



December 2024

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Here's How We're Advancing the Region's Strategic Plan



FEMA



A Lifeline in Times of Crisis: Developing Climate Resilience Hubs for the Richmond Region

PlanRVA, on behalf of the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), was awarded a \$1.5 mm FEMA grant through the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and create an implementation plan for Climate Resilience Hubs over the next three years. These hubs will protect vulnerable populations, including those who are unhoused, during extreme weather events and other disasters. Resilience Hubs will provide critical services, such as shelter, food, medical care, and personal hygiene facilities, particularly for those most at risk during disasters.

Outside times of disaster, resilience hub facilities may function as community centers or similar facility and function roles in the community. The project will strengthen community resilience and reduce long-term vulnerability to catastrophic events across urban, suburban, and rural communities within the Richmond region. **This project is a significant step toward a resilient Richmond region that can better anticipate and respond to climate-related and other catastrophic challenges.**

Read more about the project goals and key takeaways [in this blog post](#).



Richmond Regional Planning District
Commission (PlanRVA) Updates

The Joint Annual Meeting Brings the RRTPO, CVTA and the Commission Together



Following a festive breakfast reception and the official opening of the meeting by CVTA Chair, Sean Davis, members were welcomed by executive directors, Chet Parsons (CVTA) and Martha Shickle (PlanRVA, RRTPO). **Both presented copies of their respective annual reports**, reflecting on a year of achievements and impact.

Guest speakers, Barbara Sipe, with United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg, and Brian Anderson, with Chamber RVA, gave a presentation about **RVA Rising**, a long-term, collaborative effort to ensure everyone in the Richmond region can thrive. **Driven by data and community input, RVA Rising brings people and institutions together to pursue strategies that will create systems change and increase economic mobility for all.** PlanRVA serves as a partner in the initiative, as both a convener and provider of technical support for the development of a data dashboard.

[Regional Strategic Plan - PlanRVA's Alignment with RVA Rising](#)

[Meeting Recording](#)

[PlanRVA Annual Report 2024](#)

Upcoming PlanRVA Commission Meetings:

- Public Outreach and Engagement Committee: Thursday, January 9: 9:00 am
- Audit, Finance and Facilities Committee: Monday, January 27: 9:30 am

Follow the full calendar of PlanRVA Meetings and Updates on the dedicated webpages [HERE](#).



Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO) Updates

Grant Award Announcement: FHWA Funding for Prioritization Pilot Program (PPPP)

At the December 5th meeting, RRTPO Vice Chair Rogish announced that **the agency was awarded \$1.495 million in FHWA funding through the Prioritization Process Pilot Program (PPPP)**. Funding will be used for Pathways to the Future project scoring.

The vision of PPPP is to fund the development and implementation of pilot prioritization processes that address and integrate the components of existing transportation programs and support projects that improve safety, climate change and sustainability, equity, and economic strength and global competitiveness consistent with DOT's strategic goals.

The purpose of PPPP is to support data-driven approaches to planning that, upon completion, can be evaluated for public benefit. The program provides funding to develop and implement a publicly accessible, transparent prioritization process for the ranking and selection of projects for inclusion in short-range and long-range transportation plans. **Read more about the program [here](#).**

Upcoming RRTPO Meetings:

- TAC - Tuesday, January 14 - 9:00 am
- CTAC - Thursday, January 16 - 12:00 pm

Follow the full calendar of RRTPO Meetings and Updates on the dedicated webpages [HERE](#).



Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) Updates

CVTA Chairs Recognized at Joint Annual Meeting

Current CVTA Chair, Sean Davis of Hanover County, recognized past chairs, with a special honor presented to **inaugural CVTA chair, Frank Thornton, recognized as Chair Emeritus**. Plaques and recognition were also given to chair Kevin Carroll of Chesterfield County and immediate past chair, Richmond Mayor, Levar Stoney, whose plaque was accepted by Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Richmond.



L-R: Mr. Saunders, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Carroll, Chair Davis

The CVTA is excited to announce news of its new website: cvtava.org

The public is invited to explore the new site and learn more about the Authority's impact, regional projects, ongoing board and committee updates, and how, since its creation in 2020, CVTA is helping to shape the future of mobility in the region!

At the December Joint Annual Meeting executive director Parsons shared the **updated CVTA video** created to inform the public, and the **FY2024 Impact Report**, presented to members and attendees and available on the website [here](#).

Upcoming CVTA Meetings:

- TAC - Monday January 13 - 1:00 pm
- Authority - Friday, January 31 - 9:00 am

Follow the full calendar of CVTA Meetings and Updates at www.cvtava.org

PlanRVA Program Updates:



PlanRVA, in coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, and partners, hosted a free Stream Smart workshop for local staff to learn about how to provide aquatic organism passage and improve flood resiliency when designing road-stream crossings.

The workshop, held at the Piedmont Office of the Department of Environmental Quality(DEQ), was designed for professionals responsible for road-stream crossings to construct culverts that maintain fish and wildlife habitat while protecting roads and public safety.



FEMA



**NATIONAL FLOOD
INSURANCE PROGRAM®**

The FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Quoting Tool empowers residents to explore their flood insurance options ahead of a flooding event. Flood insurance helps avoid the cost of repairs and replacing belongings, while also reducing the risk of displacement. **This is one of the many tools PlanRVA employs to advance housing stability and environmental resilience in our region.**

Housing stability creates conditions that allow residents to remain in their homes over time. Stable housing reduces the likelihood of frequent moves or evictions, which can disrupt community bonds and individual well-being.

Partner Updates

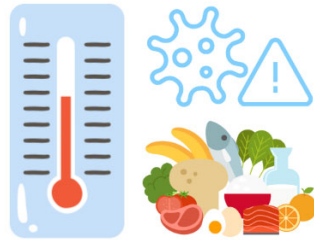
Preparedness Corner: Winter Safety and Holiday Preparedness

As winter settles in and the holidays approach, it's important to prioritize safety and preparedness for both the season and any potential emergencies.



Start by ensuring your home is winter-ready: check insulation, clean gutters, and service heating systems.

Prepare an emergency kit with essentials like blankets, warm clothing, and non-perishable food, and make sure flashlights, candles, and batteries are readily available.



As you gather with loved ones this holiday season, remember food safety is key—keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold to prevent foodborne illnesses.

Safe handling of leftovers is also very important. Follow the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service's recommendations [here!](#)



Additionally, be mindful of cybersecurity during online shopping;

- use secure websites,
- update passwords, and
- avoid public Wi-Fi for financial transactions.

Be aware of phishing scams that mimic familiar communications, but contain small errors.

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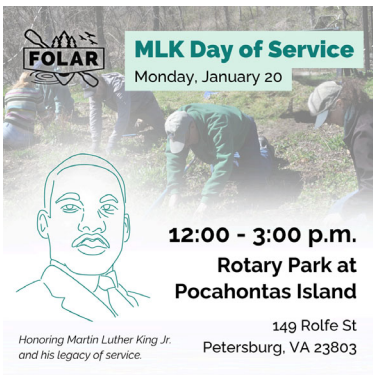
Friends of the Lower Appomattox River

Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), works in partnership with the community to conserve, protect, and promote the Appomattox River for all to enjoy.

With You, There's HOPE for the Appomattox River



FOLAR needs YOU to give hope for the Appomattox River! In 2024, we witnessed some of the most catastrophic natural disasters around the world. In the face of these challenges, it's easy to feel that making an impact as an individual is impossible. That's precisely why coming together — as community members, friends, colleagues, and fellow earth-dwellers — is so essential. Together, we can create lasting change that protects natural places close to home and beyond.



These efforts toward protecting and caring for our natural spaces begin right here in our own backyard. FOLAR is deeply committed to building a welcoming environment where everyone can connect, learn, share, and enjoy the benefits of a healthy Appomattox River. **Visit our website to learn more about ways to support our work!**

FOLAR's MLK Day of Service - Monday, January 20: 12:00PM - 3:00PM

We will meet at Rotary Park in the historic Pocahontas Island neighborhood of Petersburg to pick up trash and clear the trail for visitor enjoyment. The Pocahontas Island neighborhood is full of African-American history, and we are eager to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Petersburg, one of the first cities in the United States to recognize the holiday.

No experience necessary and all gloves/tools will be provided. Training and plant identification will be at the beginning of each event, so this is also a great opportunity to learn about your local plants! [REGISTER HERE](#)

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Staff Spotlights & Announcements



Martha Shickle, PlanRVA's Executive Director, celebrates her **9-year anniversary** this month! Her leadership and dedication to developing the organization has strengthened our mission and advanced the region's strategic plan through partnerships, collaboration and a spirit of regional cooperation. Martha also serves as executive director of the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RRTPO).



Addie Alexander joined PlanRVA this month as a **Data Analyst**. She is motivated by the potential for people-centered data analysis to increase transparency, accountability, and equity, and spent over a decade organizing to build power and make change alongside marginalized communities in Virginia and New York. Learn more about Addie [here!](#)



Katie Moody, PlanRVA's Regional Emergency Preparedness Program Manager was honored this month by the [Emergency Management Alliance of Central Virginia](#) (EMACV) with the **Excellence in Emergency Management award**. It recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication and achievement in the field of emergency management within the Central Virginia region. Congratulations!



Kerry Ramos, AICP, Transportation Planner at PlanRVA, has earned her **American Institute of Certified Planners certification**. This prestigious accomplishment recognizes Kerry's expertise and commitment to professional planning and continuous learning. Congratulations on your hard work and this well-deserved achievement!



Sulabh Aryal, AICP, Planning Manager at PlanRVA, has earned his **Professional Transportation Planner (PTP) certification**, designed for candidates who have a wide-range of education and experience in transportation planning. Congratulations on this well-earned professional recognition and for your many contributions to PlanRVA!

Upcoming Events

January 14, 2025: 5:30 - 7:15 pm @ The Valentine
Don't miss the next installment in the dynamic series of informative, welcoming community discussions about topics that matter. **Too Damn High!: The Price of Forgoing the Traditional 9-5.**

PlanRVA is proud to support this 12th year of public engagement programming with data for each talk.



CONTRIVERSY HISTORY

Too Damn High! Rising Rents & Richmond's Affordable Housing Crisis
October 15, 2024, 5:30-7:15

Too Damn High! Medical Costs & Access to Quality Care
November 12, 2024, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

Too Damn High! The Price of Forgoing the Traditional 9-5
January 14, 2025, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

Too Damn High! The Pressure of Childcare in the First Five Years
February 11, 2025, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

Too Damn High! Violence in Richmond & the Path to Safer Communities
March 11, 2025, 5:30-7:15 p.m.

Registration encouraged, not required



Repair Café RVA to Host First Event

Date/Time: Jan. 19, 2025, from 3-6 p.m.

Location: Rag and Bones Bicycle Cooperative, 2916 North Ave -Brookland Park

What: Repair Cafes are meeting places that bring skilled volunteers together with people who have items needing repair such as clothing, furniture or small appliances. The cafes also enable access to space, tools and materials for fixing.

January 23, 2025

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

@

Virginia Museum of
History and Culture

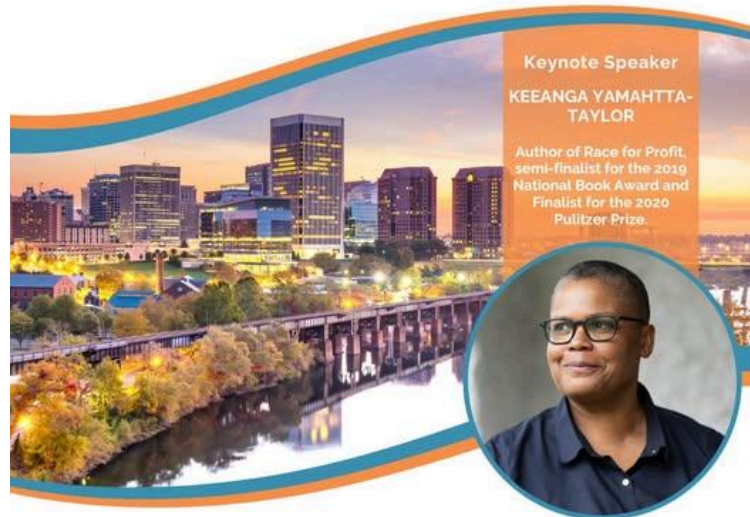
State of Housing in the Richmond Region 2025!

Gain valuable insights
into the region's
housing landscape,
including:

- * **Regional Trends**
- * **Industry Successes**
- * **Future Priorities**

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

STATE OF HOUSING IN THE RICHMOND REGION



Keynote Speaker

KEEANGA YAMAHTTA-
TAYLOR

Author of *Race for Profit*,
semi-finalist for the 2019
National Book Award and
Finalist for the 2020
Pulitzer Prize.

THURS | **JAN 23** | 2025

Virginia Museum of History and Culture
428 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd.,
Richmond, VA 23230

4PM - 7PM

Tickets go on sale December 1

TITLE SPONSORS



Library of Virginia Exhibition Opens!

Mapping the
Commonwealth:
1816 - 1826

Now thru June 7, 2025



“Mapping the Commonwealth:1816 - 1826” presents examples from 40 manuscript maps that highlight the painstaking task of **creating Virginia’s first official state map**. Combining art and science, these surveys attest to the dedication, skill and stamina of surveying teams who worked without the benefit of GPS and today’s technology. FREE admission, no registration required.

You know we love maps around here!

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Have story ideas for future issues?

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