



CAMBRIDGE
SYSTEMATICS

Think  Forward

Transportation Opportunities for Regional Economic Growth

presented to

*FAMPO Policy Committee &
GWRC Board*

presented by

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Purpose

➤ Consider Vulnerabilities

- » Fluctuations in Federal expenditures and priorities
- » Orientation to/reliance on unreliable I-95
- » Increasingly congested transportation system

➤ Review Challenges

- » Local, diverse, professional economic base
- » Constrained transportation mobility and access

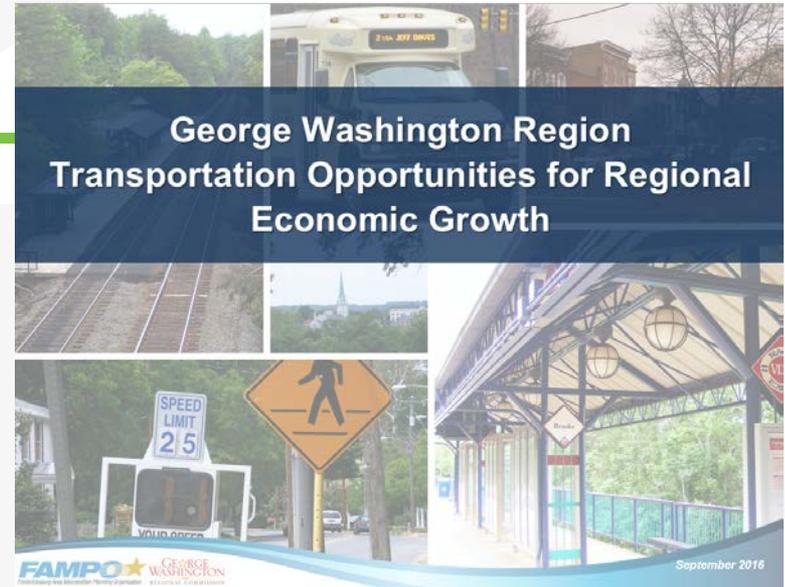
➤ Intended Outcome

- » Groundwork for linking transportation investments more strongly to desired economic future
 - Relevant to Smart Scale, FAST Act provisions and grant programs, and FAMPO TIP/LRTP



Content

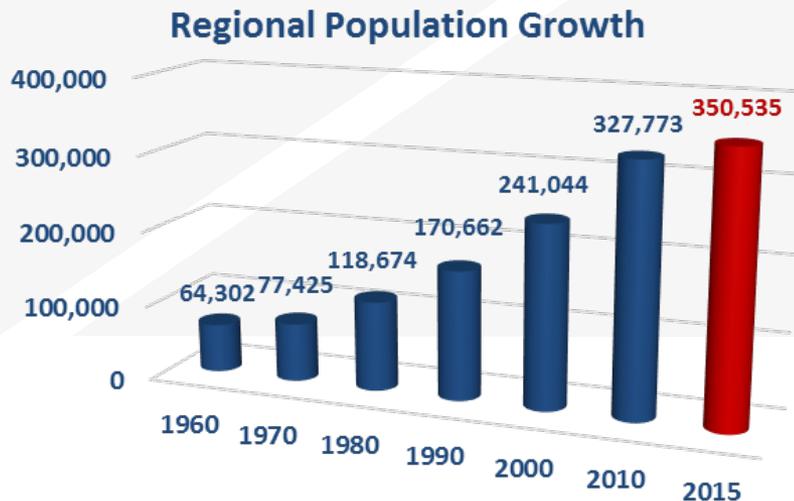
- Overview
- Economic Profile and Highlights
- Economic Development Goals
- Economic Growth Factors and Examples
- Opportunities for Transportation
- Project Highlights and Goal Alignment
- Next Steps



Economic Profile

Where Have We Been

- One of the fastest growing regions in Virginia



Where Are We Today

- 37% of workforce commute to work outside the region, with over half spending an hour or more commuting in each direction
- On average, commuters leaving the region have higher levels of education and income
- More than 2 regional households for every regional job
- Strong competitive advantages

Where Are We Going

- Region continues to outpace the rest of Virginia – by 2040 the population more than doubles, employment increases 70 percent



Economic Development Goals

Federal

- Facilitate “**Ladders of Opportunity**” – strengthen workforce training and regional planning
- Improve **goods movement** through a National Multimodal Freight Policy
- Support **Transit-Oriented Development**

State

- Pursue policies that foster **innovation**, business development, and a competitive economy
- Invest in a **transportation system** that supports high-growth industries and competitive economy
- Increase **efficient access** to jobs, services, activity centers, distribution hubs

Regional

- Drive **new businesses** into the Region
- Maintain existing business presence and work to **increase growth** in Region
- Pursue regional collaboration and partnerships to enhance **regional competitiveness**

Local

- **Promote tourism** through expanded marketing
- Support **new businesses** and **business retention**
- Improve **infrastructure upgrades** that link to critical commercial and industrial sites
- Focus on **revitalizing** downtowns and riverfronts

Five Regional Goals

1. Cultivate a **diverse economy** that attracts new businesses and supports business retention
2. Accelerate and enhance **access and amenities** that serve employment, freight, and activity centers
3. Promote tourism as a thriving industry and key driver of regional **economic development and quality of life**
4. Revitalize **downtown and riverfront areas** to create a sense of place and to initiate commercial development
5. **Leverage strategic location and existing transportation assets** to promote re-investment and new development



Economic Development Goals

- **Combination of perspectives** representing Federal, State, regional, and local priorities
- Focus on **goals attributable to benefits generated by transportation** infrastructure maintenance, operation, and expansion
- Goals will help FAMPO, GWRC, and other regional and local agencies and providers assess the potential **opportunity that transportation projects and programs could generate** for regional and local economic development
 - » Maintain a regionally consistent message, particularly as it relates to competitive grants, including Smart Scale, FASTLANE, TIGER, etc...



Economic Growth Factors

Regional Attributes



The skilled workforce continues to grow in the region given a high quality of life, with high-quality education, recreation, and social opportunities



Location is a constant asset for the region given the adjacency of Washington, D.C.



That leaves the transportation system as the key variable for the region's continued economic growth and ability to attract jobs in the future

Based on a 2015 survey as part of VTrans2040 development, over 85% of employers rate highway access as “important” or “very important” for making site selections

Surveys by industry show a common theme – **the critical importance of efficient and adjacent access to multiple modes of transportation as a site selection criteria**



Economic Development “Model”

Create
a great
place

People
will
come

Jobs
follow

Community
thrives

➤ Recent investment in transportation within the region balances support of continuing existing commuting patterns, while also enhancing access to primary economic development areas and existing job markets

- » VRE Spotsylvania Extension
- » Fall Hill Avenue Widening
- » U.S. 17 Widening
- » Falmouth Intersection Improvements

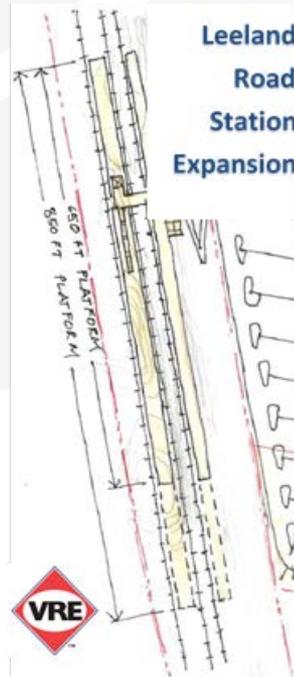


Current Project Highlights

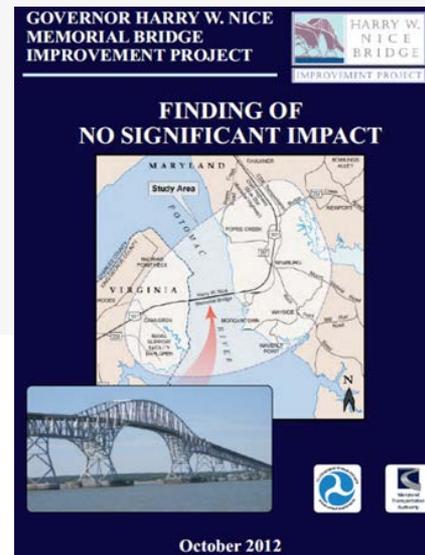
➔ I-95 Corridor
(Goals 2, 3, 5)



➔ VRE/Amtrak
(Goals 1-5)



➔ U.S 301 Harry
Nice Bridge
(Goals 1, 2, 5)



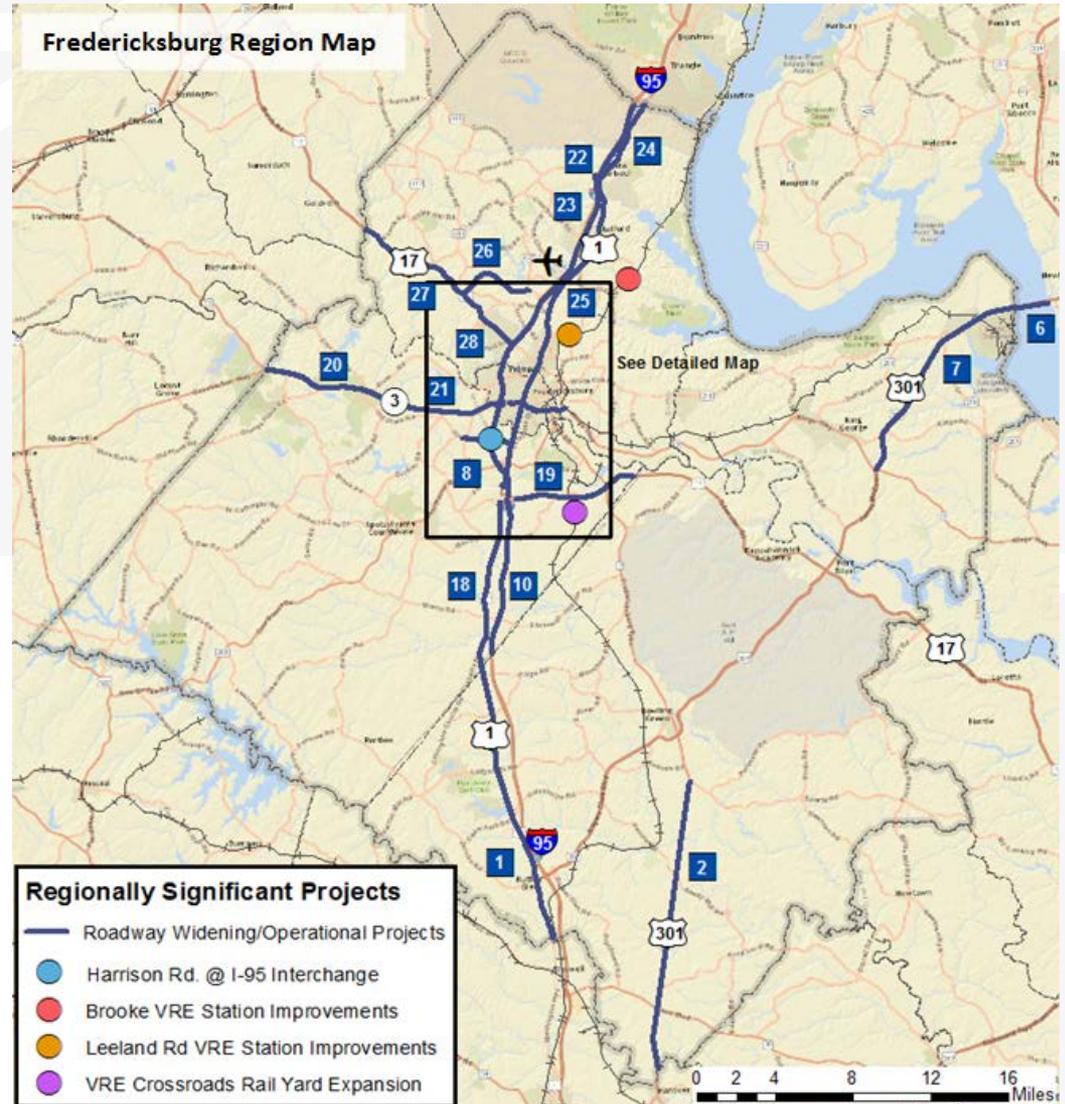
➔ Potomac Heritage
National Scenic Trail
(Goals 1, 3, 4)



FAMPO/GWRC STAFF ASSESSED THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT OF THE FIVE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS DOCUMENT FOR 28 REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS WITHIN THE REGIONAL LRTP AND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP).

Regionally Significant Projects

- Each project reviewed (**High – Medium – Low**) based on support of the five goals
- Every project received at least one **High**
- 13 projects received two or more **High**
- **High** means the project provides a direct positive impact on the goal
- Overarching statement of support for 240+ other projects



Next Steps

- Ongoing implementation of the SYIP
- Smart Scale
 - » Show connection between applications and regional economic development goals
- Federal grant opportunities
- FAMPO Unified Planning Work Program
 - » Focus on planning and consensus building to identify solutions to address the major risks to economic growth
- 2045 LRTP
 - » Set the stage for regional goal setting and prioritization

