



*Thomas Jefferson*

Planning District Commission



# Annual Report 2006

Sustainable Solutions to Regional Issues

- Community and Small Towns Planning
- Data and Mapping Services
- Environmental Planning
- Housing and Human Services
- Legislative Liaison
- Transportation
- Workforce and Economic Development

\* Represents Fiscal Year 2006: July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006



## The Commission

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission is directed by a twelve-member board consisting of two representatives appointed by each local governing board, most of whom are elected officials. The Commissioners have varied backgrounds and a wealth of experience. The Commission meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm to provide direction and oversight for TJPDC activities.

### Save The Date!

To find out more about us, please plan to attend our **Open House**, Friday, October 20, 2006 from: 11am-2pm, and 4-6 pm

**We're Located at:** 401 E. Water St.

(diagonally across from the Water St. parking garage on the corner of 4th and Water Streets)

Call us at: (434) 979-7310

Visit us online at: [www.tjpd.org](http://www.tjpd.org)

### TJPDC Commissioners:

*\*Denotes former Commissioner during 2005-2006*

#### City of Charlottesville

David Brown  
Cheri Lewis  
Kevin Lynch\*

#### Albemarle County

Sally H. Thomas  
David Wyant, Treasurer

#### Fluvanna County

Charles W. Allbaugh, CPA  
Norma Hutner\*  
Grant Tate, DPS, Chair

#### Greene County

Jeri Allen, Vice-Chair  
Philip Anns\*  
Kenneth R. Roberts\*  
Carl Schmitt

#### Louisa County

Richard (Dick) Havasy  
David B. Morgan, M.D.\*  
Eric Purcell

#### Nelson County

Fred Boger  
Connie Brennan

#### Executive Director

Harrison B. Rue

# Message from the Chair



As Chair of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), I am proud to present this Annual Report 2006 to our member localities, our partners, and the citizens of our region. Part of my mission as

chair is to discover new ways to inform you of the projects and accomplishments of the TJPDC. This first comprehensive annual report will give you a closer look at our work and show how we are forging sustainable solutions to regional issues.

During this past year, the TJPDC has continued to build on its mission. Armed with a rich history of establishing initiatives and operating programs dedicated to our mission, we have been successful in continuing existing and forming new partnerships that have led to notable programs, projects, and accomplishments benefiting the region.

While I can't mention them all, some include the **Sustainable Community** award, work on the US29 Corridor/Places29 project, the Transportation and Housing Alliance, and a refocus on small towns planning.

I have enjoyed my time as Commissioner and appreciate all the other dedicated and knowledgeable persons that have volunteered their time and efforts. On behalf of my fellow Commissioners and staff, I invite you to review TJPDC's history and progress throughout this report and on our website at [www.tjpd.org](http://www.tjpd.org). This report is also available on that website.

**To get a closer, in-depth look at the work of the TJPDC, I invite you to attend our Open House on Friday, October 20.** Visit the website or call (434) 979-7310 for more details.

Grant Tate, DPS  
Chair

## TJPDC Accomplishments

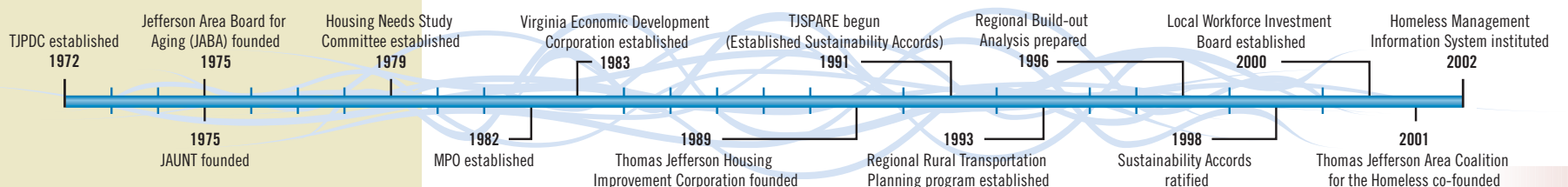
The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) works with local governments, communities, businesses, and agencies to develop sustainable solutions to regional issues. One of 21 Planning District Commissions in the Commonwealth, TJPDC was established in 1972 to serve Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, and Nelson and expanded in 1975 to include Louisa.

Planning District Commissions were established by the General Assembly in 1969 to encourage and facilitate regional solutions to problems of area-wide significance. This cooperation recognizes regional opportunities and the importance of regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services. Planning District Commissions promote the efficient development of the physical, social, and economic policies of all districts by assisting local governments to plan for the future.

True to its purpose, TJPDC has been involved in a multitude of initiatives and programs benefiting the community including:

- **Established JAUNT** under TJPDC initiative to provide rural residents with transit options
- **Initiated Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA)**

- **Established the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** to provide a regional cooperative forum for transportation planning for the urban areas of the region
- **Founded the Virginia Economic Development Corporation** as a certified Small Business Administration loan company, which later developed into the Thomas Jefferson Partnership for Economic Development
- **Established the Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless**
- **Founded the Thomas Jefferson Housing Improvement Corporation**, which later became the Piedmont Housing Alliance
- **Formed the Local Workforce Investment Board (Piedmont Workforce Network)**
- **Prepared the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**
- **Prepared several Solid Waste Management plans**
- **Initiated the US29-Hydraulic-US250 Study (now Places29)** which brought all stakeholders to the table and focused on integration of land use and buildable multi-modal transportation options



# How We Work



As our logo represents from the Jefferson-inspired Palladian window, TJPDC is an agency consisting of a city at the core surrounded by five counties. Our agency work, like the window, is interrelated and dependent upon the involvement and support of each entity for sustainability. Six member localities-separated by boundaries but partnering by necessity.

The work of the TJPDC -- forging sustainable solutions to regional issues-- is inspired by the Sustainability Accords. At the heart of our existence is convening, collaborating, educating, and engaging. We help communities to navigate change and plan for the future. TJPDC forges partnerships, serves member localities, and educates and involves the community.

As a convener, we are a forum for discussions of regional importance. We bring people from varied agencies and backgrounds to the table to discuss approaches and plans of action for relevant issues. We serve as a local government think tank to identify emerging issues and solutions.

Through our collaborative efforts, we seek to create partnerships that allow for the most effective and efficient use of community resources. Partners include local governments, communities, businesses, agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Through these partnerships, we save money by sharing costs and minimizing duplication of efforts. These collaborations can be witnessed throughout this document and our work.

In educating, TJPDC informs and increases awareness on regional issues. We help people understand how decisions are made and how they can provide input to influence those decisions. As community educators, we also engage in facilitator training to ensure citizens are equipped with techniques for effective involvement.

We help our partners engage the public in shaping the community in which they live. Public involvement is a valuable component of the planning process. TJPDC relies on this involvement to gain valuable input and feedback in most of our planning projects. We facilitate community planning processes and provide opportunities for citizen participation through hands-on charrette-style workshops, engaging presentations, group workbooks, and inspiring and buildable plans.

Internally, the TJPDC relies on its dedicated and knowledgeable staff, and its many partners, to work together on inter-agency teams to complete projects based on our guiding principles. This cross-program approach focus allows us to make the best use of our resources for developing practical, visionary plans and assisting partners with actions plans to fund and carry out projects. We assess, inform, and advise and recommend strategies to enhance project visions. We are also able to respond quickly and efficiently to local and state requests for assistance and advocate for local governments with our state and federal partners.

## Guiding Principles

The **Sustainability Accords** were established through the work of the Thomas Jefferson Study to Preserve and Assess the Regional Environment (TJSPARE) which began in 1991. TJSPARE was conducted by a group of dedicated and concerned community and business leaders and citizens. The Sustainability Accords represent both community consensus and an opportunity for individual and group actions toward sustainability for the region. These Accords inspire the work of the TJPDC.

- Encourage and maintain strong ties between the region's urban and rural areas
- Strive for a size and distribute the human population in ways that preserve vital resources
- Retain the natural habitat
- Ensure water quality and quantity are sufficient to support people and ecosystems
- Optimize the use and re-use of developed land and promote clustering
- Promote appropriate scale for land uses
- Retain farm and forest land
- Develop attractive and economical transportation alternatives
- Conserve energy
- Provide educational and employment opportunities
- Increase individual participation in neighborhoods and communities

	Area (sq mi)	Population			# of Households		Median Household Income			Persons per sq. mi.
		1990	2000	2005*	1990	2000	1990	2000	2003	2000
<b>Charlottesville</b>	10	40,431	40,019	40,671	16,099	16,861	24,190	31,077	\$31,206	4002
<b>Albemarle</b>	726	68,040	84,620	90,717	24,387	31,916	36,886	50,749	\$52,967	110
<b>Fluvanna</b>	287	12,429	20,237	24,751	4,495	7,369	31,378	46,372	\$49,225	70
<b>Greene</b>	157	10,297	15,244	17,418	3,737	5,578	29,799	45,931	\$49,925	97
<b>Louisa</b>	514	20,325	25,757	30,020	7,451	9,975	26,169	39,402	\$43,041	50
<b>Nelson</b>	471	12,778	15,101	14,478	4,788	5,887	23,708	36,769	\$38,638	32

\* Provisional estimates

## Mapping and Data Services

The TJPDC's Data and Mapping Center (DMC) provides support to TJPDC projects as well as data and mapping services to local governments, nonprofit organizations, and businesses throughout the region. The DMC developed data and new project maps for the 2006 Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and developed and compiled data for the Northwest Fluvanna/Southwest Louisa Corridor Study. The mapping team also developed a map of the Annual Average Daily Traffic in the urban area and redesigned the Albemarle Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan maps.

In 2006, TJPDC began to develop the Rivanna StreamWatch web application. This is an Internet

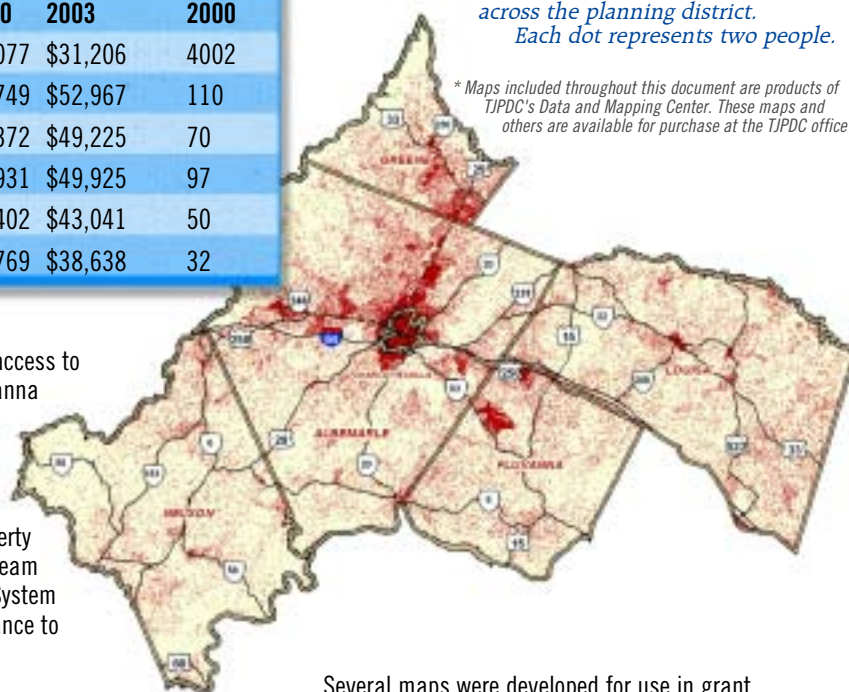
mapping application that will provide access to StreamWatch data collected in the Rivanna River watershed and will be hosted through the TJPDC.

TJPDC provided 2000 Census data and maps of household and family poverty to the Fluvanna County Registrar. The team also provided Geographic Information System (GIS) information and technical assistance to the Greene County Registrar.

The DMC provided data and mapping services to several nonprofit organizations within the region. Aerial maps of the project area for the 2006 Virginia Community Development Block Grant (VCDBG) Planning Grant were developed for the Stanardsville Revitalization Project.

This population dot density map shows the distribution of citizens across the planning district. Each dot represents two people.

\* Maps included throughout this document are products of TJPDC's Data and Mapping Center. These maps and others are available for purchase at the TJPDC office



Several maps were developed for use in grant applications including the Mineral Avenue corridor study and the assisted living facility grant for Louisa County. Other projects included development of a trails map for the Rockfish Valley Foundation and redesign of the Greene County Tourism Map.



# Transportation

## Balanced transportation systems provide choices for people to get to places they need to and want to go.

Through various committees and projects, our community benefits from the careful planning and implementation of a balanced system that includes roadway, bikeway, pedestrian, and transit projects. This balanced, multi-modal transportation network complements environmental, economic, and community development goals. Achieving our goals involves partnering with localities, state agencies, and many community agencies and resources.

### Transportation Committees

The TJPDC staff work alongside City, County, State agency, and UVA staff on a variety of projects that benefit our region. The TJPDC provides staff support to the following committees: Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board, MPO Technical, CHART Citizens, Rural Transportation, Park and Ride, Community Mobility, Tri-Modal Bicycle and Pedestrian, and Commuter Information Team. These efforts coordinate comprehensive work plans that rely on regional cooperation. Highlights from FY06 include:

- **Regional Transit Authority**

The MPO-convened Transportation Funding Options Working Group completed its work in 2005 and identified alternative sources of funding for critical transportation projects in our region. Transit was identified as a critical mode of travel requiring more dedicated funding, which led to the MPO Policy Board's exploration of creating a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area. To date, the exploration has included meeting with Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) staff to discuss potential funding sources and bringing in guest speakers from the Williamsburg Regional Transit Authority. Several in-depth work sessions are planned for FY07.

- **Traffic Reduction Indicators Brochure**

To review the area's transportation trends, the Community Mobility Committee began creating the Traffic Reduction Indicators brochure. The brochure will provide a broad overview of transportation trends in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County and will include annual transit ridership (CTS, UTS, and JAUNT) data, how people commute to work, and Park & Ride lot usage. The brochure will be available in early FY07.

- **Transportation Studies**

With funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) State Transportation Planning Grant Program, TJPDC began work with Fluvanna, Louisa, and Albemarle Counties to create a

transportation plan for the Northwest Fluvanna/ Southwest Louisa/Eastern Albemarle Corridor. The transportation plan will support safe, multi-modal transportation options for drivers, transit riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists by identifying investment strategies and key spot improvements to improve the capacity and safety of existing roads in the corridor. The study will also analyze the impacts of different development scenarios, based on the model developed for the Eastern Planning Initiative. Elements of the study may be incorporated into County Comprehensive Plans. Public workshops are planned for Fall 2006.

- **US29 North Corridor Study (part of Places29)**

The TJPDC has led the US29 North Corridor Study, which has evolved from a small, staff exercise coined 29H250 looking at key intersections along US29 into the full Corridor Study. This transportation planning project is combined with Albemarle County's current Places29 project and will serve as their Northern Development Areas Master Plan transportation component. The project has relied on significant input from public workshops and participation from a variety of agency, business, and advocacy groups.



**Creating and Connecting Communities in Northern Albemarle**



These information sheets are part of an extensive education and public involvement effort. They were provided to inform the public on topics related to land use and transportation. The Places29 project website is [www.albemarle.org](http://www.albemarle.org).



## rideshare

TJPDC is also home of RideShare, a program that works in the community to promote traffic reduction and increase general awareness of alternatives to the single occupant vehicle. RideShare provides carpool and vanpool matching services for commuters, acts as a transportation information and referral center for the region, provides employers with the tools and support to develop and implement traffic reduction programs, coordinates with local and regional agencies in the development and marketing of Park and Ride lots, and operates a Guaranteed Ride Home Program.

In FY06, RideShare continued its efforts to increase brand awareness and name recognition throughout the region. RideShare

continued to perform outreach to regional employers, while creating new relationships with others. RideShare assisted 22% more commuters in 2006 than the previous year, and saw a 7% increase in the match rate.

RideShare coordinated its second annual RideShare Awareness and Appreciation Week and with the Commuter Information Team, hosted Clean Commute Day 2006. FY06 also saw the continuance of the "Quarterly Commute" newsletter, a comprehensive database update, in-depth database training, and the inclusion of more sophisticated carpool matching techniques. Increased enrollment in the Guaranteed Ride Home program and the SchoolPool program continued. For more on RideShare, visit [www.rideshareinfo.org](http://www.rideshareinfo.org)

# Workforce and Economic Development

## The Piedmont Workforce Network (PWN)

provides workforce services to the Local Workforce Investment Area 6 (City of Charlottesville and Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson, Culpeper, Fauquier, Orange, Madison, and Rappahannock). The PWN, also known as the Local Workforce Investment Board, consists of business representatives and community partners. Its mission is "linking resources to meet employment needs."

In April, the Piedmont Workforce Network Youth Council hosted the Piedmont Youth Connections Conference & Job Fair for out-of-school youth ages 16-24. This event provided an opportunity to connect out-of-school youth with employers. Highlights included a motivational message to the youth and a panel discussion between employers and employment service providers. One successful example of this job fair was the hiring of a young man who participated in the conference. He was hired by a local heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) company as an HVAC assistant. One of the PWN programs provided all the tools and equipment needed to perform his job. His grandfather is very proud

of him and says he's keeping busy, earning a decent living, and back on the right track.

The PWN oversees the Area 6 One Stop Career Centers, which provide residents and employers with one location where they can take care of all their employment needs. The PWN Board is working toward establishing at least a satellite or information center in each locality in Area 6. The Greene County Job Spot and the Nelson Center were recently opened, and plans are underway to open centers in Fluvanna and Louisa Counties.

One Stop Centers serve everyone, with more in-depth employment programs available for disadvantaged youth, low-income adults, and dislocated workers. The State bases the continued funding and the success of the programs on employment and training performance measures. In 2005, the PWN received an Incentive Grant for meeting or exceeding 16 of the 17 performance measures. For more information, visit [www.piedmontworkforce.net](http://www.piedmontworkforce.net)

## PWN Performance Highlights for 2005 (calendar year)

	Adult Program	Dislocated Workers Program	Youth Program
# Participants completing	48	106	63
% Employed 1st quarter after completion	59%	85%	81%
% Employed 6 months later*	91%	95%	94%
Earnings Change in 6 months (Post-program minus Pre-program)	\$6,946	\$4,259	\$3,621

\* Of those employed 1st quarter after completion

PIEDMONT  
workforce  
network

# Environmental Planning

**Environmental planning is incorporated across programs at TJPDC with concepts including green building, green streets, greenways, corridor preservation, stormwater management, and other environmental impacts on planning projects.**

TJPDC's environmental program focuses primarily on regional issues, which have included sustainability, water resources, and solid waste. Much work has centered on the Rivanna River watershed, which comprises major portions of four of the TJPDC's six localities and is 99% contained within the planning district. This work began with and has built upon the TJPDC-sponsored Rivanna River Basin Roundtable and the resulting report, which included recommendations for clean up of the basin's impaired waters, better information dissemination, and planning for the river corridor. All of these recommendations have been addressed in projects or grant proposals during FY06.

## Moore's Creek Plan

The Moore's Creek Technical Committee, staffed by the TJPDC, submitted the Moore's

Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan to the state, which accepted the plan. The plan outlines actions to reduce the levels of fecal coliform bacteria in the creek to meet Virginia water quality standards. With this approval, TJPDC and others working in the watershed will be able to seek federal funding to assist in its cleanup. Since 1998, Moore's Creek has been listed as an impaired waterway for its levels of fecal coliform bacteria, which indicate it is unsafe for swimming and fishing.

## Hazard Mitigation Plan

In partnership with a working group consisting of representatives from all localities and local planning and emergency services staff and committees, TJPDC prepared the Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan assesses and identifies methods to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards and their effects and is necessary in order for localities to be eligible for various funding. In FY06, TJPDC completed the plan which has been officially approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). Additionally, all localities in TJPDC have now formally adopted.

## Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

As the central archive for the regional Solid Waste Committee, the TJPDC submitted data to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) calculating a 26% recycling rate for the Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste region for calendar year 2005. The rate reflects a 1.9% increase over the previous year, and represents the first rise in the regional recycling rate since 2002. The success in exceeding the 25% state requirement is a result of regional efforts resulting in increases in reported recycling rates from nearly every locality in the region. The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, developed by the TJPDC and the Solid Waste Committee, contains regional strategies to improve recycling, to reduce waste and to capture accurate data. TJPDC also created a citizen's quick guide to recycling and reuse.

## StreamWatch Rivanna Data Center

With a grant from the Department of Forestry, TJPDC has been working with others to develop the StreamWatch Data Center and Rivanna Water Window. This project includes the development of a searchable database of water quality data and a website that links that data to interactive maps of the Rivanna watershed. An initial public release is anticipated soon, following the development of the database structure and the implementation and testing of the interactive maps.



# Housing and Human Services

**TJPDC works with local government agencies and non-profit organizations to coordinate local initiatives on housing and human services and to develop effective and efficient solutions to our region's needs. Our projects span many areas and include the following:**

## Housing Assistance

The Thomas Jefferson HOME Consortium was formed in 1993 through an initiative of the TJPDC, bringing our six member governments together as a Consortium to receive federal HOME funds. With TJPDC serving as the administrator, non-profit affordable housing agencies receive HOME funds to perform a variety of activities aimed at increasing the supply of affordable housing in the area. In FY06, the Thomas Jefferson HOME Consortium expended \$1,035,821 in HOME funds. This year 36 projects were completed, including the development of four rental units, the rehabilitation of nine homes for existing owners, and assistance for twenty-three first-time homebuyers. Over the life of the program, the Thomas Jefferson HOME Consortium has used \$9,864,621 in HOME funds to provide homeowner rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, and rental development. HOME funds through the Department of Housing and Urban Development have leveraged approximately \$45 million of other federal, state, and local funding. Since 1993, a total of 1,057 projects have been completed.

## Affordable Green Building Initiative

The Thomas Jefferson HOME Consortium launched the Sustainable Communities Initiative in 2004 aimed at making housing more sustainable by using low toxicity, high efficiency, local, and recycled products. Such housing is more affordable through improved energy efficiency, less water consumption, lower cost from waste disposal, and reduced long-term maintenance. A total of twenty projects were completed this past year, with at least one in each of the six jurisdictions in the planning district. The Green Building Sourcebook, a product of this initiative, is available on our website. TJPDC is a member of the Blue Ridge Home Builders Association (BRHBA) and participated in their Green Building Committee, which adopted Earthcraft™ certification as green building standards for our region. All participating non-profit housing foundations are now incorporating green building materials and techniques into all new housing projects funded through the HOME Consortium.

### Since 1993, we have helped leverage:

\$9,864,621 in HOME funds  
\$45,000,000 in other federal, state,  
and local funding  
1,057 completed housing projects

## Homeless Programs

Homeless Programs at the TJPDC have continued to strengthen and build in the past year. The Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless (TJACH) carried on its efforts toward realizing the vision of a decent, safe place to sleep at night for everyone in our region. Highlights for this year include:

- The 4th annual Homeless Census and Point In Time Count was conducted in the winter and found that the number of people who are homeless showed a slight decrease from 2005. The number of people unsheltered locally has fallen significantly with the added capacity of the People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry (PACEM) winter shelter program. *TJACH's original 2003 survey instrument and the name "Homeless Census" was adopted statewide, and the practice of recruiting currently and formerly homeless volunteers has been recommended across the state.*
- **Highlights from the 2006 Homeless Census and Point In Time Count**
  - 173 adults were found to be homeless (163 in shelters)
  - 72% of homeless counted were male
  - 39% of homeless counted were presently employed and 59% had been employed in the past 30 days
  - 73% of homeless counted had earned a high school diploma (or equivalent) or higher
- The Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded funds to our region for pre-development activities for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing. SROs, similar to small efficiency apartments, are a cost-effective alternative to life on the street for people in need and could provide permanent, affordable, supportive housing for many in our region. Piedmont Housing Alliance prepared the grant proposal in partnership with TJACH and will serve as the grantee.
- In 2005, TJPDC appointed the Task Force to Develop the 2012 Plan to End Homelessness and charged the group with developing a region-wide plan to end chronic and episodic homelessness by 2012. The plan will identify and address the needs of both the urban and rural homeless, develop a comprehensive continuum of care plan for the homeless, and propose a permanent solution for those who become homeless. A report will be completed in the coming months.

## Transition Resource Map - Life After High School

TJPDC formed the Jefferson Area Transition Council, a group consisting of transition professionals dedicated to meeting the needs of students with disabilities as they prepare to transition to adult life. This group has guided the development of a website to highlight transition resources available in the planning district, allowing users to view and select information on available programs in the areas of education, employment, independent living, recreational activities and financial assistance. The "Life After High School" web site is now available for use at [www.lifeafterths.org](http://www.lifeafterths.org).



## Disability Services Board

In 2006, the Jefferson Area Disability Services Board (DSB) conducted the Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities. This study assesses the needs of people with physical and sensory disabilities in the planning district and is used to guide the activities of the DSB, inform local officials of needs within their jurisdictions, and advise state agencies.

The DSB also recognized ARAMARK Dining Services at Observatory Hill as its 2005 Employer of the Year. The award was given at the Employer Resource and Recognition Day hosted by TJPDC in partnership with the Department of Rehabilitative Services and the Piedmont Workforce Network.

## Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA)

The TJPDC, on behalf of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, established a Transportation and Housing Alliance (THA). This statewide initiative will educate PDCs throughout the state and others who influence the building of community capacity in the areas of housing and transportation. The THA will serve as a conduit for information, resources, and technical assistance and will develop a toolkit to assess current and future housing and transportation needs of people with disabilities, will make policy recommendations, and work to build and improve community infrastructures.



# Community and Small Towns Planning

TJPDC and its member localities are keenly interested in community development, with a particular interest in small town planning. Many of the traditional small towns in the region are losing population and overall vibrancy, resulting in a greater need to identify ways to revitalize small towns and foster a village-scale development pattern of connected streets, walkable neighborhoods, and a mixture of residential and commercial uses. The following studies and plans highlight recent projects.

- **Lovingston Planning Grant**

In 2005, TJPDC completed the Lovingston Safety Study which examined the pedestrian, cyclist, and motorist safety concerns of the staff and citizens of Nelson County. Like many small towns, Lovingston is a traditional small village that lies adjacent to Route 29. With development occurring on both sides of Route 29, the challenge is to make it safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists passing through or wishing to cross Route 29 to reach the amenities on both sides. This study was coordinated with Nelson County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) planning and funding applications.

- **Stanardsville CDBG Planning Grant**

Building on the community work that resulted in the Safety, Circulation, and Beautification Plan for the Town of Stanardsville and several successful grant applications, TJPDC assisted with a CDBG grant application. TJPDC facilitated a meeting of the Stanardsville Management Team, which identified a study area for their Stanardsville Downtown Revitalization Project and began the process of surveying the housing stock in the town, inventorying the current businesses, and preparing an assessment of Town infrastructure.

- **Fluvanna Community Studies**

At Fluvanna County's request, TJPDC assisted with planning efforts in four village areas in the County. The planning process in each area relies on input from community leaders and citizens, which is achieved through community workshops. This input forms the basis for a Community Plan that identifies priorities and selects a model project to begin implementation. From these plans, the County is prepared to submit grant applications to fund identified projects. Studies were completed in Fork Union, Lake Monticello, Palmyra, and Zion Crossroads.

The *Fork Union Plan* focuses on enhancing the village character of the town, promoting community activities and involvement, improving the community transportation



*As part of the Palmyra Community Plan, this before and after visualization was created to show how a town could evolve based on recommended improvements.*



network, fostering a thriving economy with local conveniences, providing affordable housing, preserving natural and historic resources, and ensuring adequate infrastructure to support existing and future needs. The plan led to a funded grant application for identified improvements.

The *Lake Monticello Plan* focuses on improving traffic safety, enhancing existing community centers with village center concepts, providing a variety of housing types, preserving rural character, and protecting natural resources. This plan led to a funded grant application for identified improvements on Turkey Sag.

The *Palmyra Plan* focuses on preserving the historic character of the village and making it pedestrian and bicycle-friendly. The recommendations included in the plan work to enhance and maintain the village-scale atmosphere of Palmyra, to improve the safety, efficiency and diversity of the transportation system, and to protect the social and environmental resources of the area.

The *Zion Crossroads Plan* is looking at quality economic development opportunities through organized, well-planned, mixed-use development as well as the preservation of

the rural, historic, and natural environment. Concepts from this plan are being carried forward in the current Northwest Fluvanna/Southwest Louisa/Eastern Albemarle Corridor study.

- **Mineral CDBG Planning Grant**

TJPDC has supported the Town of Mineral with its community planning. Through a grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the Town of Mineral is studying the needed efforts for downtown economic revitalization. The goal of the project is to quantify the needs along the main business district, Mineral Avenue, and to secure the funds necessary to stimulate economic development. TJPDC staff has participated as part of the project Management Team. In order to better communicate the goal of this project, TJPDC staff presented to the Mineral Historical Society and facilitated a visioning retreat with Town Council.



# Legislative Program

The TJPDC Legislative Liaison represents the interests and positions of the region's localities before the state legislature and other state policy-makers. Much of this effort occurs at the General Assembly during January-March of each year, but includes work during the off-season, attending legislative study committee and other meetings of interest to local governments.

In FY06, the legislative liaison compiled, presented and received approval of the TJPDC Legislative Program from the localities and the PDC. The program was formally presented to the region's state legislators at the annual legislative luncheon in November. At this meeting, the notion of an earlier and more focused legislative program was raised. Follow-up discussion in the spring by the Planning District Commission resulted in plans to develop legislative positions for 2007 with goals of prioritizing positions as a region and making them known to legislators and others further in advance of the next legislative session.

Following adjournment of the legislature's regular session in March, approved legislation was reviewed and analyzed, culminating in production of a final summary of legislative action from the 2006 session that included results in the legislative program's priority areas. An end-of-session budget summary was produced when the budget compromise was reached in the final days of the fiscal year.

Concerning locally requested legislation, the 2006 session proved to be a very active and successful one. Four locally requested bills were approved and signed into law. Albemarle County was authorized to utilize an administrative hearing officer rather than a three-person panel to hear employee grievances. A pair of identical bills revised the Charlottesville City charter to authorize several new means for providing affordable housing to low and moderate-income persons. Nelson County was authorized to charge up to a 5% transient occupancy tax for the rental of condominiums, apartments, townhouses, or similar buildings.

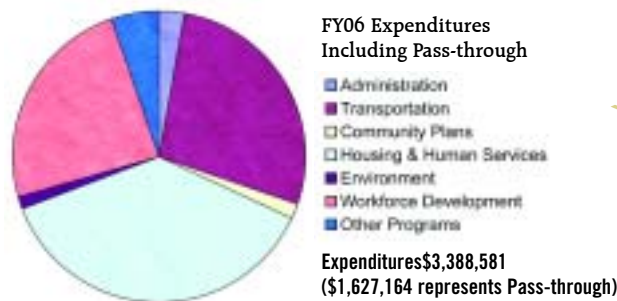
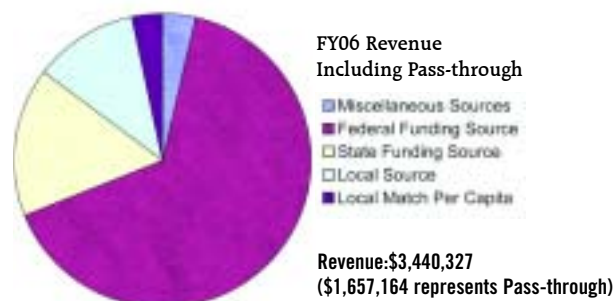
## Looking to the Future

The TJPDC will continue forging sustainable solutions to regional issues with a renewed focus on implementation and strategic marketing and communication. The focus will remain on including near and long-term implementation strategies in all regional and community plans as well as working with partner agencies, localities, and the private sector to develop coordinated, step-by-step action agendas for adopted plans.

The TJPDC will maintain its commitment to provide technical assistance to localities, developers, and partner agencies on the incorporation of compact development, multi-modal transportation, sustainability accords, universal design, and green principles. This assistance will include analysis of local zoning ordinances to identify impediments to program objectives and project implementation. Having seen increasing partnerships in community and small towns planning, TJPDC is also looking to strengthen its relationships and assistance offered to more towns in the planning district.

The staff of TJPDC will continue to gain knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to assist in and lead community and regional initiatives. In an effort to enhance the public presentation of our products, TJPDC is continuing the evolution of its cross-program design team to produce the highest-quality graphics, website, maps, community designs, photo visualizations, reports, and educational materials. With the appointment of a Communications Director, the TJPDC is also in the stages of developing a new service--providing marketing and communications services for non-profits and local governments.

## TJPDC Financial Data



## TJPDC Staff:

\*Denotes former employee during 2005-2006 fiscal year

**David Blount**, Legislative Liaison  
**Billie Campbell**, Chief Operating Officer  
**Kristin Carlson**, Intern  
**Rhonda J. Edmunds**, Communications Director  
**Kellem Agnew Emanuele**, Transportation Program Coordinator  
**Heather Foor**, PWN Program Coordinator  
**Rochelle Garwood**, Senior Environmental Planner  
**Lisa Horanyi**, RideShare Outreach Coordinator  
**Gwen Miller**, Office Coordinator  
**Felicia Morris**, Finance Director\*

**Jason Overstreet**, GIS Coordinator/Network Administrator  
**Ryan Pace**, Graphic Designer/Webmaster  
**Todd Palmquist**, Piedmont Workforce Network Director  
**Caroline Pfister**, PWN Program Assistant  
**Don Reed**, Finance Director  
**Harrison B. Rue**, Executive Director  
**Evan Scully**, Homeless MIS Manager  
**William Wanner**, Senior Regional Planner  
**Jonathan Whitehurst**, Intern\*  
**Andy Winz**, Regional Planner

**Congratulations** to the Thomas Jefferson Planning District for being recognized as the most sustainable community in the state by the Virginia Sustainable Building Network (VSBN)! TJPDC accepted this award at VSBN's 11th Annual Meeting held on June 9th.

Some examples of innovative sustainability measures taking place in many of our communities across the region include: *EarthCraft Builder* training, construction of the first EarthCraft certified affordable home in Virginia, the *Green Building Sourcebook*, *Universal Design* training which focuses on accessible housing for persons of all abilities, *Excellence in Energy Star Performance*, creation of a sustainable forestry management program, Green Building practices in public buildings including Monticello High School's Bio Filter construction component and Albemarle County's green roof, the incorporation of green, sustainable features throughout the new Downtown Transit Center, and *Green Streets Conceptual Designs* incorporated into transportation plans and small town community plans in our rural communities.



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