

Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA) Toolkit Second Edition



The Second Edition of the Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA) Toolkit is now available and ready for use. The Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA) is a statewide initiative in Virginia linking public and private efforts in the areas of housing and transportation. The Toolkit was produced through a grant awarded to the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD). VBPD recognized the important role of Planning District Commissions in developing and using this Toolkit.

The purpose of the Toolkit is to create plans that lead to livable communities for all citizens.

The Toolkit provides approaches to assess current housing and transportation needs, project future needs, and identify overlapping issues and opportunities. The THA Toolkit can help give a voice to people who don't participate in public workshops, who rarely respond to surveys, and who are difficult to reach through formal channels. Including a wide range of needs in the planning process makes it more likely that the resulting plans and investments will work for people with different needs and abilities.

The Toolkit is intended to be used as part of a planning effort for a region, community or neighborhood. It gives planners additional tools to analyze data numerically and through mapping. It also provides a checklist to assess the study area in a variety of dimensions to evaluate the livability and efficiency of its transportation systems, housing stock, and services. The Toolkit can be used:

- As a part of a locality's Comprehensive Planning process
- As part of a community plan or transportation study
- As an element in the Needs Assessment for people with disabilities
- To help determine desirable locations for housing or services
- To evaluate proposed projects and their impact on the surrounding area

The second edition incorporates comments and lessons learned through 12 planning projects utilizing the THA Toolkit through the two-year period between July 1, 2007 and May 29, 2009. The projects applied and tested the Toolkit, and provided valuable input for revisions and enhancements.

The second edition also includes a series of Fact Sheets providing specific guidance on using the Toolkit in a variety of planning efforts. Fact sheets topics include:

- Market Analysis
- Transit Study
- Comprehensive Plan
- Needs Assessment

For more information on the Toolkit, call or e-mail Billie Campbell at 434-979-7310 ext. 230 or bcampbell@tjpd.org. The THA Toolkit and sample projects are available online at <http://www.tjpd.org/housing/THAtoolkit.asp>

