bolster economic development in the region.

In addition to these grant funds there is another \$643,604 in local funds committed to the project for a total of \$5,543,200. These funds will provide service to a total 629 passings which includes 611 households, 9 businesses, and 9 non-residential (places of worship, schools, libraries, medical facilities, etc.) buildings.

months. These users are carpooling, teleworking, taking the bus and riding a bike to their destinations – not always every day, but it all adds up to save money and stress and time.

RIDE Solutions has already been to Floyd and Radford once this season, and will be in Pulaski September 10 and Blacksburg October 12. More dates will be added soon!

ConnectingVA helps you find carpool matches for work, the right bus at the right time to get to your destination, and even cycling routes and travel times. The app is available as an interactive website or in the Google Play and Apple app stores. Once you start recording your trips to earn points, you can redeem them for coupons, discounts, and more. You'll even get 1,000 points just for signing up.

For more information about RIDE Solutions, contact Christy Straight at cstraight@nrvc.org. To learn more about how RIDE Solutions can help commuters find transportation alternatives to driving alone, visit: <https://ridesolutions.org/>

The primary purpose of this project is to construct 103 miles of the fiber needed to ensure that the residents and businesses of the White Gate, Staffordsville, Poplar Hill, Sugar Run, Wilburn Valley and Walker Creek communities of Giles County have access to reliable, high speed (100/20 mbps) fiber to the home broadband to not only improve the quality of life for 611 improved households, but also to boost economic growth within the county by providing access to the resources and opportunities necessary to bridge the digital divide and allow the businesses to compete in today's global economy.

For more information, please contact Chris Owens, cowens@nrvc.org.

NRV Resiliency Network Training Events

NRV Resiliency Network members Andi Golusky with NRV CARES, Cora Taylor with Radford University and Julie Fox with the Regional Commission spent the morning of August 13th providing a two hour interactive Trauma and Its Impact training to over sixty teacher aides as part of a county wide training day for Giles County Public Schools. Participants learned about the impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on brain development and engaged in activities specific to providing trauma informed care in the classroom.



In efforts to expand the NRV's community capacity to provide training on trauma and resiliency, NRV Resiliency Network members Andi Golusky and Jenn Polanco with NRV CARES, Cora Taylor with RU, Dee Frith with NRVCS and Julie Fox with NRVRC provided an all day train the trainer on Thursday, August 22. The group added nine more community members to the list of now over 20 trainers in the NRV.

For more information, please contact Julie Fox, jfox@nrvc.org.



NRV Unites to Understand Substance Use and Harm Reduction

On August 6th and 7th, the Recovery Ecosystem hosted Elevyst, a public health consulting group, for a regional training event titled “Demystifying Substance Use and Harm Reduction.” This two-day event had tailored sessions: one for law enforcement, first responders, and justice-involved individuals, and another for healthcare professionals, elected officials, clergy, and community leaders. The training, delivered through a trauma-informed lens, focused on opioid addiction and poly-substance use disorders, covering the overdose crisis, communicable diseases, addiction, adverse childhood experiences, recovery, drug policies, stigma, harm reduction philosophies, and current programs in the region. A special thanks to our impactful trainers: Sean Fogler, MD; Ginny Atwood Lovitt; Thomas Maioli, Jr.; and Chris Alderman.

For more information, please contact Kinsey Weaver, kweaver@nrvc.org.

ReNew the New River Clean Up

It's not too late to sign up for the ReNew the New annual river cleanup, Fall into the New. This year there will be groups participating from the head waters in North Carolina to the confluence with the Gauley River in West Virginia. All New River Valley localities are participating in the cleanup effort September 14th. Find out more information at renewthenew.org or reach out to the cleanup coordinators: Kathleen Armstrong- Regional Support/ Floyd County (karmstrong@nrvc.org), Charlie Mullins- Giles County (cmullins@gilescounty.org), Anthony Akers- Pulaski County (aakers@pulaskicounty.org), Kim Repass- City of Radford (kim.repass@radfordva.gov) and Brad Buchanan- Montgomery County- buchananbt@motgomerycountyva.gov.

Hope to see you on the river!



2024 SATURDAY SEPT. 14TH FALL INTO THE NEW

September 14th, 2024, Volunteers will be cleaning litter and debris from the New River and stream access points.

This year join Giles County, Pulaski County, Montgomery County, Floyd County and the City of Radford for this one day clean-up!

Registration for participation is required and available online. The number of volunteers on the water is limited so register early. A signed waiver is required.

Lunch and t-shirt will be provided to all volunteers after the cleanup.

If bringing your own boat, you **MUST** say so in the registration form so drop off and pick up can be arranged.



Contact Kathleen Armstrong at karmstrong@nrvc.org



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**ONLINE REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**



**VIRGINIA'S
Additive Manufacturing
& Applied Materials
TECH HUB**

August All-Hands Meeting at
IALR in Danville Sparks
Innovation and Collaboration for
AM2 Tech Hub

On August 13th, the Virginia AM2 Tech Hub brought together a dedicated group of innovators at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) in Danville, Virginia, for its second All-Hands Meeting. Leaders from various industries and organizations gathered to focus on furthering additive manufacturing, advanced materials, and manufacturing innovation in our region.

[Full Article](#)

For more information contact Leo Priddy (lpriddy@nrvc.org).

[Visit our website](#)

New River Valley Regional Commission | nrvc.org



New River Valley Regional Commission | 6580 Valley Center Drive Suite 124 | Radford, VA
24141 US