

LENOWISCO

Planning District Commission

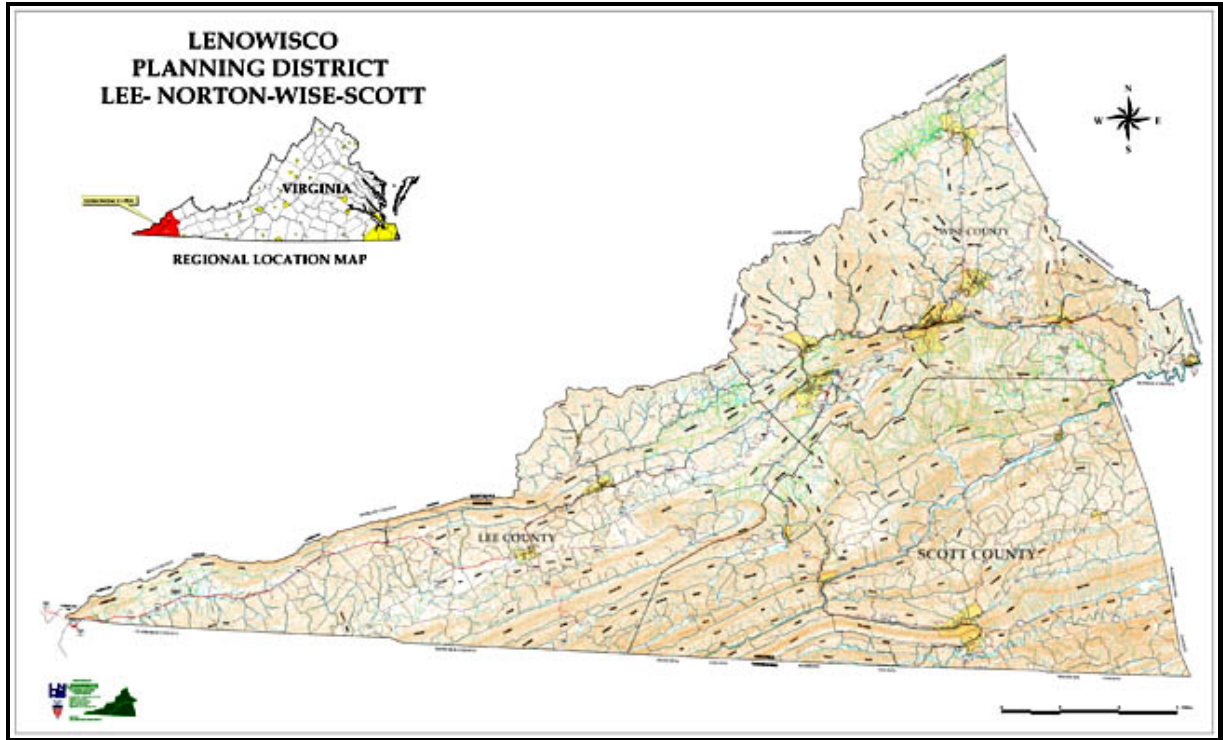


Rural Transportation Planning Initiative

Public Participation Plan

Counties of Scott, Lee, Wise and the City of Norton

June 2007



LENOWISCO Planning District Commission Rural Regional Transportation Plan Public Participation Plan

Overview of the Public Participation Plan

The goal and purpose of the Public Participation Plan (PPP) is to provide the public with a process that ensures it has opportunities to be involved in with the rural transportation planning process.

The elements of this plan include:

- Providing information about rural transportation planning activities by using timely public notifications of meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee and when approval of plans and policy documents is scheduled.
- Participation in the development of transportation plans relating to the Rural Transportation Planning Initiative

The Public Participation Plan

- **Public Participation Process** – LENOWISCO’s goal is to have a proactive public involvement process which includes a public comment period of not less than 7 days prior to final action on any regional transportation plan. The process will inform the public about when and where they may participate.
- **Public Notification** - The following will be ongoing activities used by the staff to educate the citizens of the LENOWISCO PDC area:
 - Present information about the rural transportation planning process to each governing body during a public meeting.
 - Be available to make presentations as requested by citizen groups, public agencies, or local governmental bodies.
 - Attend public meetings which offer an emphasis on rural transportation sponsored by localities located within the LENOWISCO as needed.
 - Use the LENOWISCO website to make information about the planning process available to the public.
[<http://www.lenowisco.org/RTP>]
 - Counties and Cities participating in the planning process will publish an advertisement in a local newspaper where it usually places legal advertisements and notices to advise and invite the public for the opportunity to review documents and/or provide input relating to the Rural Transportation Planning Process. The ad will run at least 14 days prior to the public hearing and the hearings will be compliant with Title VI Requirements as well as local standards for hearings.
 - Information regarding meetings and events as well as current document releases will be placed on the CSPDC website.
- **Access to Information** - The public will be provided with reasonable and timely access to technical and policy information relating to the data or content used in the development of transportation plans, programs and projects. Documents will be available for public inspection at the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission Office located at 128 LENOWISCO Drive, Duffield, Virginia during normal working hours. When feasible, documents will also be posted to the LENOWISCO website.

RTP Organizational Structure and Future Updates

- **PDC Board of Directors** - The LENOWISCO Planning District Commission Board of Directors serves as the Policy Board for the LENOWISCO Rural Transportation Planning Process. It shall receive the recommendations of the Technical Committee and take appropriate action as necessary.
- **Technical Committee** - A RTP Technical Committee has been formed to assist LENOWISCO staff in determining the transportation needs of the rural LENOWISCO region. At least one representative has been chosen from each county and city. VDOT representatives are also a part of the RTP Technical Committee.
- **Localities** - The governing bodies of the participating jurisdictions will have the responsibility to receive and consider the recommendations of the LENOWISCO RTP Technical Committee.
- **Major Plan Updates** - The Plan will be updated every five years in accordance with State regulations and requirements. Major plan updates may be considered if requested by a member jurisdiction or if a project is included in the State's Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP). Appropriate public notification will be provided as previously outlined should a major plan update occur.

Approval of Public Participation Plan

This Plan was approved by the LENOWISCO Rural Transportation Technical Committee and recommended to the LENOWISCO Board of Directors on June 26, 2007.

This Plan was considered and approved by the LENOWISCO Board of Directors on will be **considered and approved on August 6, 2007.**