

FY27 Benchmarking Activity Virginia MPO Profiles and Overview

October 6, 2026

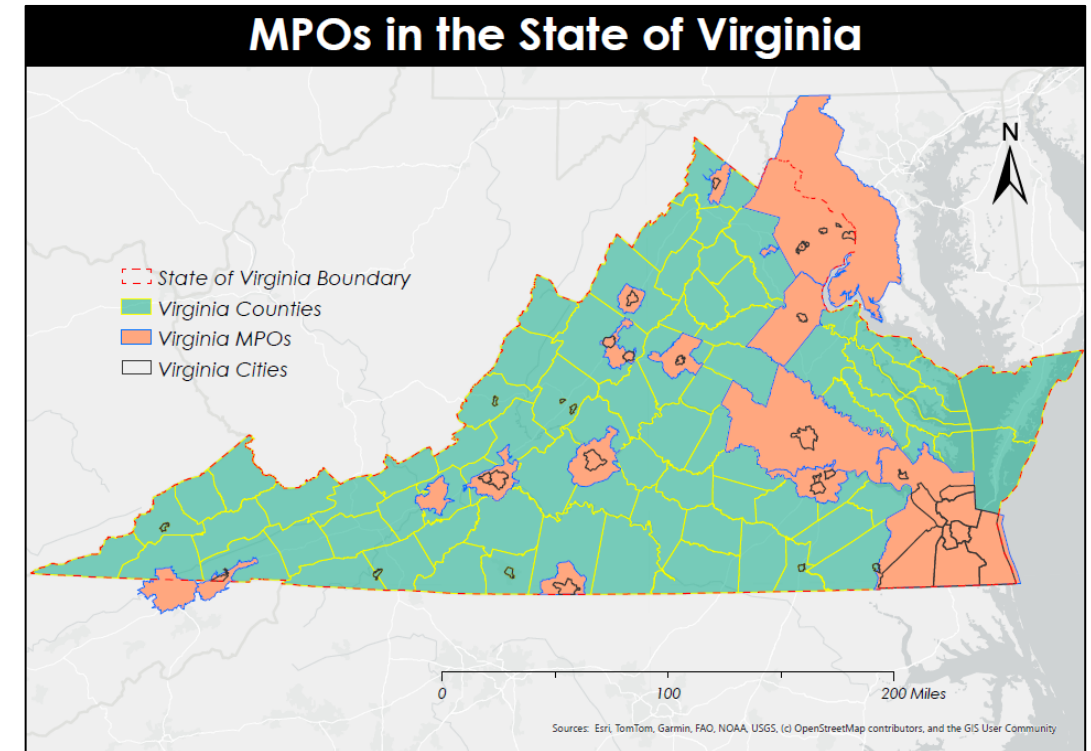


AGENDA

- I. Purpose, Planning Context, and Core Definitions
- II. Notable Peer MPOs
- III. Introductory Profiles
- IV. Next Steps

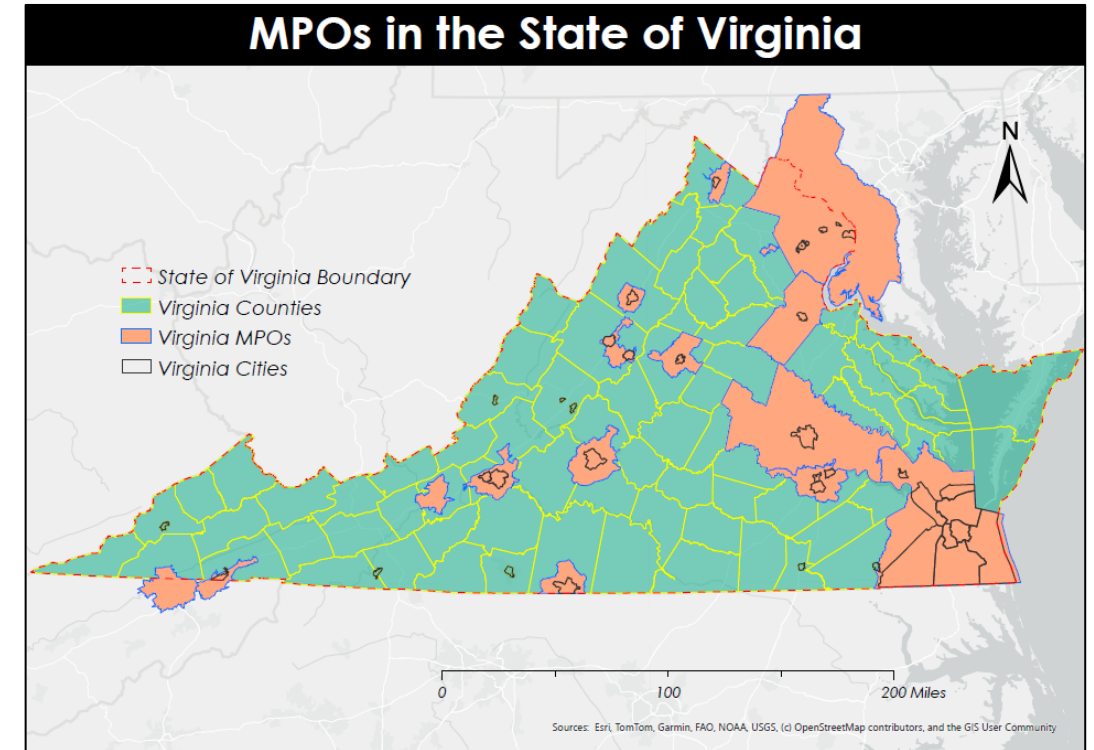
FEDERAL AND STATE REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT

- Virginia has 15 MPOs representing urbanized areas across the Commonwealth
- Three MPOs operate across state lines with multi-state agreements
 - Bristol MPO (TN/VA)
 - Kingsport MTPO (TN/VA)
 - National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (DC/MD/VA)
- While each MPO fulfills federal planning requirements, they vary considerably in populations served, governance structure, staffing, and planning processes
 - Federal requirements for MPOs are identified in [23 CFR Part 450 Subpart C – Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming](#)



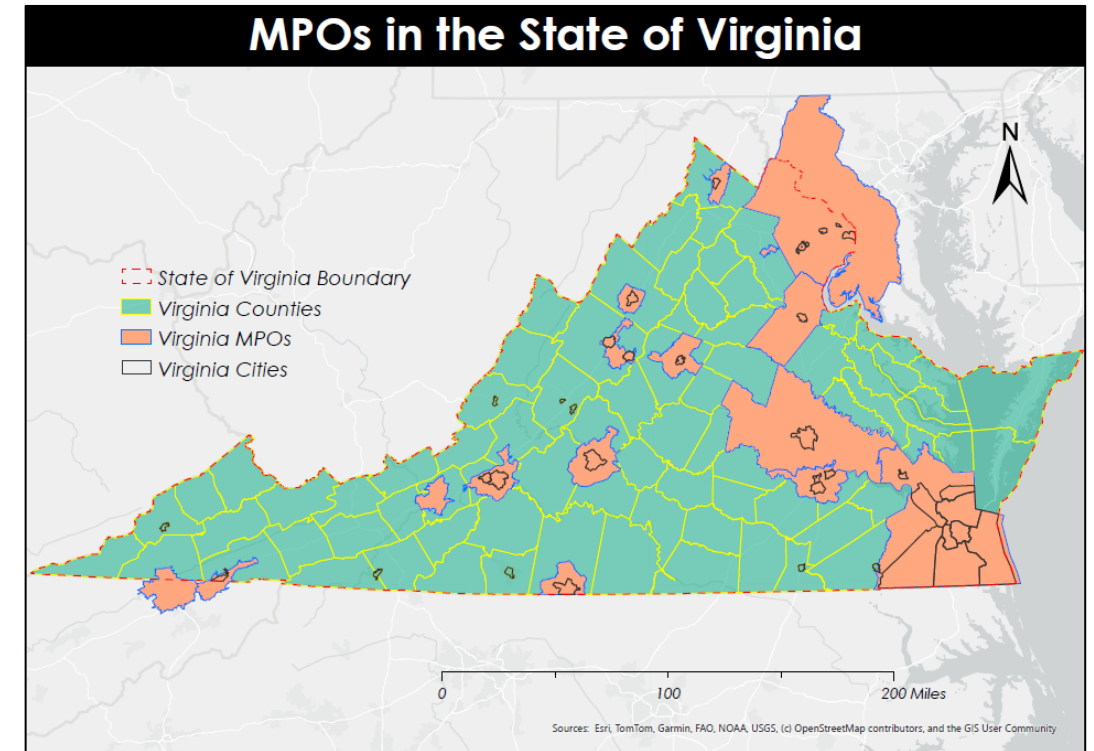
METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREAS

- A **metropolitan planning area (MPA)** defines the geographic area covered by an MPO's metropolitan transportation planning process
 - Boundary is established by agreement between the MPO and the Governor
 - Must include, at a minimum, the existing Census-define urbanized area plus the contiguous territory expected to become urbanized within a 20-year period
 - Federal rules permit a larger footprint
- In coordination with the state and public transportation operators, the MPO must review its boundary following each Decennial Census and adjust when necessary
- **Cannot overlap**; shared Census urban areas require written coordination agreements
 - Richmond Regional TPO and Tri-Cities MPO
 - Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and Fredericksburg Area MPO



METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREAS

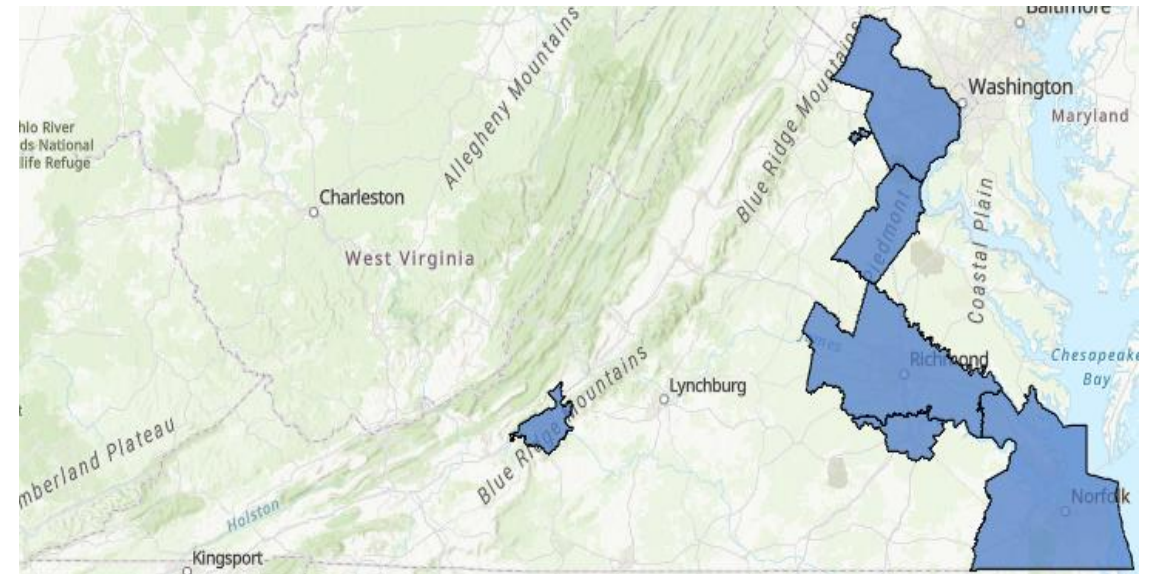
- The MPA is distinguished from other relevant geographies
 - **Census Urban Area:** the developed urban footprint that provides the population basis used for MPO and transportation management area (TMA) designations
 - **Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA):** an Office of Management and Budget statistical geography composed of counties and equivalent jurisdictions linked to an urban core through commuting relationships
- Any reference to MPO populations throughout the benchmarking effort are based on MPO populations identified in the USDOT MPO Database



TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREAS

- A **Transportation Management Area (TMA)** is an urbanized area with population over 200,000 as defined by the Census Bureau
- Designation typically occurs following each Decennial Census (192 designated nationally following 2020 Decennial Census)
- A designation of an **urbanized area**, not an organization
- When an MPO or TPO planning area includes a TMA, the MPO takes on additional responsibilities and a stronger role in funding decisions
 - Virginia Beach/Norfolk
 - Richmond
 - Roanoke
 - Washington-Arlington urbanized area

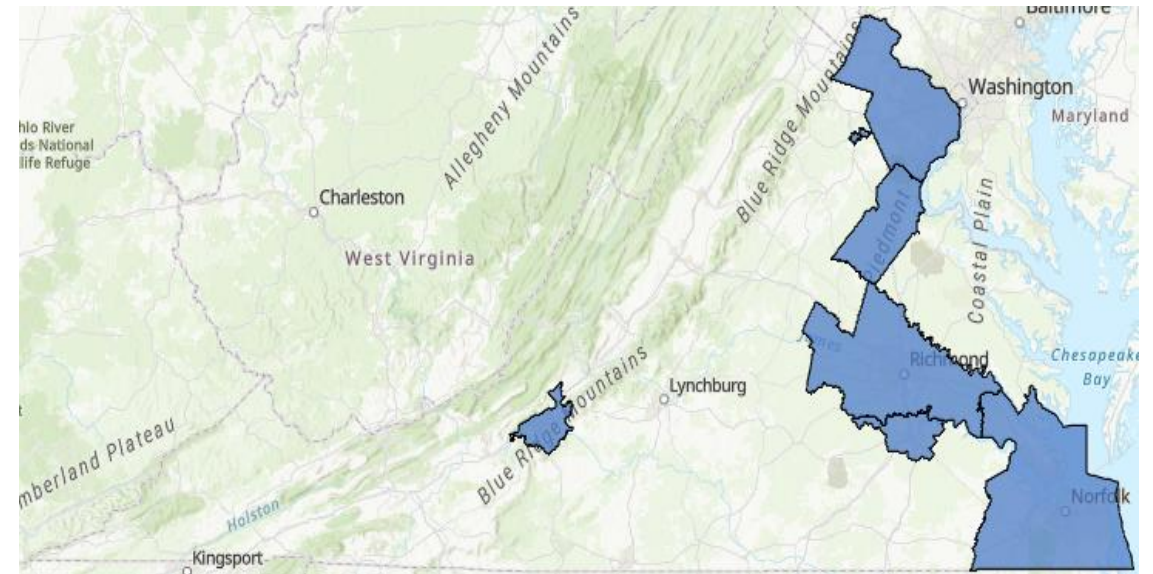
Virginia TMAs



TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREAS

- TMA-serving MPOs have additional responsibilities
- Maintain a **congestion management process**
- Undergo a joint Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) **certification review** at least ever four years, which may result in findings and corrective action
- **Dedicated regional allocations and greater project-selection authority** for certain federal transportation programs
 - Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)
 - Transportation Alternatives
 - Carbon Reduction Funds

Virginia TMAs



NONATTAINMENT OR MAINTENANCE AREAS

- A **nonattainment area** fails to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter
- **Maintenance areas** are former nonattainment areas that are now in compliance
- Under federal regulations, MPOs that cover nonattainment or maintenance areas have additional transportation conformity responsibilities
 - Demonstrating that the LRTP and TIP are consistent with the state's air quality plan
 - Coordinating with air quality agencies
 - Obtaining FHWA/FTA conformity determinations
 - Updating the LRTP every four years rather than five
- MPOs that cover nonattainment or maintenance areas are also eligible for **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)** funding



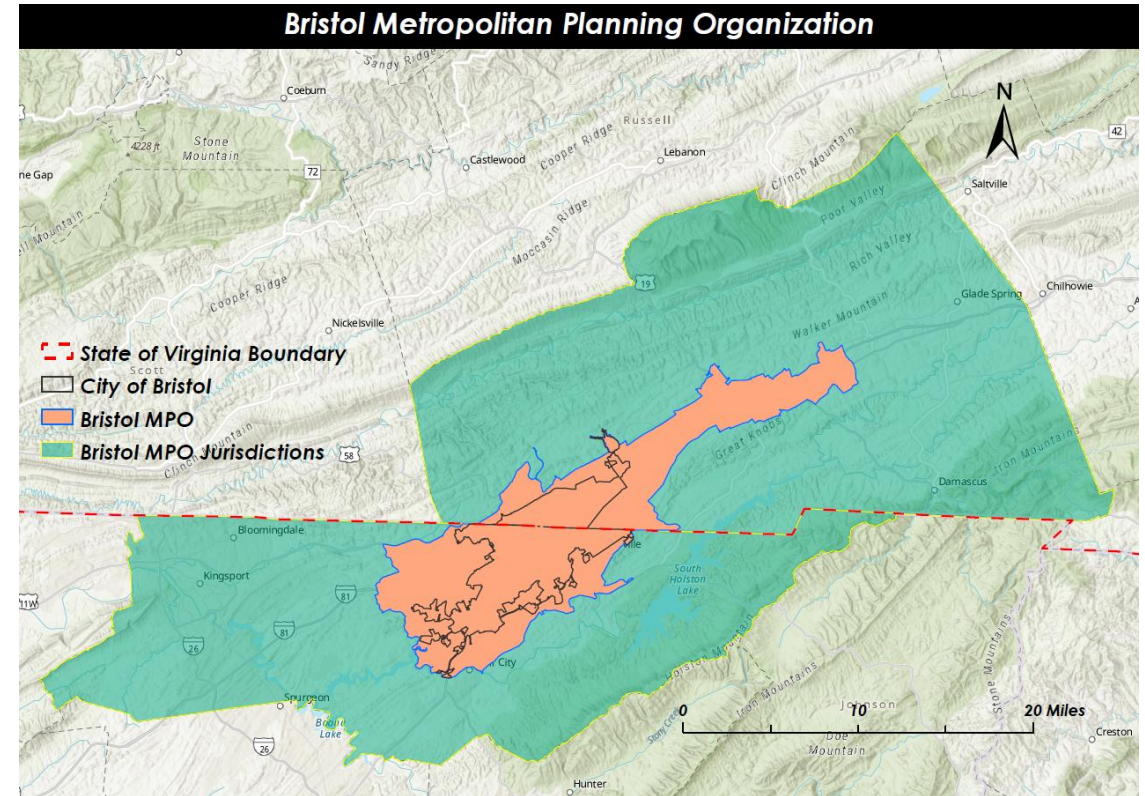
NOTABLE PEER FINDINGS

- Multiple MPOs in Virginia have identified universities that participate through their Policy Board, Technical Committee, or other MPO Advisory Bodies
 - Participation varies between formal voting authority and advisory
- Coordination among multiple transit providers is also shared by several others: New River Valley, Fredericksburg, Bristol, Hampton Roads, Roanoke Valley, National Capital Region
- **Harrisonburg-Rockingham** and **New River Valley** are strong peers representing smaller metro regions with major universities
- **Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro** and **Winchester-Frederick** could serve as additional comparisons due to their more compact planning areas and smaller populations

MPO/TPO	University Partner(s)	Participation
Charlottesville-Albemarle	University of Virginia	Technical Committee: Voting Policy Board: Non-Voting
Central Virginia	Liberty University	Technical Committee: Voting Policy Board: Non-Voting
Harrisonburg-Rockingham	James Madison University	Technical Committee: Non-Voting Policy Board: Non-Voting
New River Valley	Virginia Tech Radford University	Technical Committee: Voting Policy Board: Non-Voting
Richmond Regional	Virginia Commonwealth University	Representation on the Community Transportation Advisory Committee and LRTP Advisory Work Group
Winchester-Frederick	Shenandoah University	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee: Voting
Hampton Roads	Old Dominion University William and Mary Virginia Wesleyan	Representation on the Regional Transit Advisory Panel and Community Advisory Committee

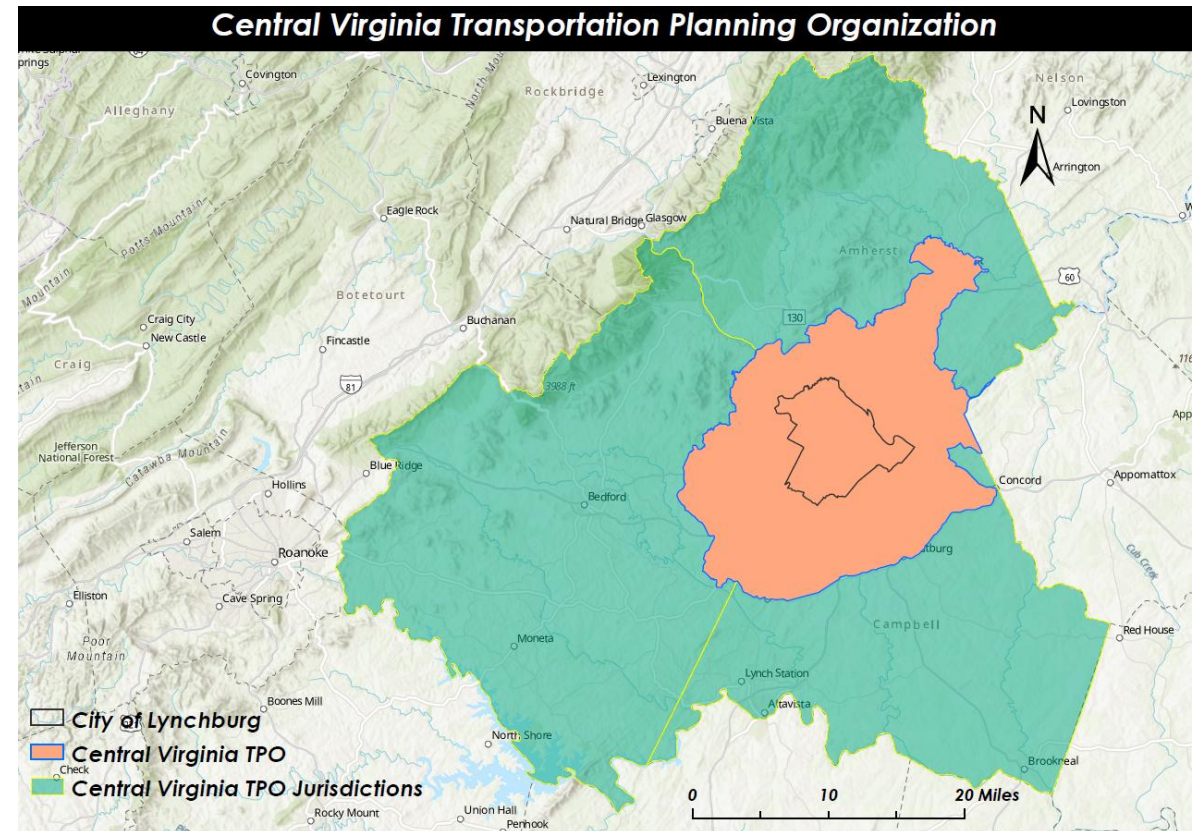
BRISTOL MPO

- **Designation Year:** 1982
- **Host Organization:** City of Bristol, TN
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 142 square miles and includes five jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 82,512
- Two standing committees: the Executive Board and the Technical Committee
- **Executive Board Membership** includes governors/designees, state and federal transportation representatives, and local elected leaders
- **Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, transit, airport, PDC representatives, state and federal transportation representatives
- **Note:** two-state governance, multiple transit systems, Technical Committee meets on an as-needed basis



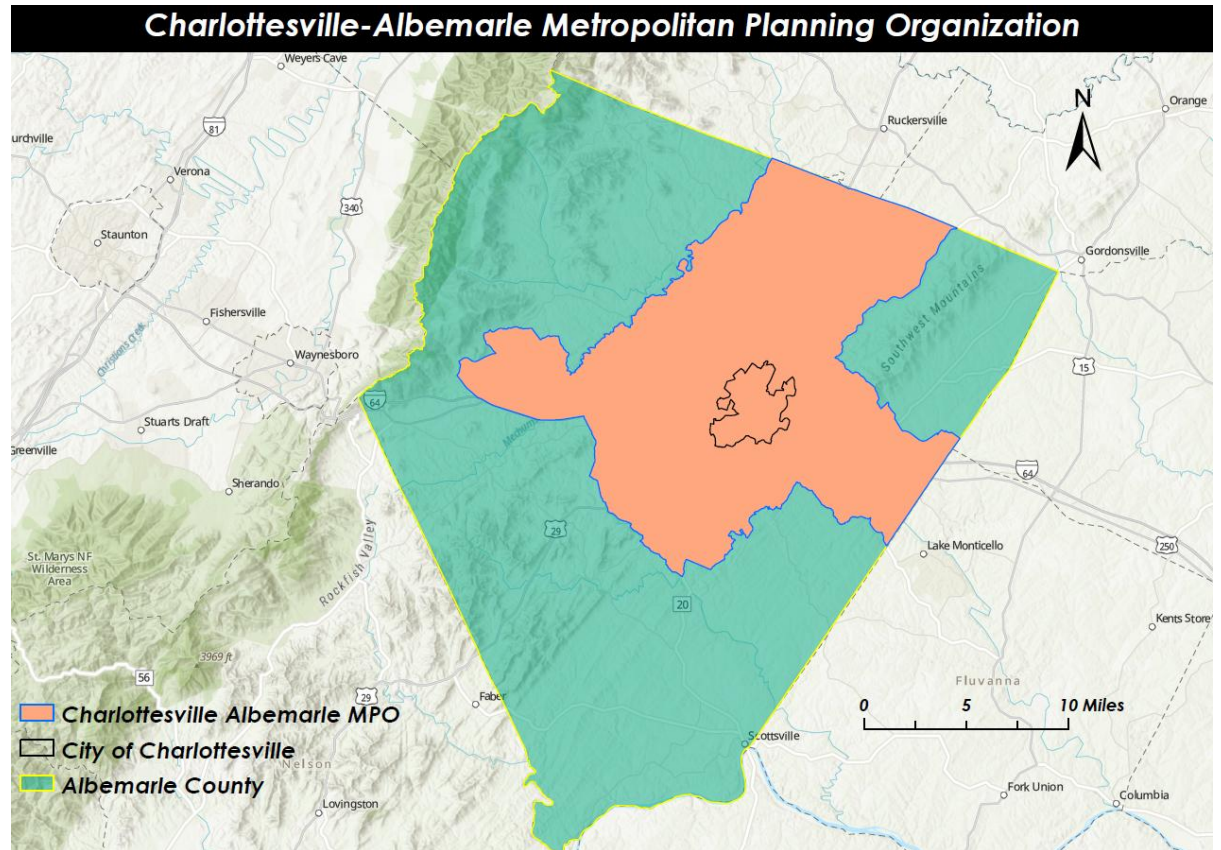
CENTRAL VIRGINIA TPO

- **Designation Year:** 1979
- **Host Organization:** Central **Virginia** PDC
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 354 square miles and five jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 162,647
- Two standing committees: the Policy Board and Transportation Technical Committee
- **Policy Board Membership** includes local elected leaders, state and federal transportation representatives, university, transit provider
- **Transportation Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, transit, airport, university, and state and federal transportation representatives
- **Note:** university participation, shared urban-rural technical committee



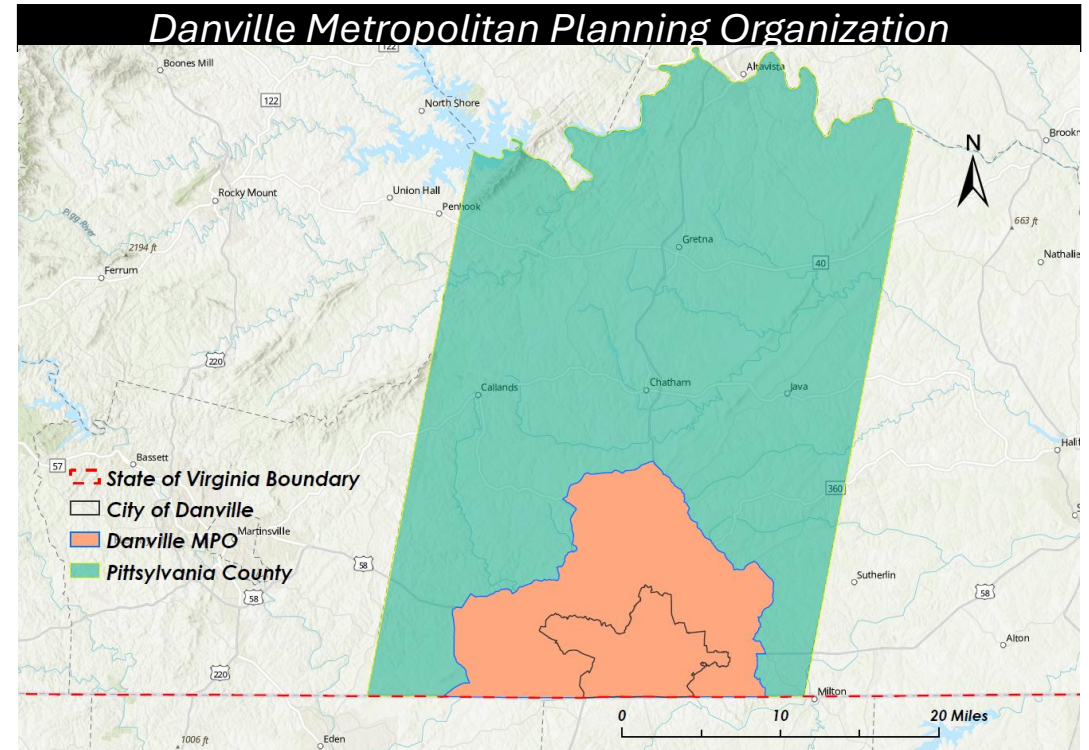
CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE MPO

- **Designation Year:** 1982
- **Host Organization:** Thomas Jefferson PDC
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 243 square miles and 2 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 139,723
- Two standing committees: the Policy Board and Technical Committee
- **Policy Board Membership** includes local elected leaders, state transportation officials, university, transit
- **Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, university, transit, RideShare, PDC, state and federal transportation representatives, airport*
- **Note:** university participation, multiple transit providers



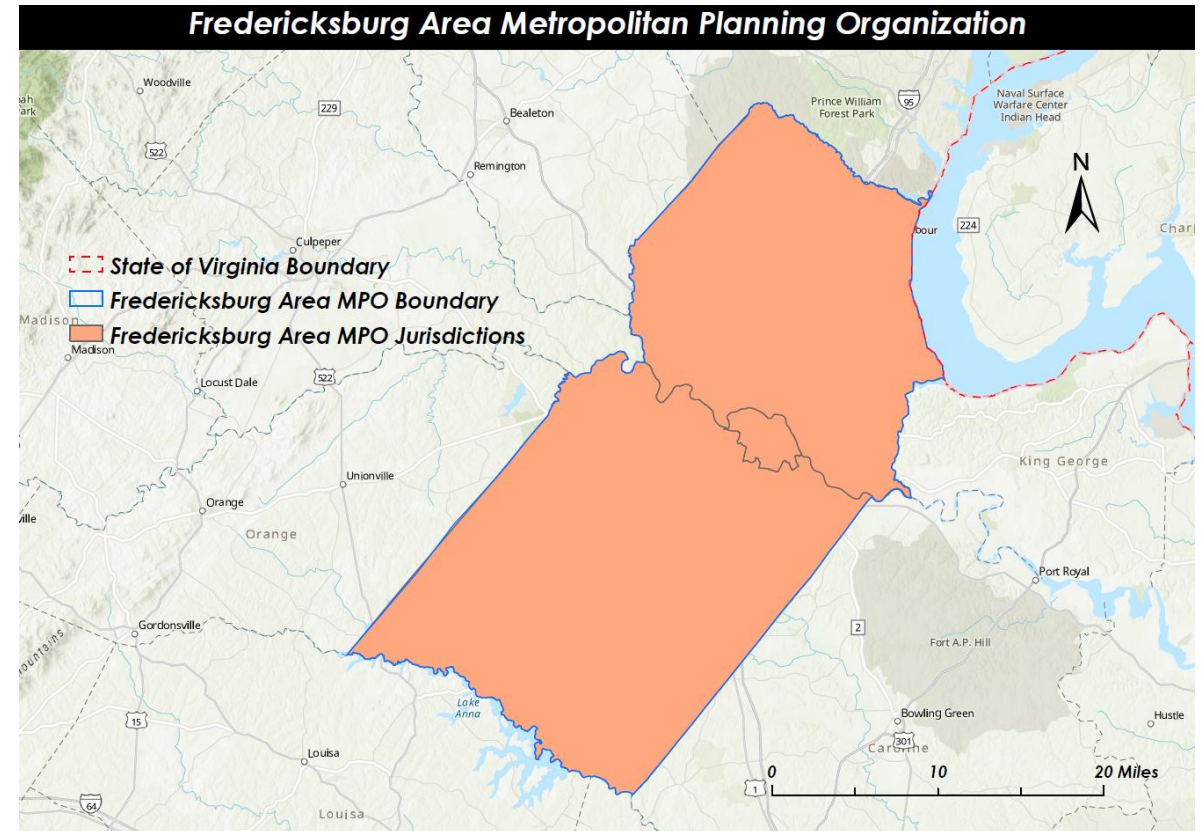
DANVILLE MPO

- **Designation Year:** 1983
- **Host Organization:** West Piedmont PDC
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 198 square miles and 2 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 64,528
- Two standing committees: the Policy Board and Technical Committee
- **Policy Board Membership** includes local elected leaders, one City Manager, one City engineer, state and federal transportation representatives
- **Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, PDC, state and federal transportation representatives
- **Note:** City-County relationship; committees meet on an as-needed basis



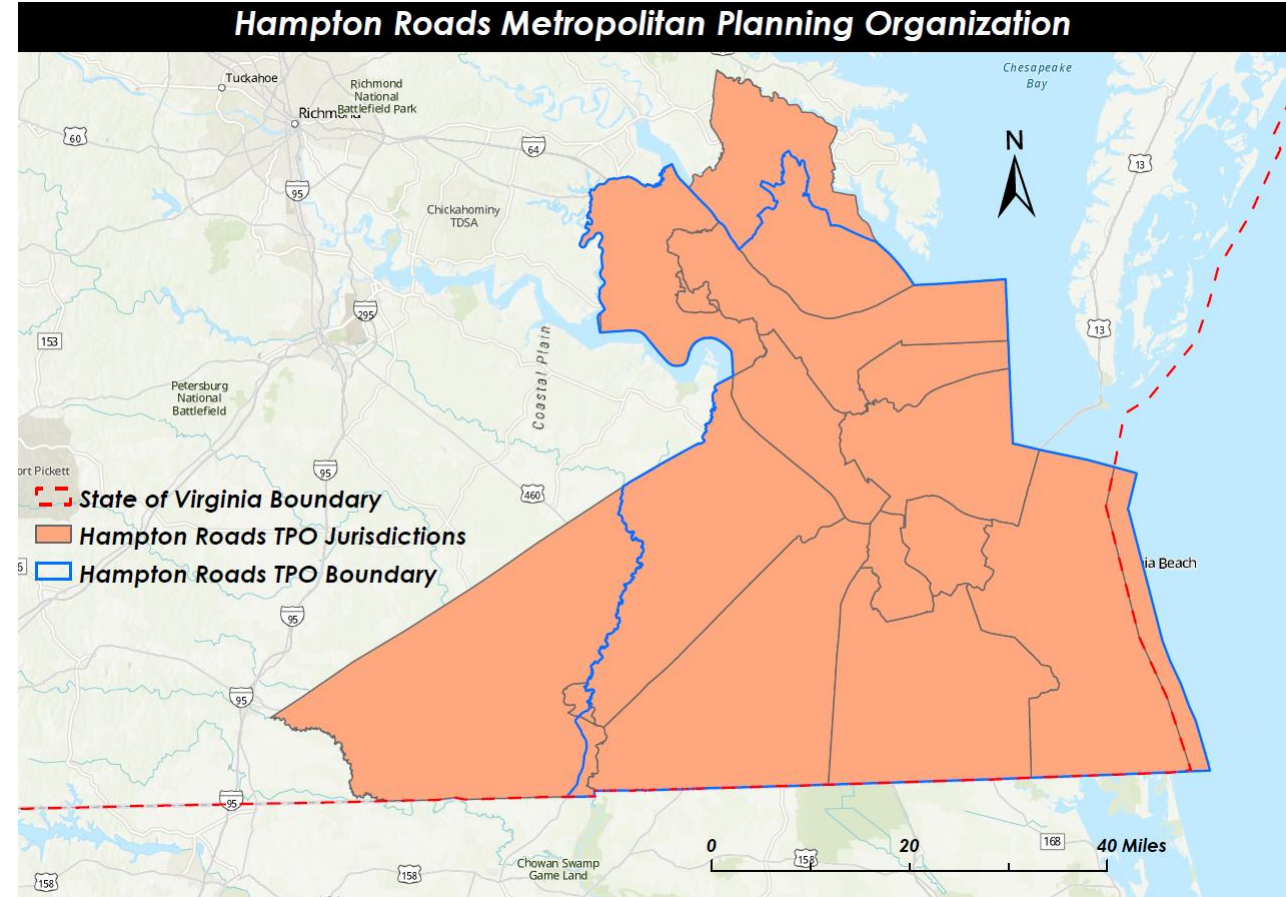
FREDERICKSBURG AREA MPO

- **Designation Year:** 1992
- **Host Organization:** George Washington Regional Commission
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 705 square miles and 3 jurisdictions (two additional jurisdictions participate outside of the MPA)
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 324,968
- Four standing committees: the Policy Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- **Policy Board Membership** includes local elected leaders, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, CTB representative
- **Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, TDM program
- **Note:** outside-MPA participation, multiple transit providers, shared responsibility for a designated TMA



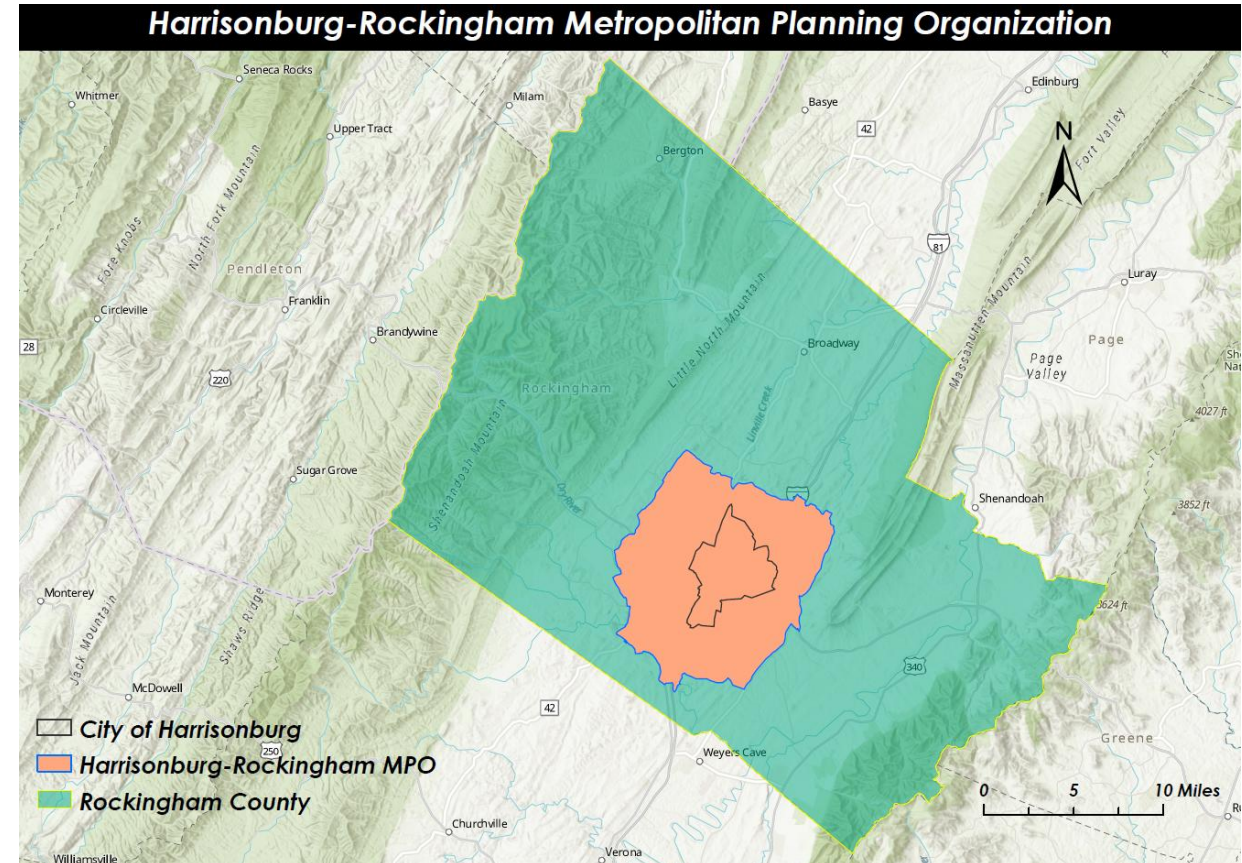
HAMPTON ROADS TPO

- **Designation Year:** 1991
- **Host Organization:** Hampton Roads PDC
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 2,673 square miles and 15 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 1,705,382
- Bylaws identify four committees: Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, Community Advisory Committee, Freight transportation Advisory Committee
- **HRTPO Board Membership** includes local elected leaders, state legislators, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, airport, port, military
- **Transportation Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, port
- **Note:** military, port, and freight interests; Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) coordination; multiple transit systems; many subcommittees



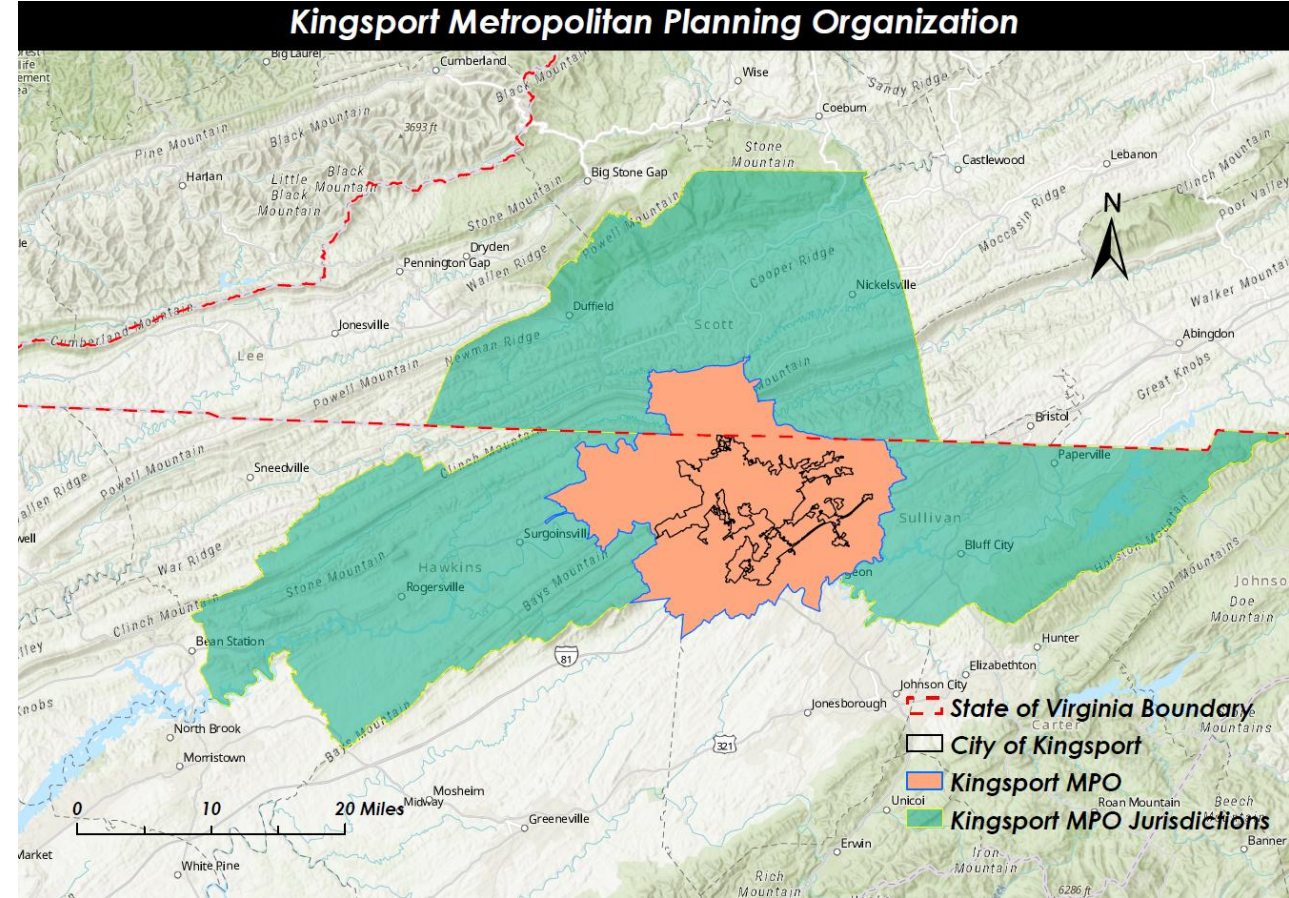
HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM MPO

- **Designation Year:** 2003
- **Host Organization:** Central Shenandoah PDC
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 106 square miles and 5 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 83,039
- Two standing committees: the Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee
- **Policy Board Membership** includes local elected leaders, state and federal transportation representatives, PDC, university
- **Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, state and federal transportation representatives, university
- **Note:** university participation, PDC hosts two MPOs, PDC operates transit



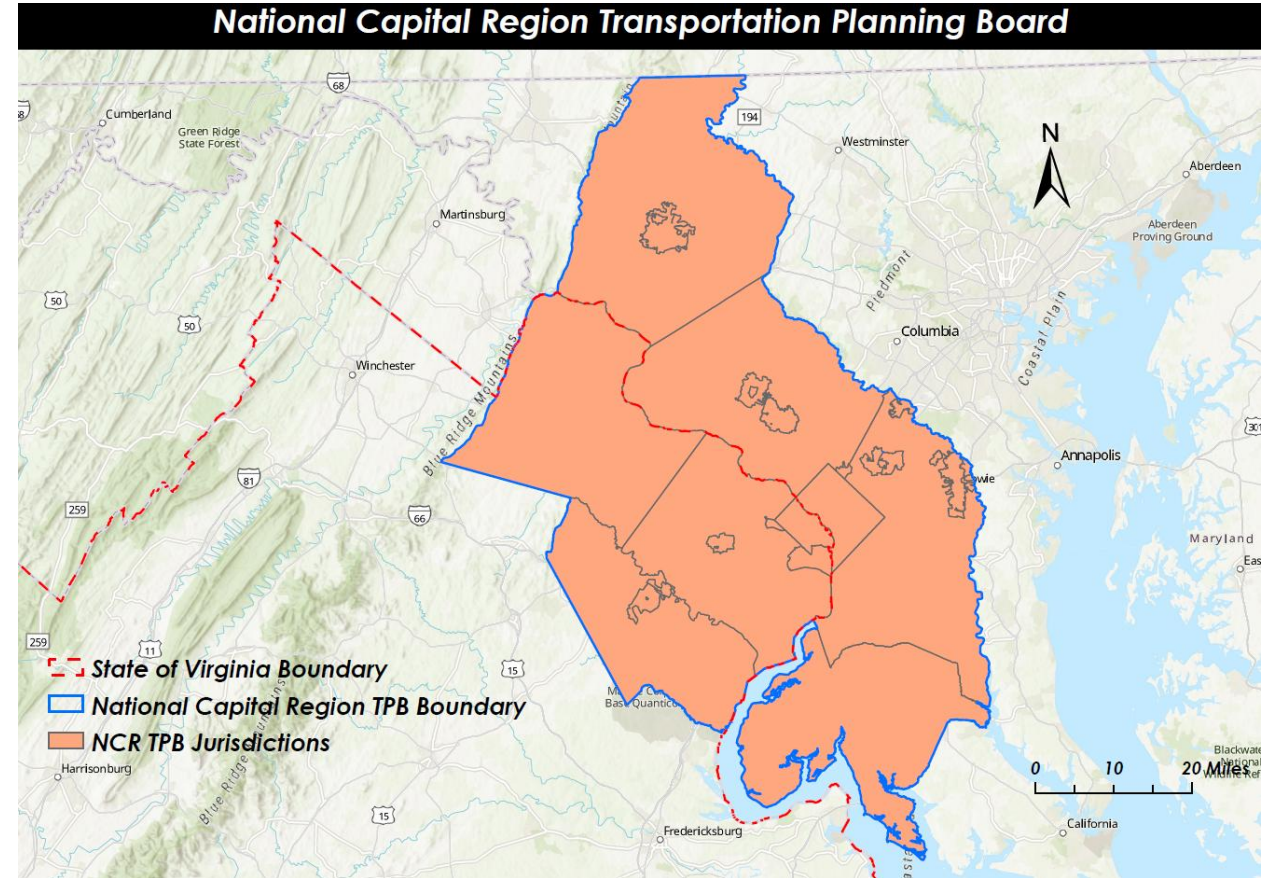
KINGSPORT MTPO

- **Designation Year:** 1977
- **Host Organization:** City of Kingsport, TN
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 298 square miles and 9 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 129,017
- Two standing committees: the Executive Board and Technical Coordinating Committee
- **Executive Board Membership** includes governors/designees, local elected leaders, state and federal transportation representatives, PDCs,
- **Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, MTPo staff
- **Note:** two-state governance, Technical Coordinating Committee only meets as needed and Executive Board typically meets quarterly



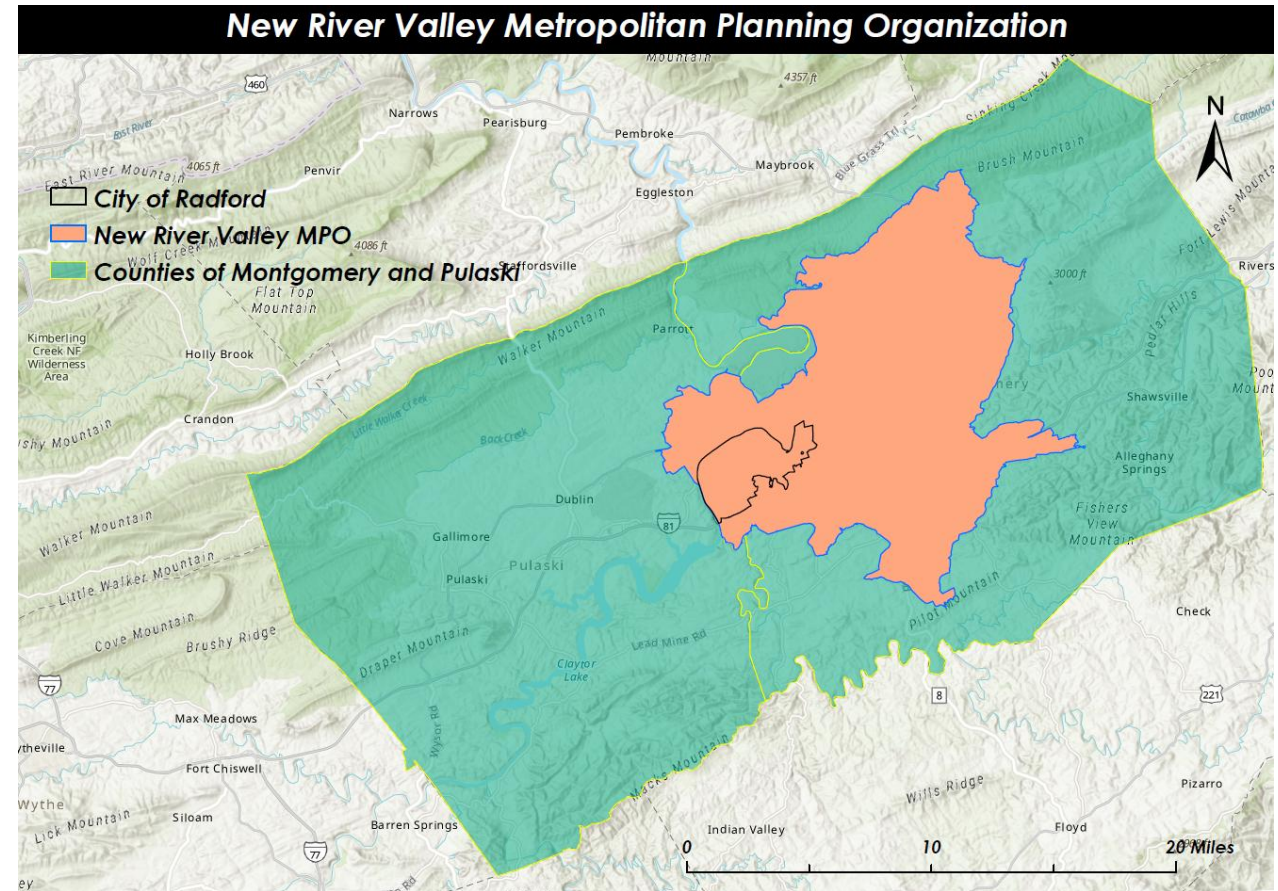
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TPB

- **Designation Year:** 1965
- **Host Organization:** Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 3,558 square miles and 22 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 5,732,469
- Principal committees include the Transportation Planning Board, Steering Committee, Technical Committee, Community Advisory Committee
- **Transportation Planning Board** includes local elected leaders, state legislators, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, airport, National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission
- **Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, 3 state DOTs, DRPT, Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, Northern VA Transportation Authority, transit, National Park Service, National Capital Planning Commission
- **Note:** multi-state governance, multiple committees and subcommittees, transportation authority coordination



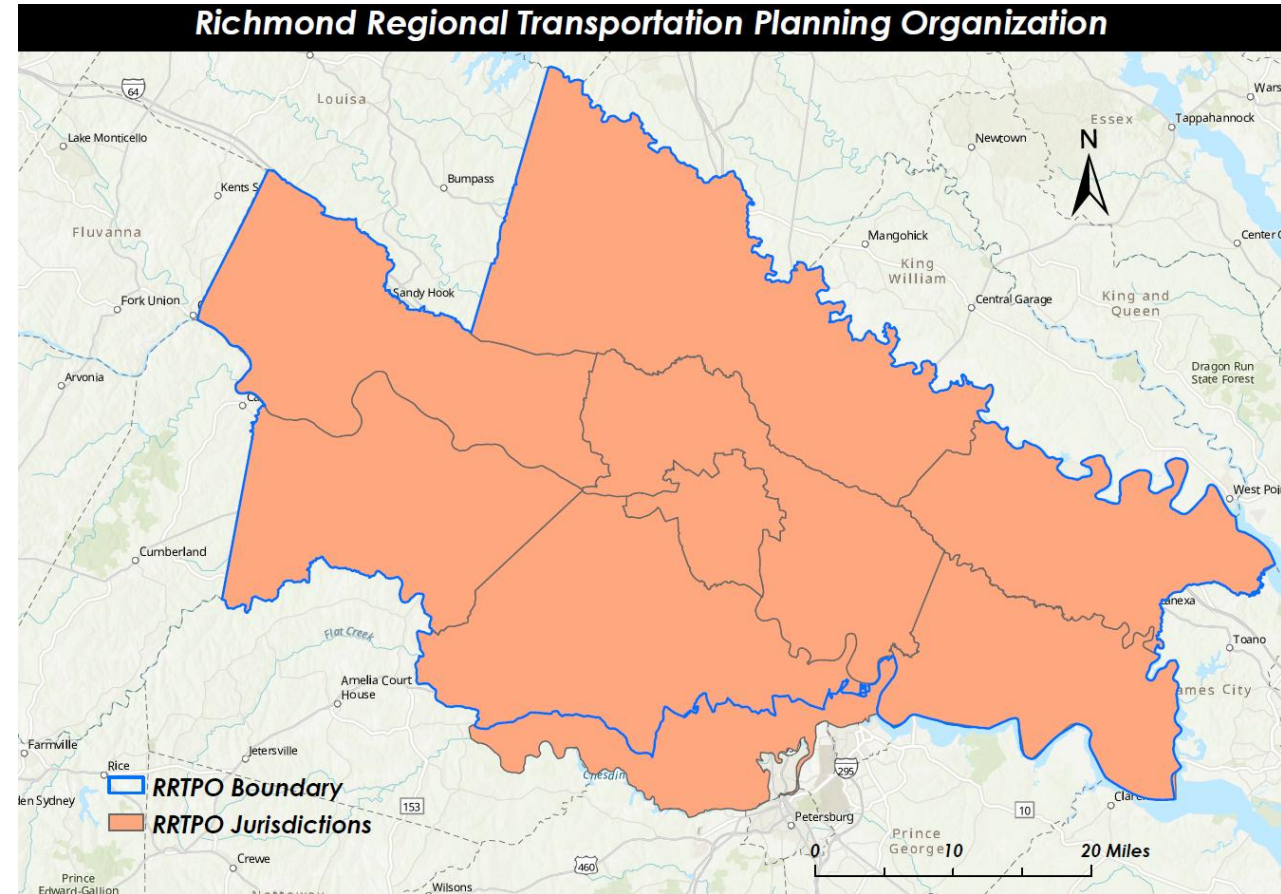
NEW RIVER VALLEY MPO

- **Designation Year:** 2003
- **Host Organization:** Montgomery County, VA
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 143 square miles and 5 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 105,301
- Two standing committees: Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee
- **Policy Board membership** includes local elected leaders, local administrators, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, airport, PDC, university, community college
- **Technical Committee Membership** includes local staff, airport, transit, university, community college, state and federal transportation representatives, MPO staff
- **Note:** three transit providers, multiple universities



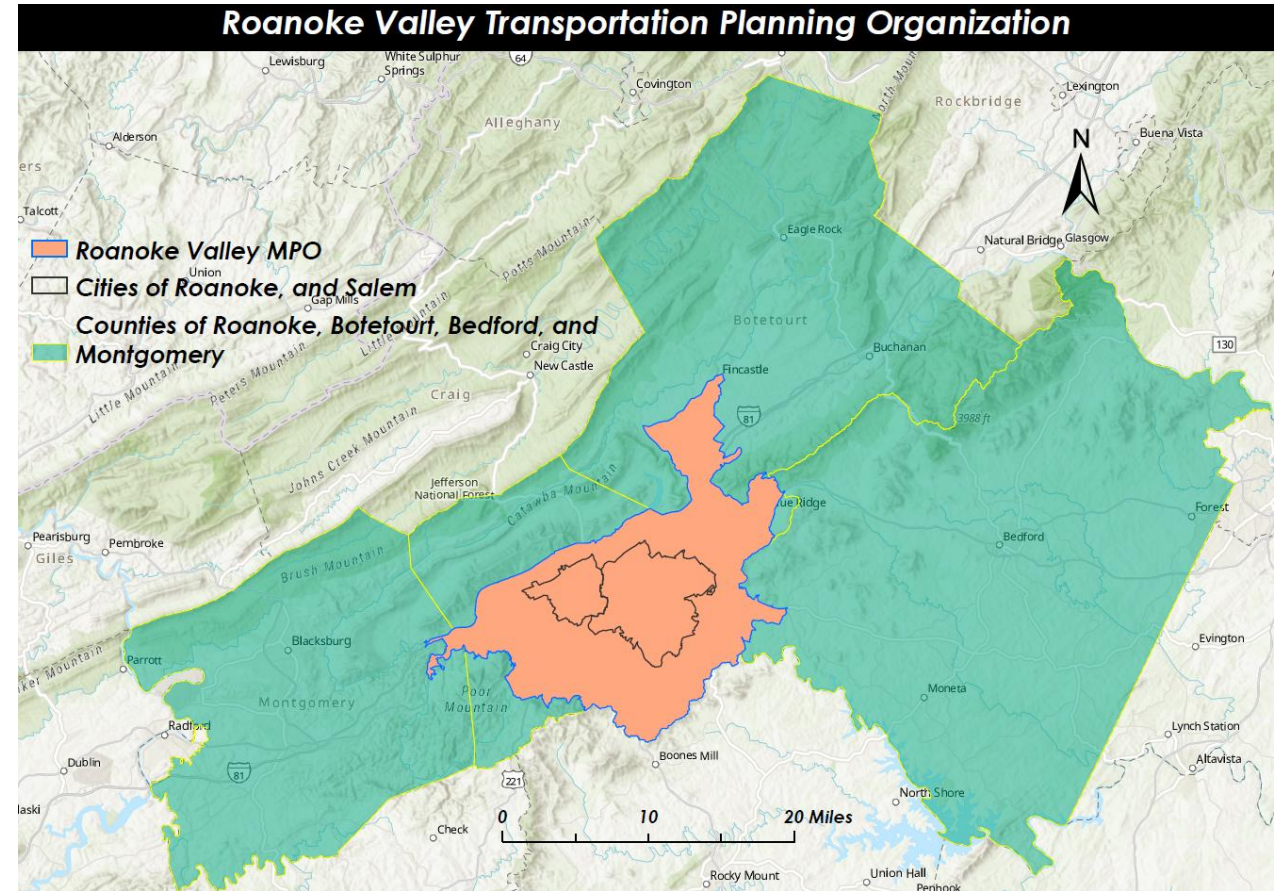
RICHMOND REGIONAL TPO

- **Designation Year:** 1974
- **Host Organization:** PlanRVA (Richmond Regional Planning District Commission)
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 2,076 square miles and 9 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 1,075,265
- Four standing committees: Policy Board, Executive Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, Community Transportation Advisory Committee
- **Policy Board membership** includes local elected leaders, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, airport, Central Virginia Transportation Authority, Port, RideFinders, Community Advisory Committee Chair
- **Technical Advisory Committee Membership** includes local staff, airport, transit, state and federal transportation representatives, RideFinders, port, Central Virginia Transportation Authority
- **Note:** Serves a TMA, shares boundary with PlanRVA and CVTA, shares part of a jurisdiction with Tri-Cities MPO



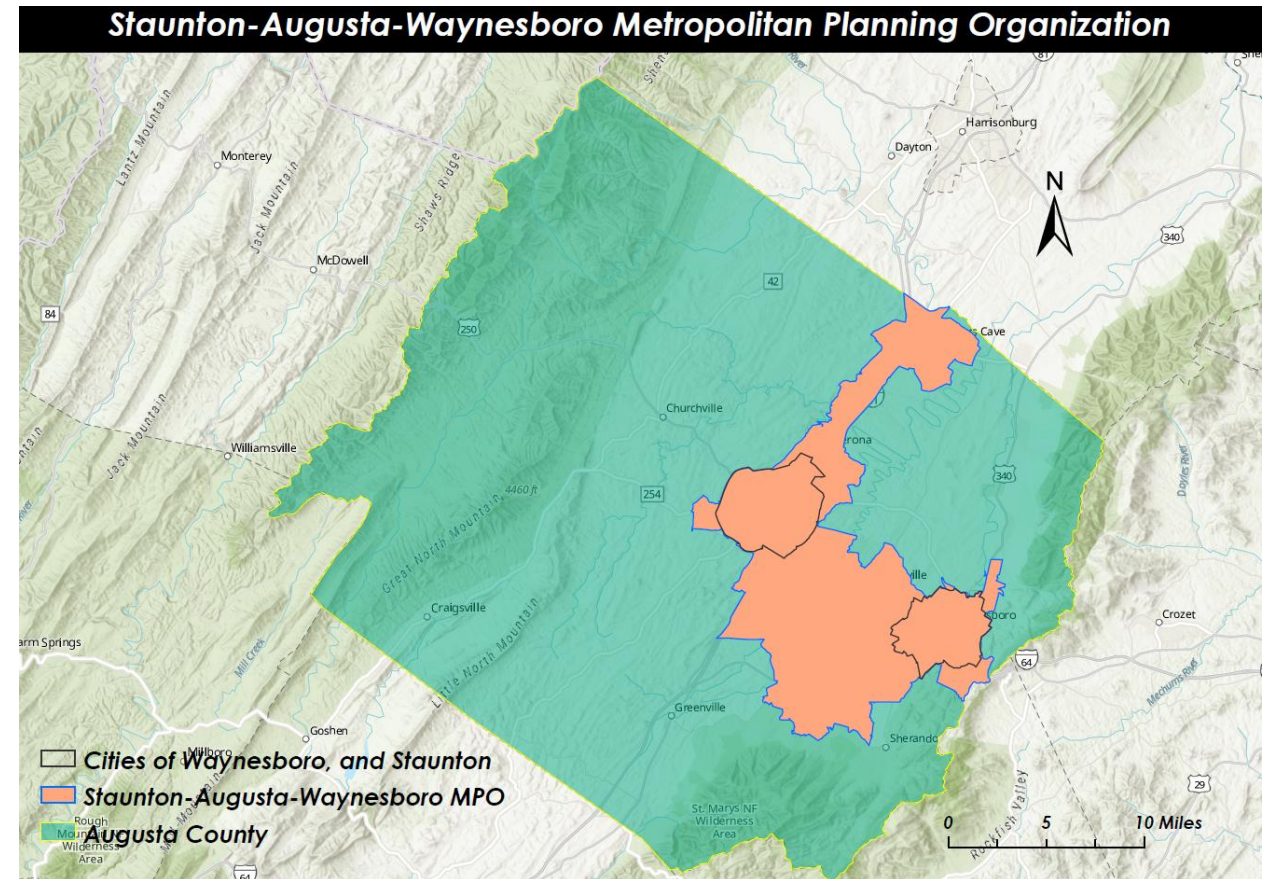
ROANOKE VALLEY TPO

- **Designation Year:** 1974
- **Host Organization:** Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 248 square miles and 7 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 239,745
- Two standing committees: Policy Board and Transportation Technical Committee
- **Policy Board membership** includes local elected leaders, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, airport, Chief Administrative Official of local jurisdictions
- **Technical Advisory Committee Membership** includes local staff, airport, transit, state and federal transportation representatives, Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission



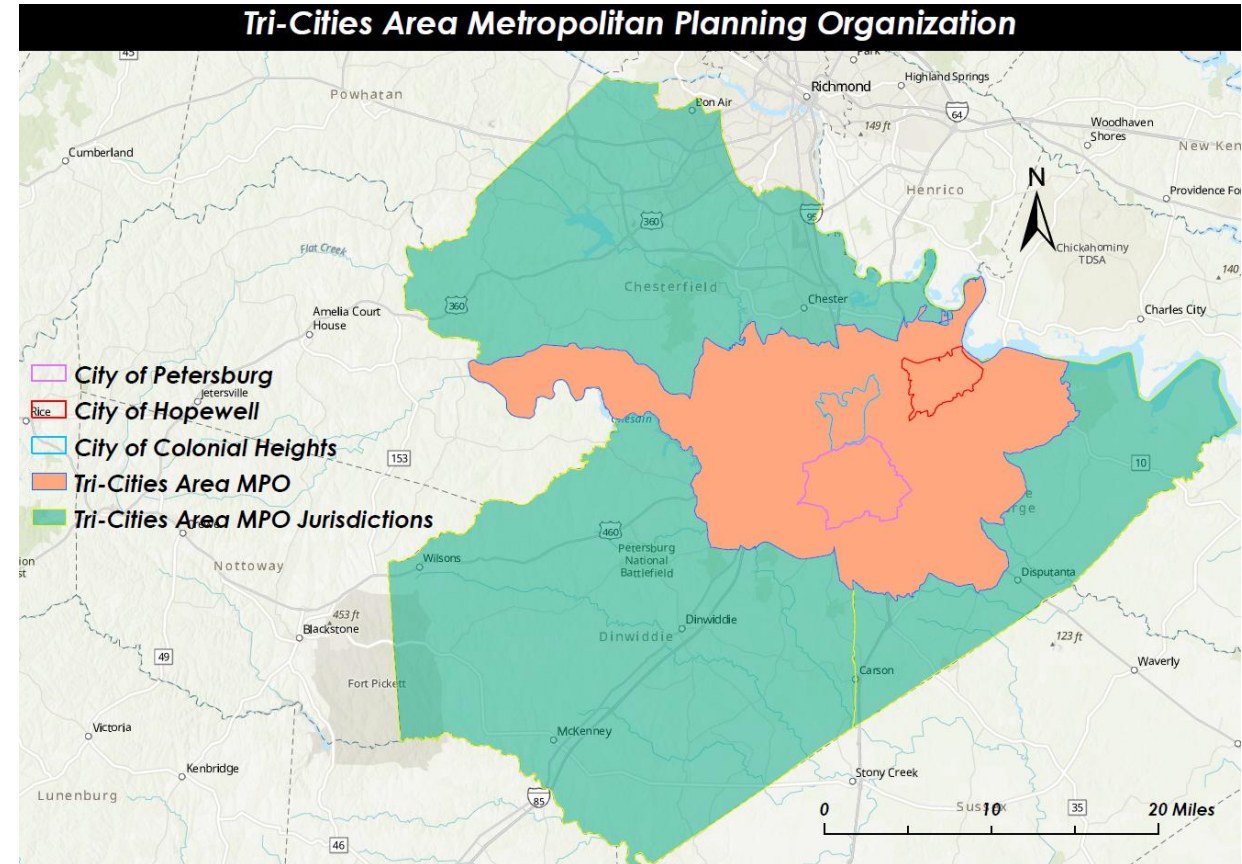
STAUNTON-AUGUSTA-WAYNESBORO MPO

- **Designation Year:** 2012
- **Host Organization:** Central Shenandoah PDC
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 143 square miles and 3 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 85,023
- Two standing committees: Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee
- **Policy Board membership** includes local elected leaders, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, PDC
- **Technical Advisory Committee Membership** includes local staff, transit, state and federal transportation representatives, PDC
- **Note:** PDC hosts two MPOs, PDC operates transit



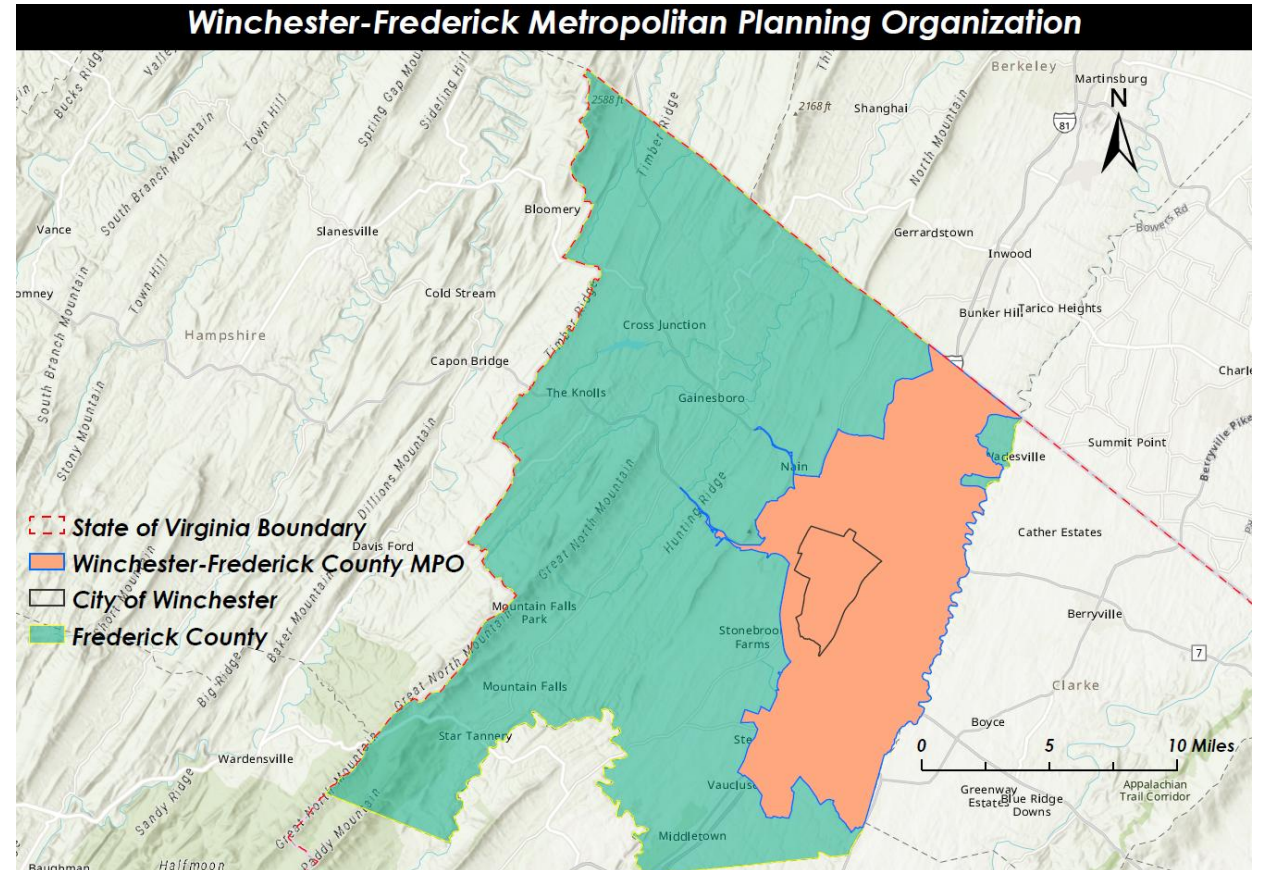
TRI-CITIES AREA MPO

- **Designation Year:** 1974
- **Host Organization:** Crater PDC
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 322 square miles and 6 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 168,003
- Two standing committees: Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
- **Policy Board membership** includes local elected leaders, state and federal transportation representatives, transit, PDC, RideFinders
- **Technical Advisory Committee Membership** includes local staff, airport, transit, state and federal transportation representatives, PDC, Fort Lee, Petersburg National Battlefield Park
- **Note:** Serves a TMA and nonattainment/maintenance area, military special interests, shares part of a jurisdiction with RRTPO



WINCHESTER-FREDERICK MPO

- **Designation Year:** 2003
- **Host Organization:** Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
- **MPO Service Area and Participating Jurisdictions:** 105 square miles and 3 jurisdictions
- **USDOT MPO Database Population:** 91,972
- Four standing committees: Policy Board, Technical Advisory Committee, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee
- **Policy Board membership** includes local elected leaders, local chief administrators, state and federal transportation representatives, transit
- **Technical Advisory Committee Membership** includes local staff, airport, transit, state and federal transportation representatives
- **Note:** university participation



Next Steps

- Direct outreach to MPOs
- Review of peer work products
 - Long Range Transportation Plans
 - Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs)
- Review of peer process
 - Project Prioritization and funding
 - Public engagement and public participation plans
 - Ad-hoc committees
- Questions?