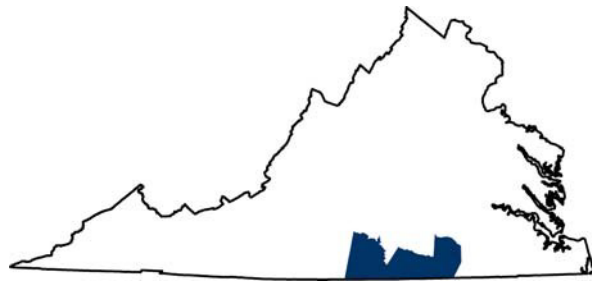


FY25 Management Plan



Southside Planning District

Brunswick County
Halifax County
Mecklenburg County
Town of South Boston
Town of South Hill
VIRGINIA

Adopted April 25, 2024

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Management Plan is a statement of the objectives the Southside Planning District Commission intends to achieve during the period FY25.

Purpose

The primary objective of the Southside Planning District Commission is to promote the orderly and efficient development of the economic, physical, and social fabric of this rural region by assisting local governmental units in developing policies, programs, and projects which directly impact the region's economic, physical, and social needs. The Management Plan establishes the framework within which the Commission promotes the development of comprehensive planning processes to ensure regional as well as local viewpoints are considered in policy, program, and project development and evaluation.

Environment and Historic Preservation

Planning and management activities that impact or affect the environment or areas of historic significance are evaluated to ensure conformance to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and those provisions relating to the protection of historic and cultural properties.

Administrative Organization

The Southside Planning District Commission is an organization established to serve as the official regional planning and development agency acting as the forum to promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination on mutual problems of regional significance.

Southside Planning District Commission

The Southside Planning District Commission Charter was adopted on September 15, 1969, and Planning District 13 became the seventh organized Planning District of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A Planning District Commission is a public body created by the General Assembly to promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social, and economic elements by planning, encouraging, and assisting governmental subdivisions to plan for the future. It has no legislative or taxing power but provides an opportunity for citizens to participate in decisions to solve common problems and needs. In all their activities, the main theme of Planning District Commissions is intergovernmental cooperation. Their primary mission is to serve the Planning District's local governments and citizens.

The PDC provides essential technical assistance to local governments, coordinates state and federal efforts to assist communities, reviews and coordinates local development proposals to help achieve a realistic development strategy and utilizes it to shape a long-range development plan for the district. The primary objectives are to reduce the waste, overlap, and inefficiencies frequently resulting from unplanned, uncoordinated governmental and private activities.

The first meeting of the Southside Planning District Commission was held November 6, 1969, at the Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in Chase City, Virginia, with members attending from the Counties of Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg, the City of South Boston, and the Town of South Hill. Also, at this time, the Planning District was designated as an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration.

The Commissioners are the decision-making body that determines the overall District strategy, plan, policy, and program; coordinates the work of the advisory committees; and represents the District in dealing with state and federal agencies.

This Commission consists of 17 members with 59% elected officials. The remaining 41% represent various interest groups in the District, such as agriculture, education, healthcare, and industry. Members are chosen in such a manner that all counties are equally represented, and no one interest group controls the Commission.

Brunswick County has three (3) Commissioners:

- 2 elected officials
- 1 citizen-at-large.

Halifax County has five (5) Commissioners:

- 3 elected officials
- 2 citizens-at-large.

Mecklenburg County has five (5) Commissioners:

- 3 elected officials
- 2 citizens-at-large.

The Town of South Boston has two (2) Commissioners:

- 1 elected official
- 1 citizen-at-large.

The Town of South Hill has two (2) Commissioners:

- 1 elected official
- 1 citizen-at-large.

There are seven minority members: Brunswick County – three (3); Halifax County – two (2); Mecklenburg County – one (1); and South Hill – one (1).

GOALS

The Goals of the Southside Planning District Commission shall include:

- Promoting a favorable business climate to strengthen local economic development efforts;
- Protecting the region's physical and natural resources;
- Supporting local government's role in economic development;
- Diversifying the region's economy;
- Coordinating educational and workforce development programs;
- Assisting local government efforts to reduce costs and improve the efficiency of services;
- Maintaining a central data system and mapping services;
- Monitoring the development of regulations for state/federal programs/projects;
- Encouraging the use of federal, state, local, and regional development incentives;
- Providing technical assistance to local governments;
- Increasing employment opportunities within the District;
- Providing a public forum for regional issues;
- Prioritizing projects for state-wide programs; and
- Soliciting grant funds for community projects throughout the region to improve infrastructure, housing stock, downtown properties, industrial buildings/sites, and outdoor recreation amenities.

SOUTHSIDE PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Chair – Tom Tanner – Mecklenburg County
Vice Chair – George Leonard – Town of South Boston
Treasurer – Leslie Weddington – Brunswick County

Brunswick County

- Dr. Alfonzo R. Seward Elected Official
- Dr. Barabra Jarrett-Harris Elected Official
- Leslie Weddington Citizen-at-Large/*Executive Committee*

Halifax County

- Stanley Brandon Elected Official
- William B. Claiborne Elected Official
- Keith McDowell Elected Official
- Gerald V. Lovelace Citizen-at-Large
- Scott Simpson Citizen-at-Large/*Executive Committee*

Mecklenburg County

- Tom Tanner Elected Official/*Executive Committee*
- Kirk Gravitts Elected Official
- Charlie Simmons Citizen-at-Large
- Claudia Lundy Elected Official
- Joseph Cappaert Citizen-at-Large

Town of South Boston

- Joseph Chandler III Elected Official
- George Leonard Citizen-at-Large/*Executive Committee*

Town of South Hill

- Lillie Feggins-Boone Elected Official
- Kim Callis Citizen-at-Large/*Executive Committee*

CEDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In accordance with 13 CFR 303.6, EDA requires the Planning Organization to appoint a Strategy Committee (CEDS Committee) to guide the CEDS planning process. The makeup of the CEDS committee is guided by EDA legislation, CFR 303.6 (a), which stipulates the committee should have representation from the following: public officials, community leaders, workforce development boards, institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups, private individuals, and tribal governments where applicable. The CEDS Committee is responsible for working with the SPDC staff to develop and submit to the Economic Development Administration a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that complies with EDA.

The CEDS Committee Members :

- Mary Jane Elkins, SVCC Foundation
- Mark Estes, Halifax Service Authority
- Sheldon Barr, VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital
- Lauren Mathena, Mid-Atlantic Broadband Corporation
- Mitzi McCormick, Halifax Chamber of Commerce
- Scott Worner, Ph.D., Mecklenburg County Public Schools
- Jeremy Satterfield, Southern Virginia TechSpark Virginia
- Tom Tanner, Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors/SPDC Commissioner
- Nettie Simon-Owens, Ed. D, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
- LaTonya Hamilton, Halifax County Tourism
- Cynthia Gregg, Virginia Cooperative Extension (Brunswick County)
- Alfreda Reynolds, Brunswick County Economic Development

SPDC STAFF

Deborah B. Gosney	◆	Executive Director
Andy K. Wells	◆	Director of Local Services
Ashleigh Zincone	◆	Senior Community Planner
Sangi L. Cooper	◆	Senior Community Planner
Chad E. Neese	◆	Senior Planner / GIS Specialist
Erika M. Tanner	◆	Community Planner II
Magen M. Long	◆	Administrative Assistant
Leslie A. Kubasek	◆	Director of Finance / HR
Ann T. Wright	◆	Contract Staff CTW Consulting LLC

WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The following list is the Work Program as identified in the Southside Planning District Commission's (SPDC) Management Plan for FY25. Each of the elements in the Work Program is interrelated and has been designed to implement the Development Strategy of the 2020-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Economic Development Planning and Technical Assistance activities will be coordinated with other activities detailed in the work program and with localities to enhance economic development, increase employment opportunities, and stimulate investment in Planning District 13. Activities to include:

- Develop district-wide strategies that strengthen existing economic clusters and target new growing employment sectors.
- Prepare annual reviews and five-year updates to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Planning District 13.
- Prepare Southside PDC Annual Report.
- Continue development and maintenance of the Southside Planning District Commission website (www.southsidepdc.org) to disseminate area demographics and information.
- Assist with marketing studies as needed.
- Provide intergovernmental review of and/or comment on local project applications to state and federal agencies as needed.
- Research the needs of the private sector and link available economic resources in the district to meet these needs.
- Seek creative and cooperative financing strategies for local and regional infrastructure needs.
- Coordinate local efforts with state and federal development agencies and programs, including the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Economic Development Administration (EDA), Rural Development (RD), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and others.
- Fulfill requests from localities and the general public for Census and other demographic data/information for use in economic development proposals, grant applications, project development, education, and research initiatives.
- Attending meetings and public hearings on regional issues and representing the Commission's position.
- Monitor federal, state, bistate, and local activities concerning regional issues.

- Report to the Commission, localities, and agencies as necessary.
- Provide technical assistance to localities for comprehensive plan preparation and updates.
- Extend technical assistance to localities in developing regional downtown strategies.
- Assist in the organization and resource development in advancing the region toward quality of life, workforce, and economic development goals emerging from Virginia’s Growth Alliance (VGA) and the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance.
- Prepare grant applications as required.
- Support workforce development and training initiatives throughout the region.
- Process financial and administrative reports as required by federal and state agencies.
- Assist localities with GIS and mapping as follows:
 - ✓ Provide maps and/or GIS data where possible
 - ✓ Assist with local GIS projects
 - ✓ Provide GIS data to consultants/engineers partnering on local projects
 - ✓ Use GIS with Census data to effectively portray population, demographic distribution, and land use in the District
 - ✓ Coordinate and manage E911 and emergency management-related GIS datasets for the region.
 - ✓ Train local government planning staff on the use of GIS tasks.
- Link Census data to Regional GIS to disseminate and fully utilize for planning purposes.
- Assist localities with establishing or modifying Enterprise Zone boundaries by providing GIS mapping that relates boundary data to geographic data describing local industry, land use, zoning, and natural resources.
- Provide accurate GPS mapping of physical resources of the region as requested by localities as needed for SPDC projects.
- Provide information and resources to localities regarding Opportunity Zone benefits to encourage economic growth throughout the region.

RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING – State planning and research funds are allocated each year to SPDC to support transportation planning assistance for non-urbanized areas. Activities to include:

- Program administration which includes quarterly reports, invoices, preparation of the annual work program, attend administrative meetings/trainings, administer the SPDC Title VI program, and other similar tasks.

- Provide grant preparation assistance for programs such as Smart Scale, Transportation Alternatives, Growth and Accessibility Planning, Revenue Sharing, and other similar funding opportunities.
- Support and provide technical assistance with bicycle, pedestrian, and trail planning initiatives. This includes the collection of GPS data on active transportation facilities, trail counts, assisting VDOT in tracking and collection of relevant datasets, and supporting the State Trails Office in the development and implementation of the State Trails Plan.
- Complete the 2050 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan.
- Conduct a downtown parking study in South Hill to assess current and project needs, utilization of existing parking facilities, and recommendations to improve the parking experience. The SPDC hopes to expand this service to other localities in the future.
- Fulfill other related technical assistance requests from localities and attend relevant transportation meetings, assist VDOT and localities with studies, keep the SPDC website updated, provide assistance with the Tobacco Heritage Trail (THT) website and maps, and conduct an annual assessment of the Nathalie Park and Ride Lot.
- Review the Commission's Title VI policy for updates and compliance.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – DHCD provides an annual allocation each year to SPDC to assist with the overall management and administration of office operations. Activities to include:

- Attending meetings and public hearings on regional issues and representing the Commission's position.
- Submit an annual report to member local governments and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).
- Continuously monitor, review, coordinate, and direct activities of the Commission.
- Coordinate efforts to enhance economic development in the District.
- Provide for continuous review and supervision of coordinated office services such as personnel records control, management methods, reporting procedures, implementation of cost reduction and securing of confidential data and files.
- Process requests from local governments.
- Serve as a regional clearinghouse for the PDC region.

- Maintain current census publications.
- Maintain the Commission's website: www.southsidepdc.org.
- Serve as liaison on behalf of the Commission to federal, state, bi-state, regional, and local agencies and groups.
- Prepare budget for review and approval.
- Review and update the Commission's Personnel Policies Handbook annually for compliance.
- Maintain FOIA Compliance by appointment of FOIA officers and attending FOIA training.
- Coordinate local efforts with state and federal development agencies and programs, including DHCD, EDA, RD, VDOT, TRRC, DEQ, FEMA, DCR, and others.
- Coordinate regional efforts to expand and diversify the local economies.
- Support local efforts to improve the quality and habitability of existing housing.
- Support efforts to improve the quality of localities' infrastructure.
- Report to the Commission, localities, and agencies as necessary.
- Prepare grant applications as required.
- Maintain the financial statements of the Southside Planning District Commission in accordance with all state and federal regulations to ensure financial stability.
- Provide an internal accounting and administrative control structure as necessary to ensure policies and procedures are performed as required by federal/state laws.
- Administer federal/state financial assistance programs in accordance with applicable federal/state laws and regulations.
- Monitor changes in federal/state policies, which could affect the finance ability of the Commission.
- Distribute administrative costs to all program areas by an indirect cost allocation plan in accordance with state and federal guidelines.
- Review and update the Commission's Financial Operations Manual.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT - LAKE COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LCDC) provides funding/technical assistance for expanding and locating businesses/industries in the PDC Region; a micro-loan pool is also available for small business development in the region.

- Maintain and promote business development programs offered through LCDC.
- Pursue additional employment and development programs that promote the expansion and diversification of the District's economy.
- Promote and coordinate the RD Intermediary Relending Program, EDA Revolving Loan Fund, and Microlending Revolving Loan Fund.
- Furnish reports to the Commission, localities, and agencies, as required.
- Provide financial/administrative semi-annual and annual reports as required by federal and state agencies.
- Provide technical assistance to local governments to encourage economic investment and job creation.
- Promote programs to encourage the use of LCDC and federal, state, and local development programs and incentives.
- Confer with potential applicants to consider eligibility, impact, and financial soundness of projects to determine conformity to LCDC's administrative plan.
- Support asset-based development strategies of the region as a means for economic and community development.
- Perform a cursory review of all loan applications.
- Schedule meetings of the LCDC Loan Review Committee and Board of Directors.
- Notify applicants of loan decisions, schedule the closing of loans, and disburse funds to successful applicants.
- Service all loans and monitor loan repayments.
- Maintain financial accounting records for LCDC.
- Provide technical assistance to local governments and firms, including loan packaging and public/private development efforts.
- Coordinate the resources of federal and state agencies for the purpose of economic development and expanded employment opportunities.

GRANTSMANSHIP AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – The SPDC will provide technical assistance to its local governments and non-profit partners in administering all projects by continuously monitoring and reviewing activities and providing administrative, financial, and progress reports as required. Activities to include:

Grant Administration – Boydton – Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project

- The Town of Boydton received a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for improvements to the Town’s Wastewater Treatment Plan and collection system to accommodate a company prospect. A new blowdown water treatment system will allow flows to be separated into different gravity wastewater lines and be treated independently. A new 12-inch sewer line will be installed to convey the cooling water and an 8-inch sewer line will be rehabilitated to convey the domestic wastewater from the administration buildings. At the WWTP, improvements will include the construction of a new 1) Equalization basin with aeration; 2) Equalization tank effluent vault with mag meter and motorized pinch valve; 3) Dechlorination building; and 4) WWTP outfall pipe to Coleman Creek.

Grant Administration – Brodnax – Lead Service Line Inventory

- Inventory of Lead lines and replacement needs for the Town of Brodnax to be completed by SPDC.

Grant Administration – Brodnax – Piney Pond Targeted Site Housing Project

- The Town of Brodnax received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) to rehabilitate and/or substantially reconstruct 13 LMI homes in Brodnax, Virginia.

Grant Administration – Brodnax – Housing Rehabilitation Project

- The Town of Brodnax is requesting funding assistance from VDHCD to implement planning activities for a town-wide housing rehabilitation project. The Project will address the housing needs of all interested and eligible LMI households within the town limits of Brodnax. Eligible activities include owner-occupied and investor-owned housing rehabilitation, owner-occupied substantial reconstruction, and neighborhood cleanup efforts.

Technical Assistance – Brunswick County Sheriff’s Office – GIS Services

- Staff provide contractual GIS services to all three member Counties. These services include 911 map/data updates, address point, and centerline management, assistance with 911 MSAG/ALI issues, assistance with NG911 initiatives, and compliance with 911 GIS standards. Each County greatly benefits from this regional approach as 911 GIS operations are largely the same from County to County, and many hours can be saved by approaching tasks on a regional basis.

Grant Administration – Brunswick County – Chestnut Targeted Housing Rehab Project

- Brunswick County was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to rehabilitate thirteen (13) LMI units scattered along Boydton Plank Road, Chestnut Road, Flat Rock Road, and Jones Drive.

Grant Administration – Brunswick County – Township Road Housing Rehab Project

- Brunswick County was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to rehabilitate or substantially reconstruct 13 LMI residential homes, serving 21 LMI persons.

Grant Administration – Brunswick County IDA – Produce Project

- The Brunswick County Produce Project received grant funds to construct a 45,000-square-foot produce processing and packing facility in the I-85 Industrial Park located in the Town of Alberta. Old Dominion Organic Farms, a member of Southern Virginia Vegetable Packing, LLC, will operate the facility. Over the next three years, 40 new jobs will be created, and the facility is expected to process nearly \$24 million worth of Virginia-grown vegetables, of which approximately 80 percent will be certified organic. The new facility will support more than 22 farmers located in Amelia, Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Prince George, and Surry Counties during its first season.

Grant Administration – Brunswick County IDA – Sledge and Barkley Disaster Assistance Project

- The Brunswick IDA was awarded a DHR grant to repair the roofing system of the Sledge and Barkley Building that was caused by Hurricanes Michael and Florence.

Grant Administration – Brunswick County IDA – Sledge and Barkley Disaster Assistance Project

- TRRC funds will provide funding for the immediate structural stabilization and water mitigation on the lower floor and for buildouts on the lower floor, as determined by market demand within the feasibility study once completed.

Grant Administration – Brunswick County - Stonewall Site Development Project

- The Brunswick County Stonewall Site Development Project will provide a much-needed shovel-ready pad site for Brunswick County. The scope of work will include the final A&E design for the site, clearing, grading, and all associated construction to make the site "shovel-ready." This project will position Brunswick County to better compete in the highly competitive industrial site market and promote economic development.

Grant Administration – Chase City – B Street Neighborhood Improvement Project, Pse I

- The Town of Chase City was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to benefit 15 households, of which 11 are LMI-occupied. A total of 33 persons, of which 27 are LMI persons, will benefit from comprehensive improvements. Two vacant, dilapidated units will be demolished. Waterline improvements include the installation of 1,100+/-LFT of 4” waterline, installation of 320+/-LFT of 2” waterline, new water service tubing to meters, and reconnection of 8 water services. Sewer Line improvements include the lining of 1,200+/-LFT of 8” gravity sewer line, rehab of 7 existing manholes, and cut in 10 existing laterals after lining.

Grant Administration – Chase City – B Street Neighborhood Project, Phase II

- The Town of Chase City submitted a comprehensive CDBG to improve the living conditions of the B Street Phase 2 community by implementing neighborhood improvements, which include the rehabilitation of 1 owner-occupied home, 3 investor-owned homes, and 2 homes to be substantially reconstructed, demolition of 2 vacant units, water and sewer improvements, and clean-up.

Grant Administration – Chase City – Lead Inventory Project

- Funds will be used to perform a town-wide lead inventory of all water lines and connections.

Grant Administration – Chase City – Lee Building Disaster Assistance Project

- The Town of Chase City was awarded a DHR grant to make interior improvements to the Lee Building, which were needed after Hurricanes Michael and Florence.

Grant Administration – Chase City – Town Wide Water Study

- Funds will be used to prepare a PER to evaluate the distribution system, coordinate inventory lines and pipes, locations, and ages, identify issues, fire blowing, and a hydraulic model for the fire hydrants. The PER will identify costs and a prioritized list of needs. The Town will use this information to apply for Virginia Health Department Construction funds in 2024.

Grant Administration - Clarksville - Burlington Site Assessment Project

- Grant funds will be used to complete a Phase II ESA on the former Burlington site in Clarksville.

Grant Administration – Clarksville - Sewer Improvement Project

- Funds will be utilized for the Clarksville Sewer Improvement Project, which consists of constructing an Integrated Fixed Film and Activated Sludge System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, demolishing the Kinderton Pump Station, and installing three (3) grinder

pump stations for the end users.

Grant Administration – Clarksville - Cove Project

- The project scope entails clearing and grubbing for 650 linear feet (LF) by 8 feet wide trail; grading, stone, and pavement for 650 LF by 8 ft wide trail; gabion baskets for bank stabilization at the switchback in the trail down to the lake; handrail at critical locations, signage, lighting, and landscaping along the trail; metal gangway bridge, deck, and boat slips to accommodate 16 boats total.

Grant Administration – Clarksville – Planters Warehouse Project

- Redevelop the former Planter's Tobacco Warehouse into a multi-use facility with apartments and a restaurant. Dave McMormick is the developer.

Technical Assistance – Halifax – GIS Services

- Staff provide contractual GIS services to all three member Counties. These services include 911 map/data updates, address point and centerline management, assistance with 911 MSAG/ALI issues, assistance with NG911 initiatives, and compliance with 911 GIS standards. Each County greatly benefits from this regional approach as 911 GIS operations are largely the same from County to County and many hours can be saved by approaching tasks on a regional basis.

Grant Administration – Halifax - Banister Town Phase I Targeted Site Housing Rehab Project

- Phase I of this project, the Town will rehabilitate six (6) LMI housing units, benefiting nine (9) LMI persons: four (4) owner-occupied rehabs and two (2) owner-occupied substantial reconstructions.

Grant Administration - Halifax - Exxon Redevelopment Project

- The Town of Halifax submitted an FY 2024 IRF APRA Fall Round grant of \$1,000,000. The Town has partnered with Patel LLC, which will convert the property into a restaurant, bottle shop, and beer & wine bar. IRF funds will be used towards hard construction costs related to redevelopment. The Town is matching the grant with \$175,000 towards construction-related soft costs and an additional \$73,121 in additional leverage. Patel LLC has committed \$250,000 in private investment. Total project cost is \$1,498,121.

Grant Administration – La Crosse – Pine Street Project – Phase II

- The Town of La Crosse received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD) to rehab and/or substantially reconstruct 8 LMI units, demolish one vacant residential structure, and improve

water, sewer, and storm drainage infrastructure in the Pine Street community. This project will benefit 37 people, 32 of whom are LMI.

Grant Administration – La Crosse – Pine Street Project – Phase I

- Rehab and/or substantially reconstruct 9 LMI units benefiting 15 LMI persons, repair sewer lines and manholes, install new waterline and fire hydrants, and complete stormwater improvements. Project activities will benefit 34 total persons, of which 19 are LMI.

Grant Administration – Lawrenceville - Sharp Street Streetscape Project

- Improve pedestrian safety, ADA compliance, network connectivity, and stormwater collection on the eastern side of Sharp Street from Riddick Street to New Hicks Street and the western side of Sharp Street from Riddick Street to New Street. Funds will be used for new and reconstructed sidewalks, entrances, curb and gutter, streetlights, a crosswalk, bump outs, and stormwater infrastructure.

Grant Administration – La Crosse – Lead Service Line Inventory

- Conduct a Lead Service Line Inventory for the Town of La Crosse.

Technical Assistance – Lunenburg County – GIS Services

- SPDC is now providing and hosting an online GIS parcel web map for Lunenburg County.

Technical Assistance – SPDC – Lake Gaston 911 Task Force Dock Sign Management

- Technical assistance will be provided to Lake Gaston 911 Task Force to manage the process to add 911 signs to boat docks and boathouses around the shore of Lake Gaston.

Technical Assistance – Mecklenburg County – GIS Services

- These services include 911 map/data updates, address point, and centerline management, assistance with 911 MSAG/ALI issues, assistance with NG911 initiatives, and compliance with 911 GIS standards. Each County greatly benefits from this regional approach as 911 GIS operations are largely the same from County to County and many hours can be saved by approaching tasks on a regional basis.

Grant Administration – Mecklenburg County - The Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail Project

- Virginia's Crossroads will 1) add twelve (12) new Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail (CRIEHT) locations to the existing forty-one (41) sites; 2) complete the design portion of the graphic panel inserts to reflect the newly designed map and trail listing for continuity with the existing locations; 3) refurbish the existing pedestals; 4) make every existing site ADA

compliant; 5) install new wayfinding signs; and 6) complete an Economic Impact Study. Mecklenburg County is acting as the fiscal agent for Virginia's Crossroads (formerly known as Virginia's Retreat).

Grant Administration – South Boston – Greene's Crossing Landing Project

- The Town of South Boston received a Recreational Trails Program grant to construct a new, highly visible boat/canoe/kayak launch on the Dan River in downtown South Boston. The launch will be located on the south bank of the Dan River at the bridge on U.S. 501 / Huell Matthews Highway, which represents a prominent gateway into downtown South Boston.

Grant Administration – South Boston IDA – John Randolph Hotel Redevelopment Project

- The South Boston Industrial Development Authority (IDA) has been awarded a \$600,000 Southside Economic Development grant from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC), a \$50,000 Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund grant from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and a \$3,000,000 Industrial Revitalization Fund award from the VDHCD to assist with the redevelopment of the former historic John Randolph Hotel at 327 Main Street into a boutique hotel with 27 rooms, a restaurant, a rooftop bar and a gift shop.

Grant Administration – South Boston – North Main Street Targeted Site Housing Rehabilitation Project

- The Town of South Boston received a Community Development Block Grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD). The purpose of the grant is to rehabilitate 14 LMI homes on North Main Street between College Street and Hamilton Boulevard in South Boston, Virginia.

Grant Administration – South Boston – Riverdale Acquisition Project

- The Town of South Boston received a grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to acquire and demolish 14 commercial structures, including auxiliary buildings, along with the vacant parcels between or adjacent to the structures and dedicate the land to open space use.

Grant Administration – South Boston – Westside Mobile Home Park Redevelopment

- The Town of South Boston received an award from the Department of Housing and Community Development to address blighted conditions in the 42-acre trailer park on the northwest side of town. The Town will be addressing the blighted conditions by partnering with Tri-County Community Action Agency, Tri-River Habitat for Humanity, and Southside Outreach Group to develop highly affordable, single-family housing.

Grant Administration - South Hill - Lead Service Line Inventory and Lead Line Replacement Plan Project

- The Town of South Hill will be required to complete and submit a Lead Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan to the EPA on October 16, 2024. This project is requesting funding from the VDH Office of Drinking Water to use the 120Water software system to complete the assessment.

Grant Administration – South Hill – Nicks Lane Neighborhood Project

- Planning grant funds will be utilized to conduct household income surveys and management team meetings and to prepare the plans/studies needed to submit a CIG in June 2023. The project will include one owner-occupied substantial reconstruction, three owner-occupied rehabs, and three investor-owned rehabs.

Grant Administration – South Hill – Sycamore & Howerton Sanitary Sewer Extension

- The Town of South Hill received an award from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with ARPA funding for a proposed gravity sewer collection system, pump station, and forcemain to serve the project area. The sewer extension will include the furnishing an installation of 950 LFT of 8” gravity sewer main, 5 manholes, a duplex grinder pump station with fenced in lot, 600 LFT of 2” forcemain, and 4” lateral stub outs to existing homes.

Grant Administration - SPDC - Affordable Housing Development Program

- The first round of funds will be utilized to partner with the Southside Outreach Group to contribute to the development of the Poplar Creek Street Housing Project consisting of 16 duplexes to be rented to low-to-moderate income residents and to launch the Affordable Housing Development Program that will create housing for low-to-moderate income first-time homebuyers throughout the PDC region.

Grant Administration – SOVA - Innovation Hub Campus Project

- Project funds will be used to 1) Redevelop a neighboring 13,000-square-foot building at 801 Wilborn Ave., South Boston, adjacent to the existing SOVA Innovation Hub building at 715 Wilborn Ave., South Boston, VA, and 2) Complete site infrastructure to support environmentally sustainable practices and agriculture and technology demonstration areas. The new building will include four (4) key components: digital makerspace, community spaces, coworking offices, and outdoor spaces.

Grant Administration – The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation – Dromgoole House Project

- The Old Brunswick Circuit Foundation was awarded Department of Historical Resources (DHR) Funds for repairs to the Dromgoole House located in Brunswick County. Funds will

be used to stabilize and secure the chimney and foundation, as well as complete an engineering and historic structures report for the Dromgoole House, which was damaged during Hurricane Michael.

Grant Administration – RRRT - Tobacco Heritage Trail Maintenance

- SPDC is managing the active portions of the Tobacco Heritage Trail (THT) system, effective July 1, 2022. Activities include trail coordination (customer services, volunteer coordination, social media, permitting), general assistance, information and mapping systems, and fiscal agent responsibilities. This arrangement covers the active Tobacco Heritage Trail system throughout Southside Virginia.

Grant Administration – SPDC – Regional Fiber Broadband Project Phase II

- Southside PDC, in partnership with EMPOWER, applied for VATI funds to extend fiber-to-the-home broadband that will provide universal coverage for all three of the PDC counties, including the southern portion of Charlotte County. Broadband services will be provided to 14,634 serviceable units, including 511 businesses and community anchors in the four-county region. PDC GIS staff will map served areas as broadband is successfully deployed. A second phase was awarded through the FY23 VATI application round. This project adds 4,804 serviceable passings and includes the County of Greensville. A third phase application was submitted on 12/19/23 to achieve full universal coverage in the PDC region and additional coverage in the neighboring Counties of Charlotte and Greensville. This phase will add an additional 13,115 passings.

Grant Administration – SPDC – Regional Broadband Project Phase I

- Southside PDC in partnership with EMPOWER applied for VATI funds to extend fiber-to-the-home broadband that will provide universal coverage for all three of the PDC counties to also include the southern portion of Charlotte County. Broadband services will be provided to 14,634 serviceable units, including 511 businesses and community anchors in the four-county region. PDC GIS staff will map served areas as broadband is successfully deployed. A second phase was awarded through the FY23 VATI application round. This project adds 4,804 serviceable passings and includes the County of Greensville. A third phase application was submitted on 12/19/23 to achieve full universal coverage in the PDC region and additional coverage in the neighboring Counties of Charlotte and Greensville. This phase will add an additional 13,115 passings.

Enhancement Grant Administration – Brodnax – Depot Renovation Project

- The Town of Brodnax received Tobacco Commission funding to purchase and renovate the vacant railroad Depot in Brodnax to serve at Trailhead to support the THT.

Enhancement Grant Administration – RRRT – THT Heritage Park Connector Project

- The Town of Lawrenceville received TAP funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to create new pedestrian access underneath the Route 46 Bridge and extend the Tobacco Heritage Trail 550 feet to connect to the Tobacco Heritage Trail Heritage Park.

Enhancement Grant Administration – SPDC / FEMA – Hazards Mitigation Plan

- Update the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan that was adopted in 2020 (valid for 5 years).

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 – SUPPORT ORGANIZATION/FISCAL AGENT - GO Virginia is an initiative by Virginia's senior business leaders to foster private-sector growth and job creation through state incentives for regional collaboration by business, education, and government. **The Southside PDC serves as the Support Organization and Fiscal Agent for GO Virginia Region 3.** Region 3's footprint incorporates the geographic boundaries of three PDC's - West Piedmont PDC, Southside PDC, and Commonwealth Regional Council. These three PDC's collectively cover 13 counties (Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Prince Edward) and two cities (Martinsville and Danville). The website address for GO Virginia Region 3 is govirginia3.org. A total of 24 projects have been funded with GO Virginia grant dollars. Eleven projects are being actively managed by PDC Staff, and 13 projects are closed out.

Title VI Plan: Nondiscrimination in Federal-Aid Programs

The Southside Planning District Commission will effectuate the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 49 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 21, 23 CFR Part 200, and other applicable directives. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, and national origin. Specifically, 42 USC 2000d states that *“No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”*

In addition to Title VI, the SPDC will not discriminate under other statutes that afford legal protection on the basis of sex, age, and disability. Further, as a recipient of federal aid funding, the SPDC strives to achieve nondiscrimination in all its programs and activities, whether or not those programs and activities are federally funded.

Implementation

The Executive Director is authorized to ensure compliance with all provisions of the Commission’s Title VI Plan and with other applicable law. The Title VI Coordinator shall assist the Executive Director by ensuring that the Title VI plan has been properly implemented. Such duties and responsibilities of the Title VI Coordinator shall include:

- Administer the Title VI program, including compliance.
- Process Title VI complaints in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Plan.
- Conduct annual Title VI review of the Commission to determine the effectiveness of activities at all levels.
- Prepare and submit the Annual Title VI Program Plan Update and Annual Accomplishment Report to VDOT by October 31st of each year.
- Attend training opportunities on Title VI and conduct and/or facilitate training for SPDC staff and sub-recipients.
- Conduct and/or coordinate with other SPDC staff, the review and monitoring of contractors, consultants, or other relevant sub-recipients of Federal funds as applicable.
- Collect statistical data (race, color, national origin, etc.) of participants in, and beneficiaries of, SPDC programs.
- Develop Title VI information for dissemination to the public and in languages other than English, when appropriate.
- Identify, investigate, and eliminate discrimination through the review of current or proposed programs, projects, or other directives.
- Establish procedures for promptly eliminating discrimination and resolving any deficiencies that may be found. The correction period should not exceed 90 days.

Program Areas and Training

The Southside Planning District Commission has identified the following program areas: Planning and Project Development, Right-of-Way, Project Management, and Education and Training. Each program area will be monitored to ensure contracts, notices, meetings, and work are in compliance with Title VI regulations. Title VI officers will attend training and provide and/or facilitate appropriate training for the rest of the staff and any sub-recipients that the Commission may have.

Public Involvement

In accordance with Title VI, all people shall be provided with equal opportunity to participate in the planning process and provide input. Special care needs to be taken to ensure that appropriate methods of public outreach are conducted and that all people are afforded the opportunity to provide input at public meetings. Special accommodations will be arranged by the Commission for those with a disability or who are Limited English proficiency (LEP) in an effort to remove participation barriers.

Data Collection

Demographic data of all people within the Southside Planning District will be collected as it relates to race, age, sex, income level and limited English proficiency. The main sources of this information will come from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, GIS, and locally administered surveys. SPDC staff will be better positioned to decide on appropriate outreach efforts for projects based upon the anticipated demographic makeup within a given project area. Once the public participation process begins, demographic data can be collected from those attending meetings to better refine demographic data within the project area and identify beneficiaries of the project.

Complaints

Anyone who believes that they have been subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other related statutes and regulations, has the right to file a complaint. They may be filed with the SPDC, VDOT, FHWA and-or USDOT and must be received within 180 days after the date of the alleged act of discrimination.