



## **2017 – 2037 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

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Thank you to the many community leaders and citizens who participated in the development of this Comprehensive Plan.

Adopted September 5, 2017

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## Executive Summary

### INTRODUCTION

Formed in 1752 from Lunenburg County and named for the second Earl of Halifax, Halifax County is the fourth largest County in Virginia, encompassing nearly 825 square miles. The Town of Halifax, originally called Banister, became the County seat in 1792. The three other incorporated towns in the County are Scottsburg, South Boston, and Virgilina. The Town of South Boston, located in the center of the County, was first established in 1796, incorporated in 1882 and became a city in 1960. South Boston reverted back to town status in 1995. The former Town of Clover gave up its charter on January 1, 2000. Halifax County is also a member of the Southside Planning District Commission.

### PURPOSE AND USE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

This Comprehensive Plan updates the Plan prepared in 2007 by the Community Planning Collaborative. In Virginia, every governing body must adopt a comprehensive plan to provide direction for the physical development of land within its jurisdiction. The Plan will be used to guide public investment and decisions, as well as provide the legal foundation for important land management tools like zoning and subdivision ordinances.

Title 15.2, Chapter 22 of the Code of Virginia, establishes the basic planning responsibilities for Virginia localities. The Code provides that a local planning commission shall prepare and recommend a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the territory within its jurisdiction. Upon completion, plan updates must undergo the same adoption procedure as prescribed for original plans in Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia. This legislation requires that the citizens of the County be afforded the opportunity for review and comment on the Plan update. The Code specifies that at least one public hearing be held before the Planning Commission recommends the Plan to the Board of Supervisors. Prior to holding a public hearing, the Planning Commission must publish a notice specifying the time and place of the hearing. The notice must be published once a week for two (2) successive weeks, and not more than twenty-one (21) days or less than six (6) days prior to the public hearing, in a newspaper having general circulation in the County. The Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors may hold a joint public hearing on the plan. If a joint hearing is held, only the Board of Supervisors need publish the notice of the joint hearing.

The most successful comprehensive plans are those that involve a diversity of stakeholders from the beginning of the planning process. This includes planners, citizens, business owners, and local government administrators and elected leaders. This Comprehensive Plan was developed through a participatory process involving a designated Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Focus Group sessions were held to discuss various planning issues and opportunities related to neighborhoods, recreation, transportation, economic development, historic resources, public facilities and services, and land use.

A Comprehensive Plan is a statement of long-range objectives made by the governing body of a community concerning its developmental priorities. The Plan forms the basis for community projects such as transportation and utility improvements, residential, industrial or commercial development, recreation, public services, flood plain management among others. In addition, the Plan provides a foundation for developing important land management tools like zoning and subdivision ordinances.

Local government officials use the Plan when considering zoning changes, capital improvements (roads, schools, water & sewer, etc.), and economic development, housing initiatives, or special action projects. Citizens use the Plan to understand identified goals and direction of the community to understand the planned public improvements. Businesses use the Plan when considering business investments and expansion. Federal and State agencies use the Plan to ensure consistency with the locally identified goals and projects to be pursued for funding.

## PLANNING POLICIES TO ACHIEVE 2037 VISION

Setting comprehensive plan goals and objectives enhances desirable development practices for future growth. Goals are long-range community aspirations for the significant positive gains that should be achieved and serve to establish the future direction of Halifax County. Objectives are guidelines for action which directs the accomplishment of goals and enables the County to respond to a wide range of problems as they arise. The goals and objectives do not dictate to county officials any actions that must be taken, and as such, are not binding, but rather set forth positive suggestions that can be used as benchmarks for measuring effectiveness of present planning activities, as well as a foundation for future planning efforts.

***Community and Housing Goals*** – Promote and nurture a healthy, high quality of life for residents that embraces and facilitates attractive neighborhoods, safe and affordable housing, excellent educational opportunities, supportive health and social services, and outstanding recreational facilities. These goals are to be achieved by:

- Addressing substandard housing conditions using methods that encourage cooperative approaches with property owners, to improve blighted properties and neighborhoods, as well as support the needs of existing neighborhoods.
- Encouraging residential development in areas targeted for growth and new development that meets the community needs for diverse housing types and enhances attractiveness and quality of residential neighborhoods.
- Encouraging and supporting healthy living initiatives that improve the health and quality of life by expanding existing health and recreational facilities, as well as promoting walkability throughout the towns of Halifax County.
- Supporting and nurturing existing and future educational opportunities and facilities within Halifax County and the region.

**Economic Goals** – Encourage, promote, and invest in a diversified economy for residents and businesses that provide quality job opportunities, inviting corridors and development, and a prosperous market for services and products. These goals to be achieved by:

- Encouraging and pursuing businesses, industries, employers, and educational institutions in Halifax County and its Towns that complement and diversify the economic base, provide quality jobs, enhance the quality of life, and sustain the environmental quality of the region.
- Facilitating and encouraging tourism initiatives as a part of the diversified economic development strategy for Halifax County, including Agritourism, expanding upon the existing Tobacco Heritage Trail, Southern Virginia Wild Blueway, South Boston Speedway, Virginia International Raceway, and many others.

**Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Goals** – Plan for and provide quality, cost effective public facilities and services that sufficiently meet the community needs and accommodate managed, future growth. These goals to be achieved by:

- Planning for and investing in park and recreational facilities and programs that contribute to the quality of life for residents, encourage healthy living, and enhance the economic prosperity of Halifax County.
- Upgrading, providing and planning for efficient public facilities and services to meet the community needs of Halifax County and surrounding service areas.
- Planning for and providing safe and efficient transportation systems with multi-modal opportunities to accommodate community needs and projected growth.

**Environmental (Natural, Cultural, and Historic Resources) Goals** – Protect, conserve and promote those important natural and historical resources that contribute to the special environmental and cultural community qualities of Halifax County and the region. These goals to be achieved by:

- Promoting natural and historic resources as community assets that contribute to the high quality of life, recreational opportunities, and economic stability of the County.
- Protecting, conserving and preserving important natural and historic resources in Halifax County and the region.

**Land Use and Development Goals** – Guide community growth and champion quality land development that complements the unique character of Halifax County, stimulates a diverse, resilient economy, and preserves community assets. These goals to be achieved by:

- Maintaining up-to-date land development ordinances to ensure effective planning for growth, equitable application, consistent & defensible administration, and easy customer use.
- Providing responsible governmental leadership that furthers the 2037 Vision for Halifax County, as well as promotes best practices for achieving the desired outcomes.

# Community Planning Process

## COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP PROCESS

The Halifax County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2007, provided a foundation for this updated Comprehensive Plan. This plan considered goals and objectives, background information, and issues and opportunities for all planning elements. This update condenses, yet integrates, relevant planning recommendations from the 2007 Comprehensive Plan and provides an improved organizational format for easy reference by County officials and citizens.

Between January and March 2017, the comprehensive planning team met with several small focus groups consisting of citizens, business leaders, community leaders, County departmental leaders, and other stakeholders to discuss community issues and needs, opportunities for growth, and vision for the future. Some notable points of discussion influencing the Comprehensive Plan were:

### *Community and Housing*

- Citizens, including graduating youth, leave the Halifax County area due to lack of quality jobs with sufficient pay and advancement opportunities.
- Transportation and access to facilities and services are a challenge for youth and citizens lacking access to personal vehicles.
- More recreational activities are needed to provide local youth with a reason to connect with positive and constructive activities, resources and people.
- Young families and professionals desire different housing options, such as quality housing including townhomes, loft apartments, and alternative styles of single-family housing.

### *Economy*

- Work with regional partners to promote cultural, heritage, recreational and historic resources as assets that contribute to the high quality of life, recreational opportunities, and economic stability of Halifax County.
- Encourage and pursue industries, employers, educational institutions that complement and diversify the economic base, enhance the quality of life, provide quality jobs, and sustain environmental quality and integrity of the region.
- Facilitate tourism and agritourism initiatives as a part of the diversified economic development strategy for Halifax County.

### *Public Facilities*

- Promote the use and extension of the fiber optics line funded by Federal Tobacco Buyout Program along U.S. 58.
- Support the establishment of community oriented programs which are focused on more complete use of school facilities.

- Plan for and provide safe transportation systems with multi-modal opportunities to accommodate community needs and projected growth.
- Plan for and invest in the expansion of multi-modal trails, parks and recreation facilities and programs that contribute to the quality of life for residents, encourage healthy living, and enhance the economic prosperity of Halifax County.

### *Environment*

- Continue to maintain, improve, and expand on the Southern Virginia Tobacco Heritage Trail throughout the County, ultimately connecting to Pittsylvania County.
- Support the development of a local parks, recreation and open space plan, as a joint effort between the County and its Towns, building on the implemented Halifax County and South Boston Bike & Pedestrian Plan, developed by Southside Planning District Commission.
- Continue to market local historic, cultural, and recreational assets throughout the region.

### *Land Use*

- Encourage cluster residential development with open space set asides.
- Encourage rehabilitation or demolition of substandard housing.
- Encourage innovative and environmentally friendly development design that incorporates vegetative buffers and landscaping, limit the amount of impervious surfaces, and include storm water management alternatives.
- Monitor proposed economic development proposals in the area and region.
- Encourage the proper planning and timing of commercial development of land near and adjacent to town boundaries, to coincide with the extension of those town services and utilities.
- Develop commercial building and development guidelines and standards.
- Promote industrial growth at specific sites near urbanized areas, considering the proximity to labor, resources, markets, and utilities and the slope, geology, soil and flooding characteristics of each locations.
- Promote the development of renewable energy resources, such as properly sited and developed facilities in the A-1 zoning district that generate electricity from wind or solar resources, and ensure the availability of an adequate supply of energy resources through properly sited and developed transmission and pipeline infrastructure, all in a manner consistent with the Commonwealth Energy Policy and the other provisions of the Halifax County Comprehensive Plan
- Encourage properly sited electric generation and transmission facilities, as well as pipeline facilities.

## COMMUNITY MEETINGS & PUBLIC SURVEY

Three community meetings were held throughout the County in June 2017 to allow citizens to review the Comprehensive Plan draft and provide comments. A public survey was also published for 45 days to gather input from local citizens. This survey may be found in the Appendix.

## Halifax County, Virginia

### HISTORY OF HALIFAX COUNTY IN BRIEF

Formed in 1752 from Lunenburg County and named for the second Earl of Halifax, Halifax County is the fourth largest County in Virginia, encompassing nearly 825 square miles. The



Town of Halifax, originally called Banister, became the County seat in 1792. The three other incorporated towns in the County are Scottsburg, South Boston, and Virgilina. The Town of South Boston, located in the center of the County, was first established in 1796, incorporated in 1882 and became a city in 1960. South Boston reverted back to town status in 1995. The former Town of Clover gave up its charter on January 1, 2000. Halifax County is also a member of the Southside Planning

District Commission.

Halifax is one of 105 counties and independent cities in Virginia. Halifax County lies in south central Virginia, on the North Carolina border. It is bound by the Virginia Counties of Charlotte and Campbell to the north, Mecklenburg to the east, and Pittsylvania to the west, and the North Carolina Counties of Caswell, Person, and Granville to the south.

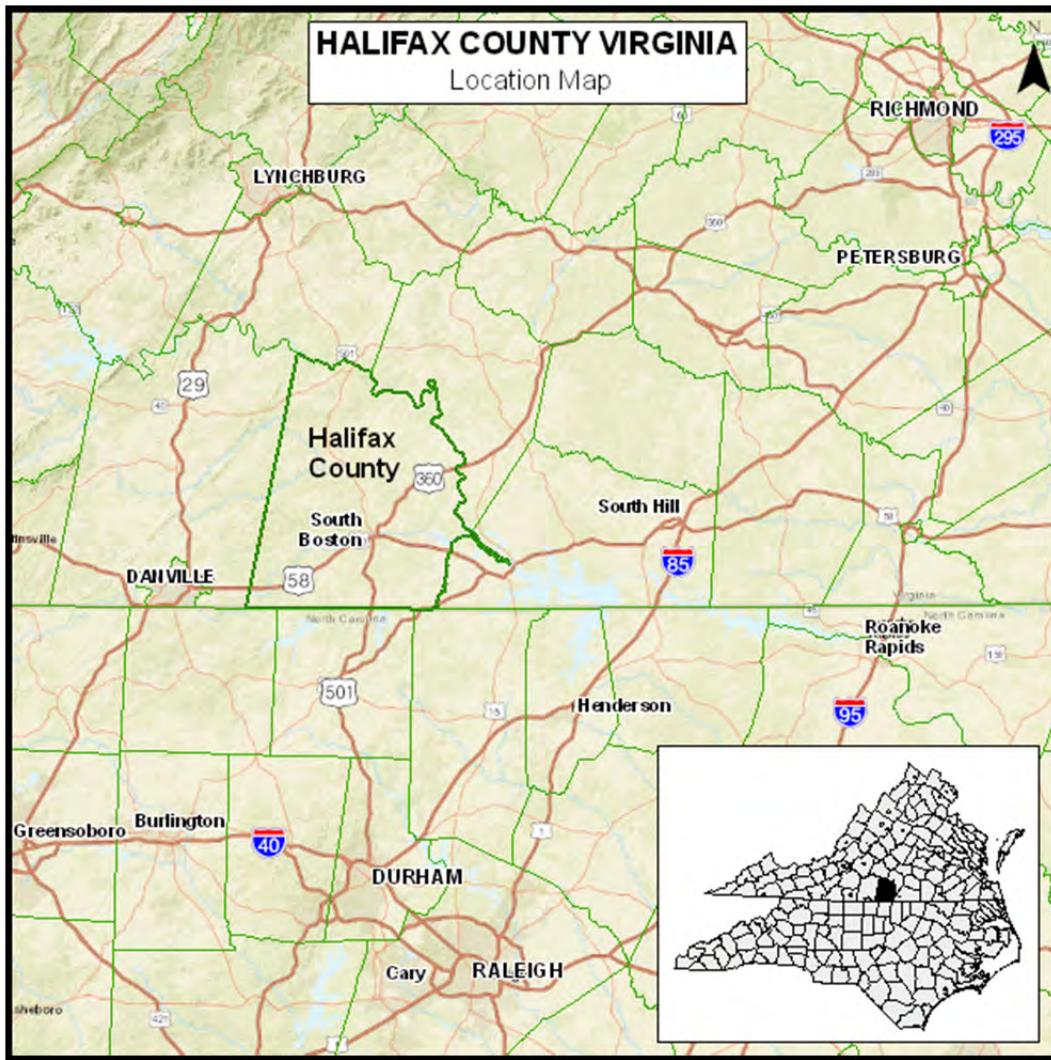
The County government is centered in the traditional Board of Supervisors, augmented by the Board's appointed administrative officer, the County Administrator. The Board is composed of eight members with one from each of the County's election districts, elected by citizens for a term of four years. Plus a tie-breaker member elected at large.

### REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Halifax County consists of generally flat or gently rolling land. Elevations range from 150 to 815 feet above sea level. Drainage is provided by the Banister, Roanoke (Staunton), Dan, and Hycos Rivers and their tributaries.

The County seat, Halifax, is 115 miles southwest of Richmond and 85 miles northwest of Raleigh. The County is connected to other Virginia localities and other states by an excellent

transportation network consisting of highway, rail, and air transportation systems.



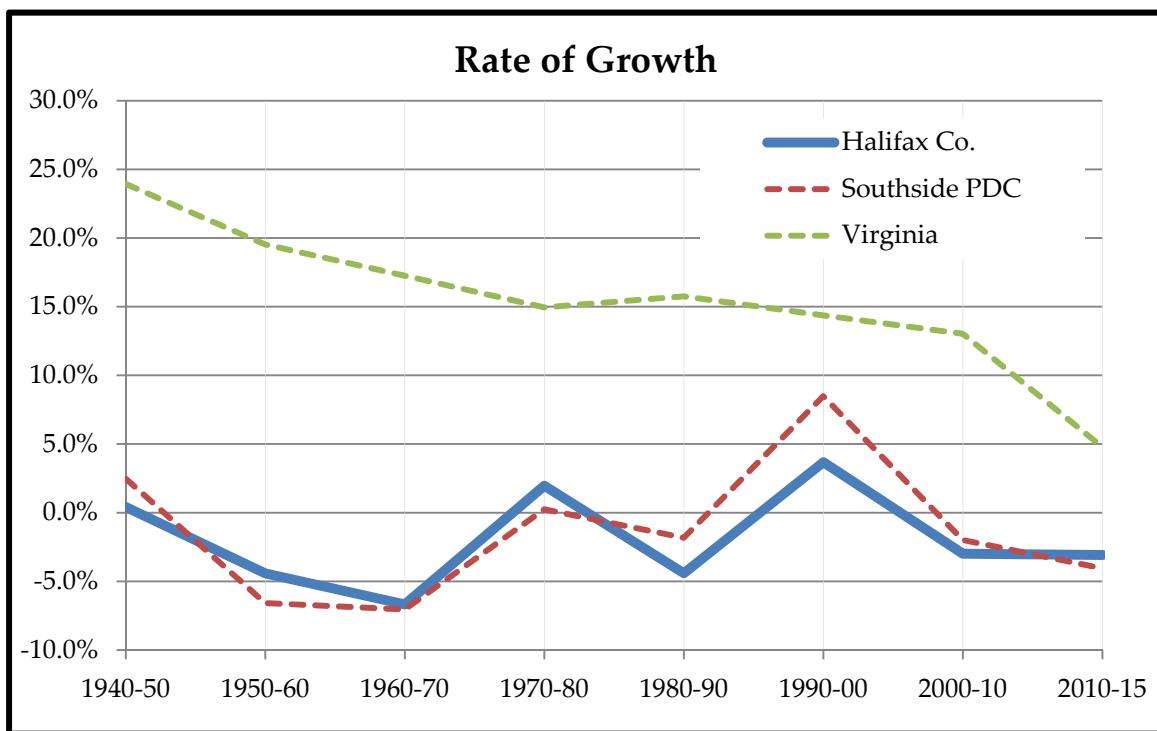
An extensive transportation network runs through or near Halifax County. U.S. 58, 501, and 360 are considered major highway corridors. Halifax County is centrally located and accessible to and from several major markets and close to important transportation hubs. To the northeast, it is only 115 miles to Richmond, including the Port of Richmond and Richmond International Airport. To the east, it is only 165 miles to Norfolk with the multiple Port of Virginia facilities and the Norfolk International Airport. To the south, it is only 63 miles to Durham, N.C. and 84 miles from RDU International Airport. Halifax County is 53 miles away from the future Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor that will connect Washington, D.C. to Raleigh, North Carolina, with a potential future stopping point in La Crosse.

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

### *Population Decrease*

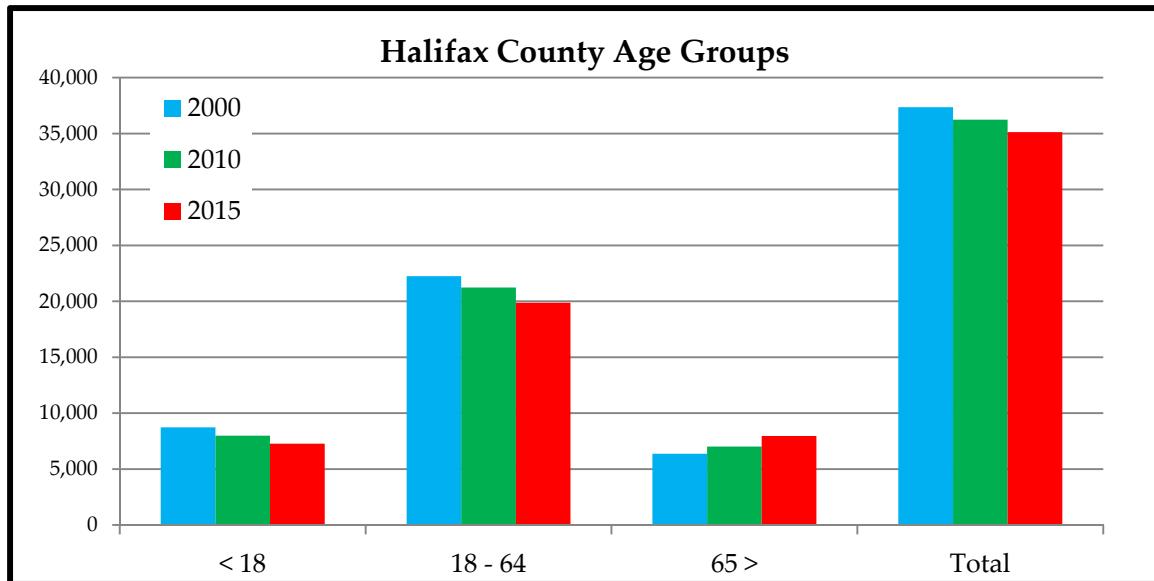
Halifax County, like most of its Southern Virginia neighbors over the last 15 years, has seen a decreasing population that is growing older. The County population dropped from 37,355 to 36,241, (- 3%) between 2000 and 2010, the last time the Decennial Census was taken. Town populations in Halifax County decreased overall by 4.5%. The unincorporated areas of Halifax County saw a 2.4% decrease in that time span.

Since the last Decennial Census, population estimates are still showing a downward trend, although the negative rate of growth has at least stabilized. Population estimates from the Census Bureau show a -3.08% decrease in population from 36,241 in 2010 to 35,125 in 2015; very similar to the decrease between 2000 & 2010.

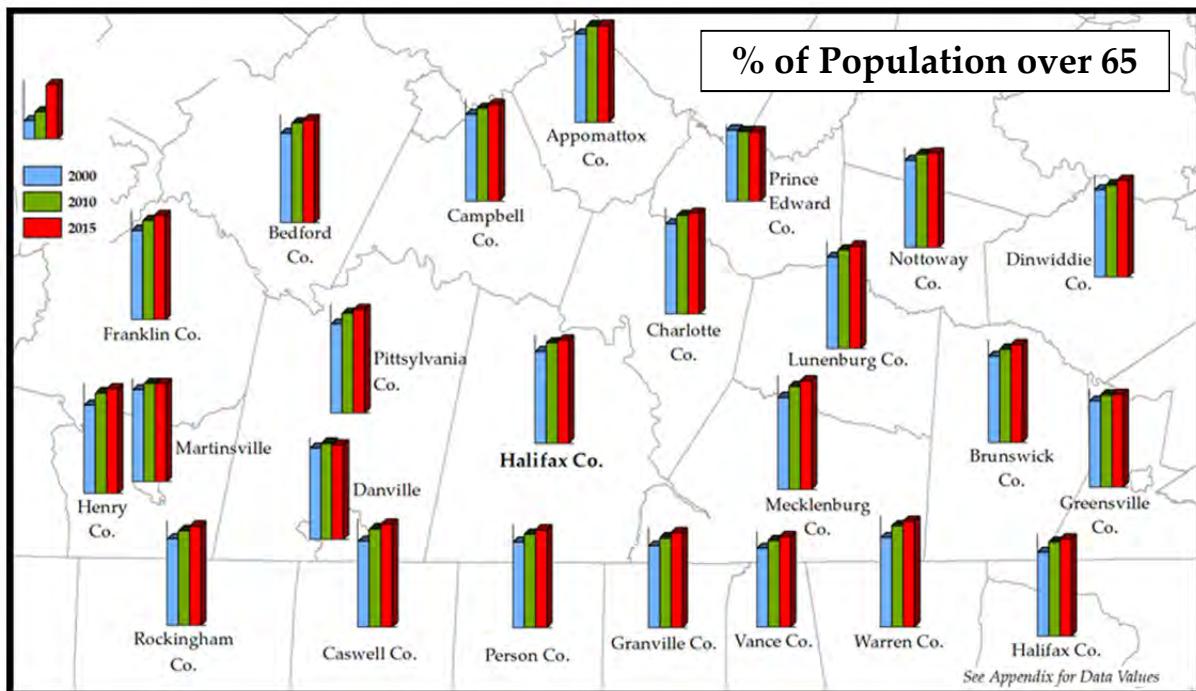


### *Aging Population*

The population is also becoming older. The population over 65 increased from 17.1% of the County population in 2000 to 19.4% in 2010. In 2015, estimates show that age group to be 22.7% of the County population. You can see in the following chart how the latest estimates show that the population 65 and over is growing, in spite of an overall decreasing county population.



The median age increased from 40.7 to 44.7 between 2000 and 2010, twice the state average. It is estimated to be 45.8 in 2015. As you can see in the following map, an increasing age is a situation shared by most of Halifax County's neighbors.



## *Population Projections*

Looking to the future, the trend toward an older general population in the County is well established. Barring a sharp increase in the birth rate, a rapid in-migration of young people, or a rapid out-migration of older residents this trend will persist. The Weldon Cooper Center projects Halifax County population to continue to decrease, but at a lesser rate than in the decade from 2000 to 2010. Still, the projections are based on the 2010 Census and do not take factors since that time into account. Compared to Halifax County, the state is projected to see a much more positive growth rate.

	2010 Census	2010 to 2020 Growth rate	2020	2020 to 2030 Growth rate	2030	2030 to 2040 Growth rate	2040
Halifax County	36,241	<b>-1.3%</b>	35,770	<b>-0.8%</b>	35,489	<b>-0.6%</b>	35,281
Virginia	8,001,024	<b>10.1%</b>	8,811,512	<b>9.5%</b>	9,645,281	<b>9.2%</b>	10,530,228

*Source: US Census Bureau (2000 & 2010 Population), Weldon Cooper Center (projections)*

## *Gender*

As seen in the following table, Halifax County's population is made up of slightly more males (52.3%) than females (47.7 %.) The only age group where there is more than a slight imbalance, is the 65 and older group, where the females outnumber males 59.6% to 40.4%

	Under 18		18 to 64		65 & Up		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	4,025	50.4%	10,414	49.0%	2,835	40.4%	17,274	47.7%
Female	3,958	49.6%	10,825	51.0%	4,184	59.6%	18,967	52.3%
Total	7,983	100%	21,239	100%	7,019	100%	36,241	100%

*Source: US Census Bureau (2010 Population)*

## *Race*

Census 2010 reflects that 60.7% (22,011) of Halifax County residents were white and 36.7% (13,293) were black or African American, with the remaining 2.6% (937) representing American Indian and Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, and two or more races. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010) Estimates of race since 2010 reveal similar numbers.

With regards to Hispanic and Non-Hispanic origin, Hispanics made up 1.62% of the population, with a population of 587. Census Population Estimates place this number at 2.06%, or 723 persons in 2015 while the American Community Survey estimates an average of 1.78%,

or 637 persons in the timeframe from 2010 to 2015. Both sources agree that the Hispanic population is increasing.

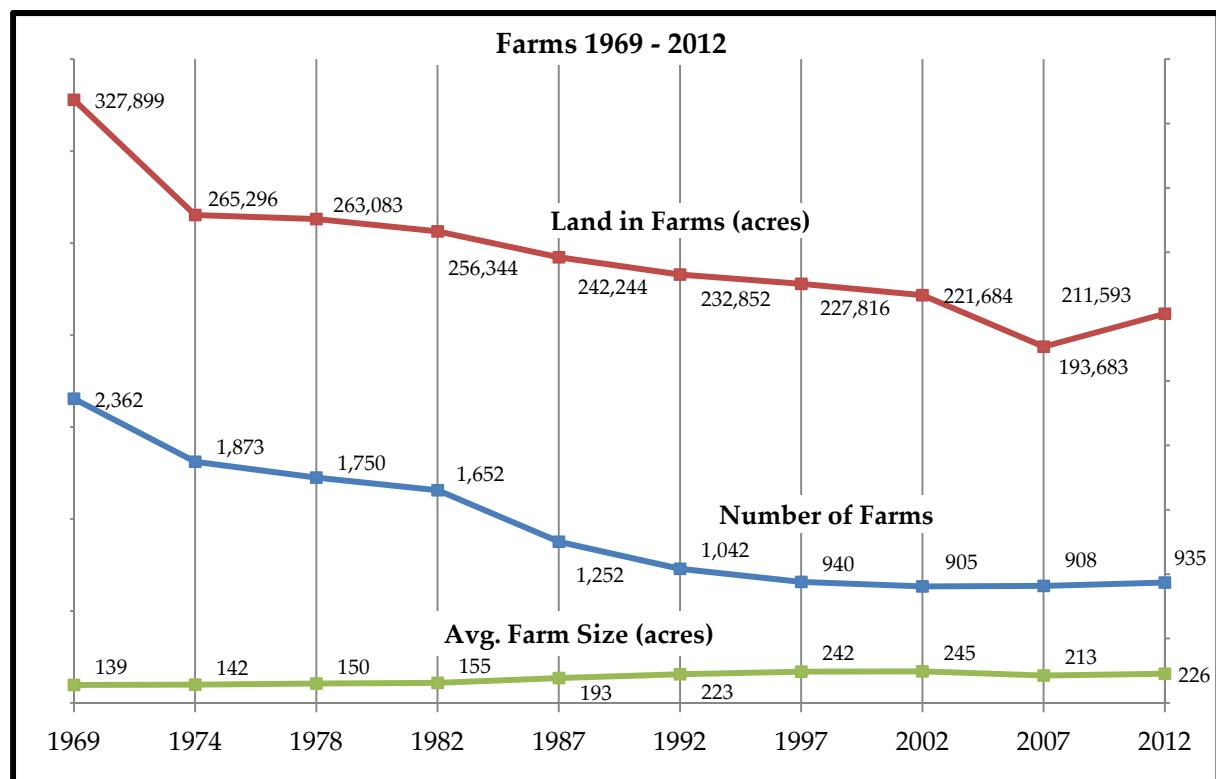
## ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE TRENDS

Historically, the economy of Halifax County, like much of Southside Virginia, has been powered by agriculture, mainly tobacco, and manufacturing (specifically, textiles.) Over the years, agriculture has remained a significant part of the economy of the County, although not at the numbers seen 40 or 50 years ago. In the 21st Century, healthcare has also become a major employer with the Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital and its satellite offices, as well as many other healthcare entities providing many jobs.

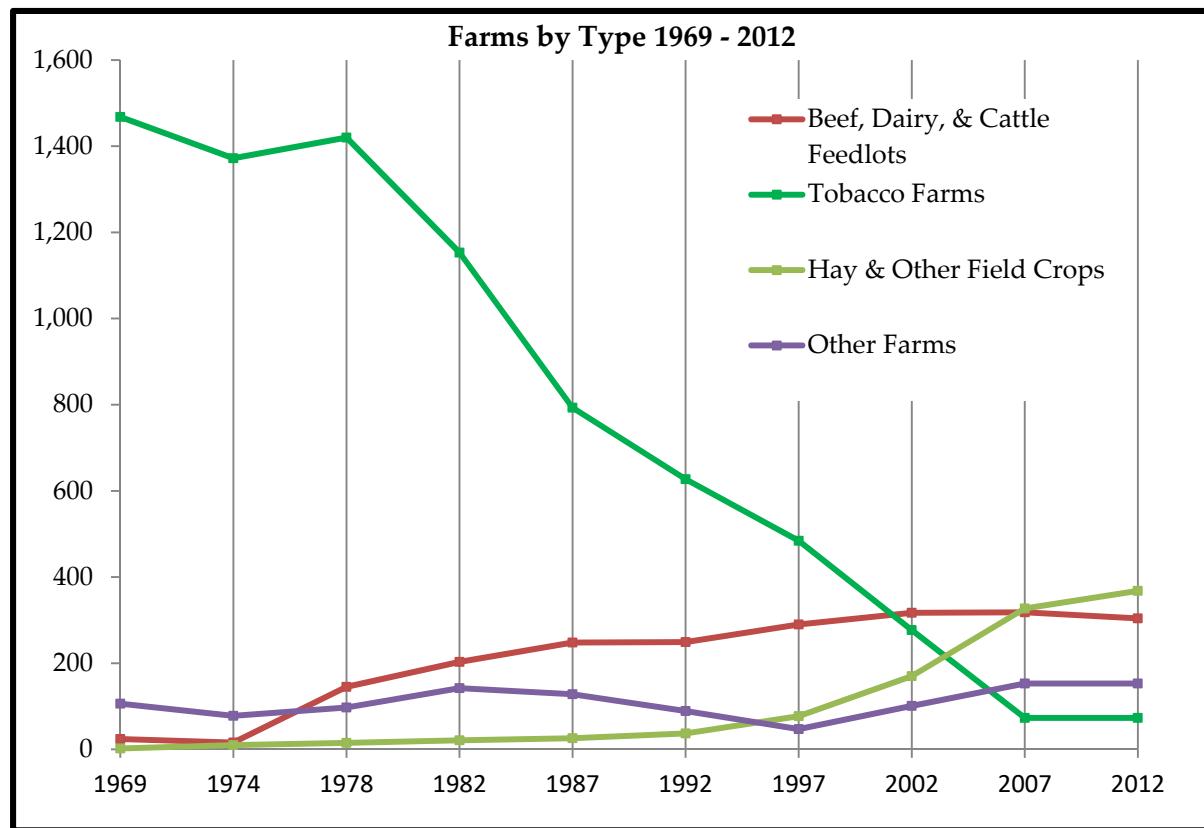
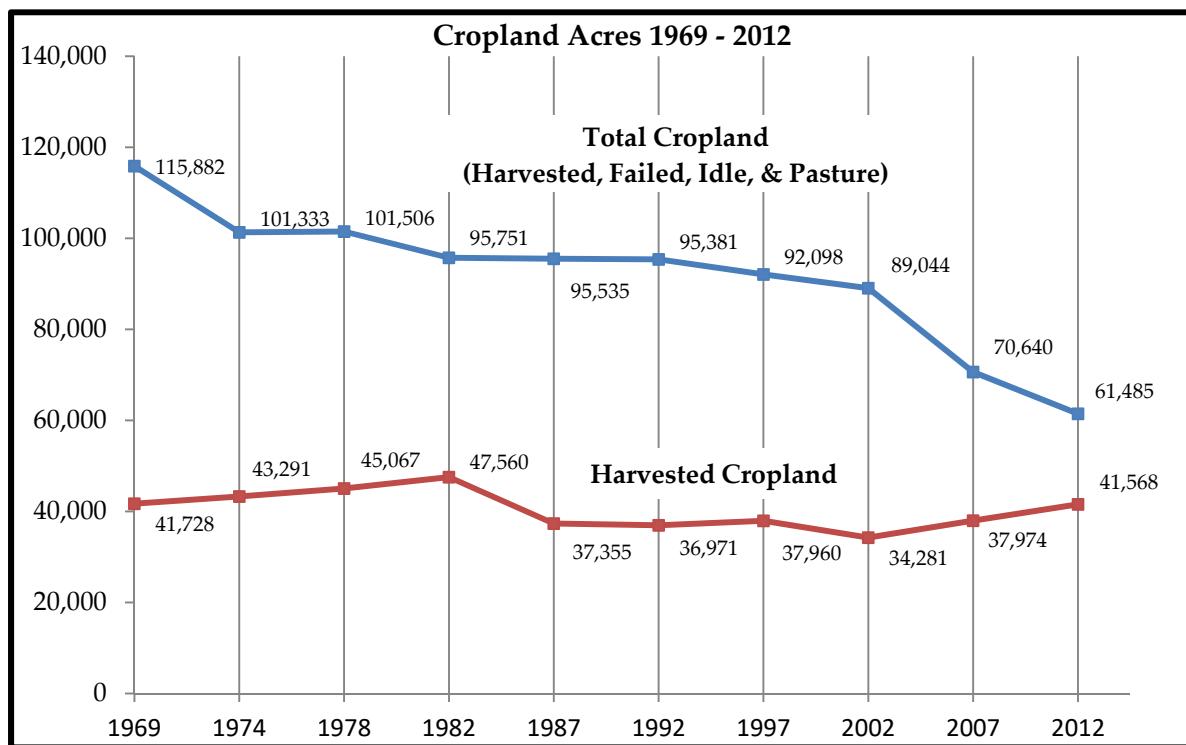
### *Agriculture*

According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, since 1969 the number of farms has shrunk, the number of tobacco farms has drastically decreased, total cropland (crops harvested, failed, idle, and pasture) is down, and the average age of the farm operator has increased (from 52 in 1969 to 60.8 in 2012). On the other hand, harvested cropland is about the same level as it was in 1969, market value of all agricultural products produced is increasing, and the number of non-tobacco farms is on the rise.

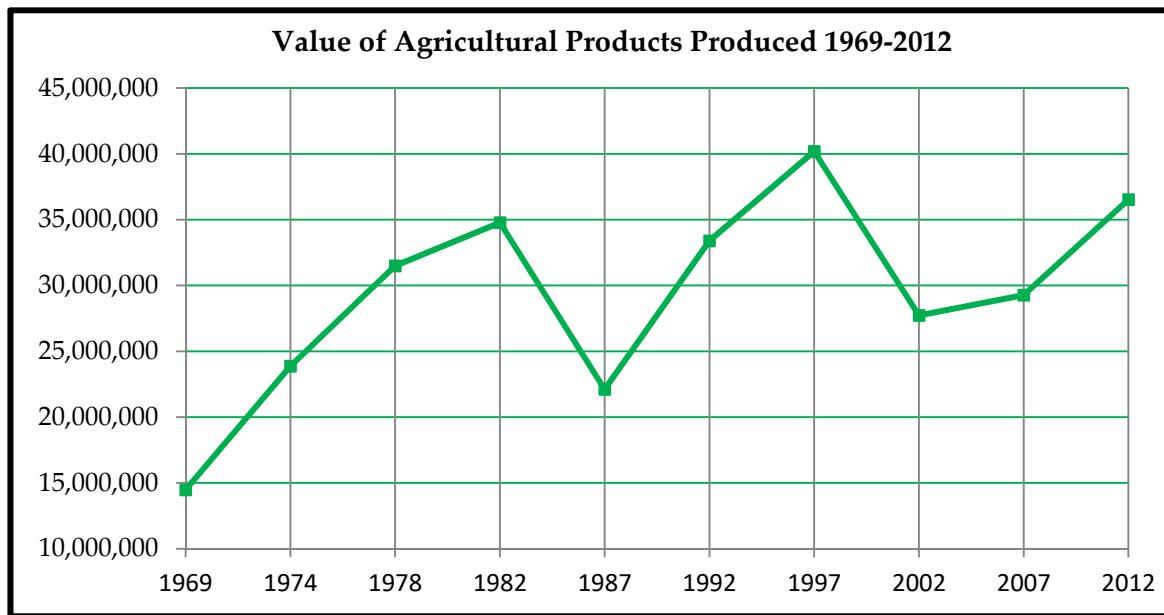
The following charts present Halifax County data from the USDA Census of Agriculture.



NOTE: USDA defines a farm as "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." For more information, see <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-household-well-being/glossary>



Data in all 3 charts sourced from the USDA's Agricultural Census



In the present day, although it employs fewer people, agriculture is still a big part of Halifax County. Farmland still occupies about 40% of the county's overall area. The overall market value of agricultural products produced in 2012, according to the USDA Census of Agriculture, was \$36,526,000 with farm-related income of \$2,266,000. Halifax County ranked third in the state for tobacco sales in 2012, with \$13,441,000, and in production, with 7,191,678 pounds.

Agritourism is an increasing trend in Halifax County. Farm tours, pick-your-own strawberry patches, and horseback riding lessons are all examples of agritourism. Many small farms are earning income from agritourism, along with traditional crop and livestock sales. See <http://www.genuinehalifax.com/agritourism> for more information on agritourism in Halifax County.

#### **GOAL 1: Improve planning, policy and project coordination for agriculture and forestry**

Many dedicated individuals and organizations operate in Halifax with the purpose of supporting the development and growth of agriculture and forestry. Yet these efforts may be dispersed and go unnoticed by some in the community. Coordinating agriculture-forestry activities and leadership as well as building capacity for coordinated outreach to farmers and foresters will help to leverage existing assets and ensure better advocacy for the industry sector moving forward.

#### **GOAL 2: Preserve and increase actively managed farm and forestry land**

A growing concern among the agriculture and forestry community is the reduction in actively managed farm and forested land. While Halifax has a large acreage of undeveloped land, much of that land is split into smaller parcels and is left unmanaged. In order to ensure that land is

suitable for current and future farm and forestry use, Halifax will increase awareness of the importance of managed farm and forested lands and consider implementing land use policy that supports active farming and forestry activities.

### **GOAL 3: Improve competitiveness of local farm and forestry operations**

Key challenges for local farm and forestry operations are changing market demands resulting in the need to diversify products, adapt operations, and gain better access to markets. Halifax farmers, in particular, need to be aware of and be able to capitalize on new opportunities suitable for their land. They also require support in reaching and developing interest from local, regional and national markets.

### **GOAL 4: Ensure continuance of the industry sector by supporting farm succession and the agriculture workforce**

If the local agriculture and forestry industry is to sustain itself and grow in the coming decades, younger generations need to develop an interest in the industry sector, often at an early age, and have the tools necessary to be successful. Already, a growing number of millennials are intrigued by the prospect of growing local foods, timber and value-added products. Three barriers to success hinder their efforts: education and understanding of the industry, access to affordable land, and high upfront capital costs. Halifax has the opportunity to not only engage the interest of youth in agriculture and forestry at an early age, but also to identify and implement approaches to lowering barriers to entry for those wishing to pursue a career in the industry sector.

### **GOAL 5: Increase agriculture and forestry entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurs are problem-solvers willing to take a risk on business ventures that they develop, organize and manage. The dedication and hard work needed to run an agriculture or forestry operation aligns well with this vision of entrepreneurship and reframes the industry in a new, innovative light. To grow the agriculture and forestry industry sector, Halifax must engage the imaginations of entrepreneurs, provide them opportunities to test and develop their products, and lower barriers to entry.

### *Manufacturing*

In addition to agriculture, Halifax County has a history of being a major manufacturing area. In 1990 (the earliest NAICS data available), 25 manufacturers employed 4,123 people. In 2016, the number of manufacturers increased to 37 but only employed 1,891.

Textile and apparel manufacturers were once the dominant type of manufacturing. In the 1960's & 1970's textile mills dotted the area and were a top employer. Even as late as 1990 with textile manufactures declining, 9 of the 25 manufacturers were still operating in the area of textiles and apparel and employed over 2,000. In 2016, there were three, and the employment level was low enough to not be disclosed by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Manufacturing has historically been a high-wage industry. Even in 2016, the manufacturing sector weekly wage was \$873, the third highest paying industry in the County. Total wages are the second highest in the County, at more than \$85.9 million.

### ***Healthcare***

Healthcare is now the dominant industry in terms of employment in the County. In 1990, healthcare employed 1,255 with a total wage of \$24 million. In 2016, it employed 2,052 with total wages of \$88.8 million. This makes healthcare the number one industry in terms of employment and total wages.

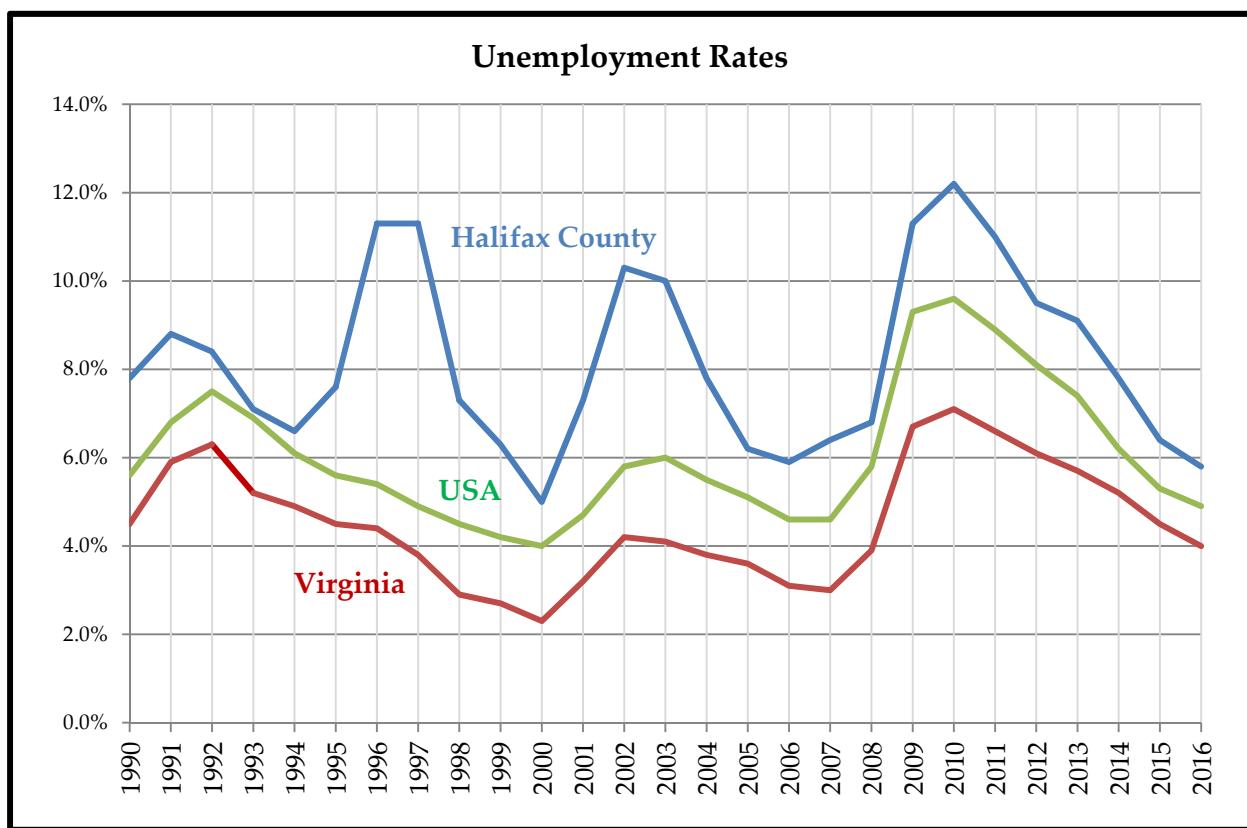
### ***Labor and Workforce***

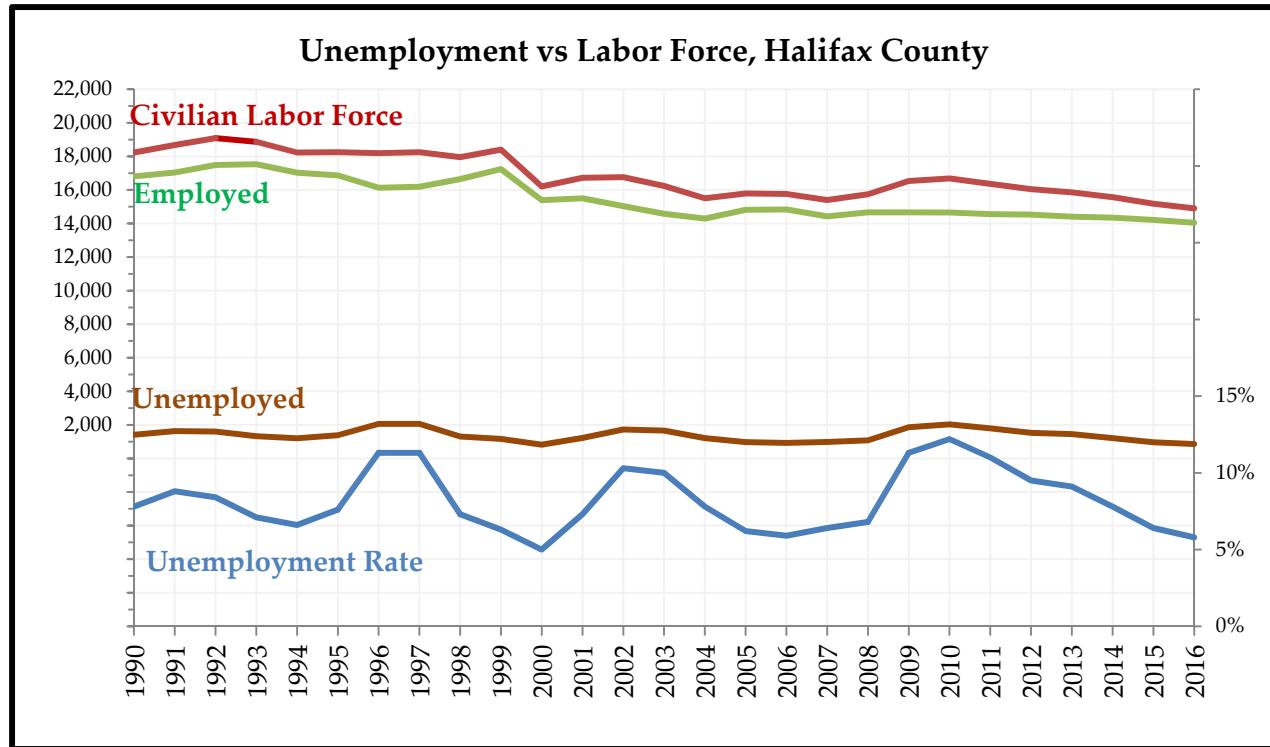
The current economy of Halifax County is made up of many different industries, including agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare mentioned above. In the most recent industry data from the *Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*, employment by industry is as follows:

<b>Average Employment by Industry for the Year 2016 (QCEW)</b>				
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Establishments</b>	<b>Employs</b>	<b>Total Wages</b>	<b>Average Weekly Wage</b>
Health Care and Social Assistance	343	2,052	\$88,811,820	\$832
Manufacturing	37	1,891	\$85,872,570	\$873
Educational Services	10	1,348	\$42,215,606	\$602
Retail Trade	118	1,287	\$29,384,115	\$439
Accommodation and Food Services	61	948	\$11,990,797	\$243
Transportation and Warehousing	38	942	\$38,810,008	\$792
Public Administration	35	667	\$24,053,729	\$694
Construction	70	633	\$25,281,697	\$768
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	31	420	\$7,799,466	\$357
Other Services (except Public Administration)	89	344	\$8,444,755	\$472
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14	336	\$5,141,240	\$294
Wholesale Trade	24	316	\$11,784,736	\$717
Finance and Insurance	43	208	\$8,431,385	\$780
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	45	183	\$8,418,904	\$885
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	19	123	\$5,012,182	\$784
Information	12	90	\$3,908,107	\$835
Management of Companies and Enterprises	7	54	\$2,630,557	\$937
Unclassified establishments	12	12	\$351,595	\$563
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	17	Confidential		
Utilities	4	Confidential		
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1	Confidential		
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>12,148</b>	<b>\$429,268,868</b>	<b>\$680</b>

According to the Virginia Employment Commission's *Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment (LAUS)* data, which produces official employment estimates for Virginia, the civilian labor force of Halifax County as of July, 2017 totaled 14,920 people and consisted of 14,112 employed people and 808 unemployed people, accounting for an unemployment rate of 5.4% for the month. The unemployment rate for the State as a whole was 3.9%. (Note that due to differences in methodology, the QCEW and LAUS programs report substantially different estimates of overall employment. However, LAUS does not provide industry-specific data.)

Historically, unemployment in Halifax County has trended higher than both the state and US. More recently, trends are showing that while unemployment is decreasing, the civilian labor force is also decreasing. The average annual unemployment rate in 2015 was 6.4%. In 2016, this decreased to 5.8%. The number of unemployed dropped from 966 to 862. However, the number of people in the civilian labor force also dropped from 15,181 to 14,904 and the number of employed people fell from 14,215 to 14,012.





## Business Environment

In Halifax County, commercial and industrial service business and industry developed along U.S. 58, U.S. 360, and in the incorporated towns. Also, there are retail establishments, auto service centers, and personal services type establishments located throughout the County, primarily at small communities and crossroads areas. Implementation of the goals outlined in this document is dependent on the County's investment in economic development activities, in good planning for agriculture, commerce and industry, and in investment in public services and facilities.

The following are the top 20 employers in Halifax County as of 4th Quarter 2016

1.	Halifax County School Board	11.	Dominion Virginia Power
2.	Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital	12.	Faneuil, Inc.
3.	Dolgencorp, LLC	13.	VIR, Virginia International Raceway
4.	Presto Products Company	14.	Huber Engineered Woods
5.	ABB Service Company Division	15.	Comfort Systems USA (MidAtlantic)
6.	Wal-Mart	16.	Hardee's
7.	Annin and Company	17.	Food Lion
8.	Halifax County	18.	Sentara Halifax/Volens Family Phys.
9.	Lasco Bathware	19.	Care Advantage
10.	Sunshine Mills	20.	Lowes' Home Centers Inc.

### ***Travel and Tourism***

Halifax County's proximity to historic and recreational sites brings thousands of visitors through the County each year. Some travelers stop in the County to hunt, fish, and visit sites such as the Staunton River State Park and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park. Many of these travelers find lodging in the County. The Virginia Tourism Corporation reports the following tourism-related statistics.

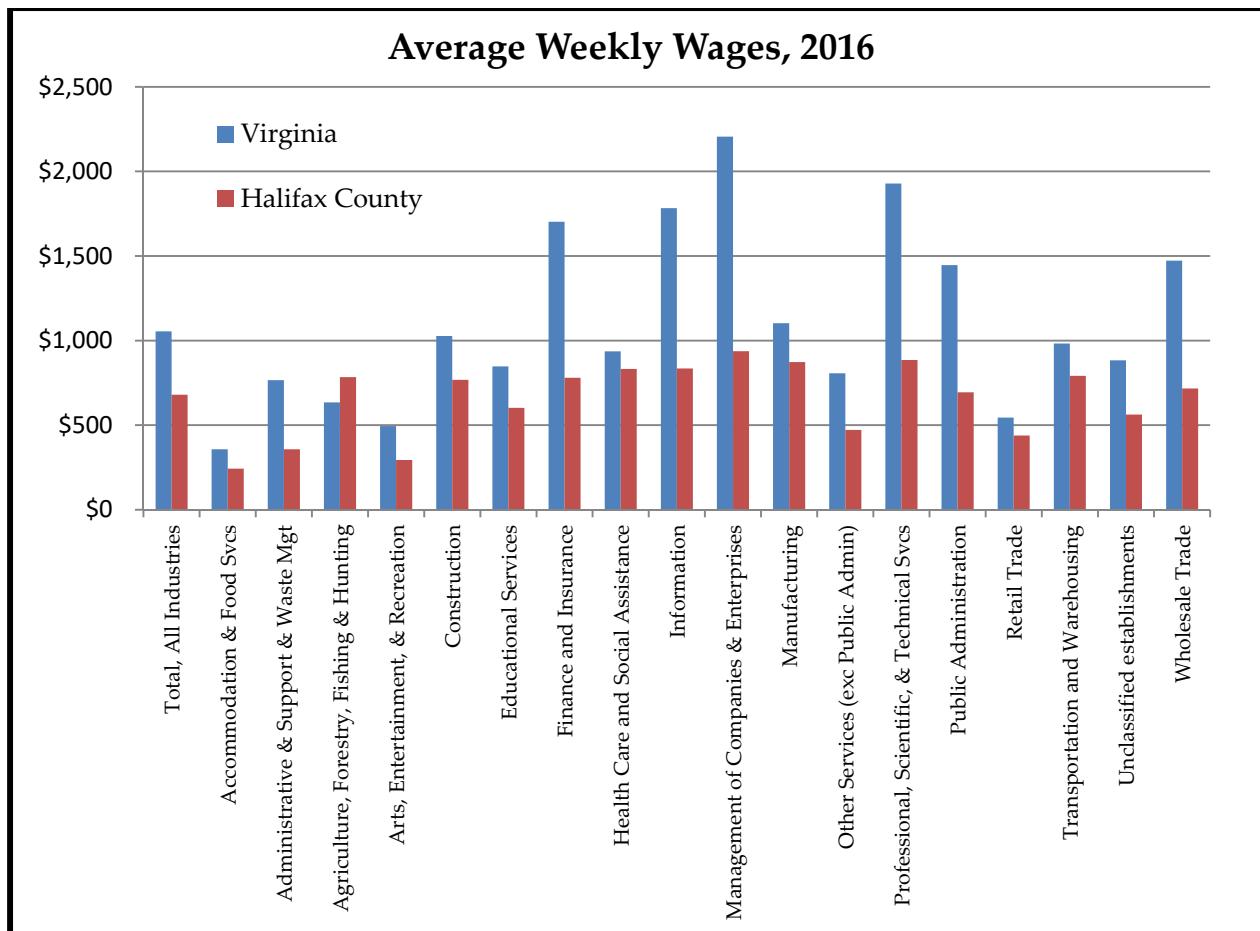
As can be seen, tourism is an ever growing industry in Halifax County:

Year	Expenditures	Payroll	Employed	State Tax Receipts	Local Tax Receipts	Lodging Excise Tax	Food Service Excise Tax
2015	\$46,190,611	\$10,036,590	552	\$1,758,580	\$862,443	\$401,227	\$1,594,295
2014	\$45,441,092	\$9,638,936	541	\$1,670,144	\$821,405	\$351,588	\$1,415,419
2013	\$43,020,865	\$9,205,856	525	\$1,608,292	\$791,965	\$345,260	\$1,398,043
2012	\$42,353,096	\$8,851,159	516	\$1,587,235	\$768,478	\$326,472	\$1,165,593

### ***Income & Poverty***

Income levels in Halifax, like most of Southside Virginia, lag behind the state and US. In 2000, per capita income in Halifax County was \$16,353. The most recent American Community Survey 2010-2015 estimates it at \$19,782. Statewide, per capita income was \$23,975 and \$34,152 during the same periods. Nationally, the per capita income falls somewhere in between at \$21,587 and \$27,884. The story is much the same with median household income and mean household income. Both measurements have small increases from 2000 to 2010-2015, but are only between 50% and 60% of state levels.

To further prove that incomes are low, average weekly wages in 2016 were lower than the state in every industry except Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting. In many industries, the wages statewide are twice what they are in Halifax County.



Poverty levels in Halifax County are more severe than statewide as well. In 2000, 15.7% of Halifax County's population lived under the poverty level. That has increased to 19.2% in the latest American Community Survey 2010-2015. In the same two periods, the statewide and nationwide percentages also increased, but approximately half as much as Halifax County.

#### *More Information*

Appendix A contains all of the data tables pertaining to the above paragraphs, as well as other data related to the comprehensive plan. In addition, all of the data is found in the 2017 edition of the Data Resource Book produced by Southside Planning District. That document and its related tables can be found at <http://www.southsidepdc.org/index.php/data-census/spdc-data-book>.

## Community and Housing

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities are the improvements made to an area which serves the general public for the benefit of the community. There is a direct relationship between the location and densities of land use and the location and size of required public facilities and services. The location of existing land uses largely determines the requirements for public improvements. On the other hand, future land development is directly tied to the adequacy of public services and the willingness of government to extend or upgrade them. Without sewer, water, roads, public safety, emergency services, and educational facilities, the uses and density to which land can be put is limited. For this reason, much of the utility and value of privately-owned land is a reflection of the level of public facilities which serve it. Because public facility improvements are extremely expensive in terms of the local tax dollars required to provide them, they should be prudently planned and provided in the most economical and efficient manner possible. This requires exercising local powers to regulate changes in land use to insure that the public is not later required to pay for public facilities that might have been unnecessary.

#### *Medical and Health Services*

Halifax County is served by a regional healthcare facility located right in South Boston, as well as specialty hospitals within two hours.

The Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital Health System is a multi-divisional system providing acute, long term, intermediate, skilled and sub-acute care, home health and hospice, rehabilitation, outpatient psychiatric services and Alzheimer's care. A board of directors, comprised of 18 volunteer members serves as the governing body. Members include physicians and community leaders from throughout the region.



Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital is a 413-bed facility that offers 24-hour physician-staffed emergency services, intensive care/cardiac care, cardiac, catheterization, maternity and newborn services, ADA-recognized diabetes patient education program, radiology and nuclear medicine, including CT, MRI and mobile PET scanning.

Other hospital services include general and orthopedic surgery, outpatient surgery, physical, speech and occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, dialysis, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, clinical lab, pharmacy and business health services. Approximately seventy-four physicians are on Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital's

medical staff and represent thirty medical specialties.

Healthcare facilities within three-hour driving times include:

- Danville Regional Health System – Danville, VA (40 minutes)
- Person County Memorial Hospital – Roxboro, NC (30 minutes)
- VCU – Community Memorial Hospital – South Hill, VA (1 hour)
- Maria Parham Medical Center – Henderson, NC (1 hour)
- Centra Southside Community Hospital – Farmville, VA (1 hour 10 minutes)
- Centra Lynchburg General Hospital – Lynchburg, VA (1 hour 15 minutes)
- Centra Virginia Baptist Hospital – Lynchburg, VA (1 hour 15 minutes)
- Duke Regional Medical Center – Durham, NC (1 hour 15 minutes)
- Duke University Medical Center (1 hour 15 minutes)
- VCU Medical Center – Richmond, VA (2 hours 30 minutes)
- University of Virginia Medical Center – Charlottesville, VA (3 hours)

Sentara Halifax Regional Long-Term Care includes Sentara Woodview, a 180-bed nursing home community, as well as Seasons at the Woodview, an 18-bed assisted living community for Alzheimer's & Dementia Special Care; both of which are located in South Boston. Berry Hill Health & Rehab Center provides long-term nursing care and short-term rehabilitative services. Sentara MeadowView Terrace, a 150-bed, long-term and rehabilitation care facility, is located in Clarksville, Virginia. The Health System is also affiliated with several physician practices in Mecklenburg and Halifax Counties.

Other assisted living facilities in Halifax County are Commonwealth Assisted Living at South Boston, Chastain Home for Gentlewomen, and Boston Commons, Ltd.

Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital, Halifax Home Health & Hospice and Center for Behavioral Health are accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

### *Libraries*

The Halifax County – South Boston Public Library system, with branches in the Towns of Halifax and South Boston, serves the library needs of the area. The library's book mobile brings the library resources to various areas in the county.

### *Recreation*

The Halifax County Parks and Recreation Department, manages, coordinates, and plans for the provision of public parks and recreation facilities in the County. Public programs, leagues, and activities are provided at publicly owned sites primarily in the Towns of South Boston and Halifax.

In South Boston, there are several small public parks with basketball and playground

equipment. The Halifax County High School and Middle School, also located within the Town, have fields for football, soccer, baseball, and softball, which are heavily utilized by the public during the evenings and summer months when school is not in session. Halifax County has identified the need for additional recreational areas, in particular public athletic fields for soccer, football, baseball, and softball. The need for walking trails for a wide variety of age groups and abilities has also been noted.

Currently at the Mary Bethune Complex in the Town of Halifax is a combination baseball-football-soccer facility.

Paul C. Edmunds, Jr. Memorial Park has been developed on 100 acres of donated land in the Town of South Boston. It includes handicapped accessible trails and a fishing pier, walking/jogging and equestrian trails, athletic fields, picnic shelters, multi-purpose open fields and a pond for fishing. Edmunds Park will also be an important link in a future greenway/trail system planned for the County.

Recreation in Halifax County is greatly enhanced by private facilities and initiatives. The sections which follow discuss some of the numerous opportunities available through private, as well as some quasi-public and public providers, in Halifax County.

## 1. State Parks

The Staunton River State Park offers acres of woods, broad meadows and a lengthy shoreline on Buggs Island Lake. In 2015, Staunton River State Park was designated an **International Dark Sky Park**, one of only 25 in the world and the first in Virginia. Staunton River State Park also offers water skiing, boating, sailing and fishing on the largest lake in Virginia. Encompassing 1300 acres at the junction of the Dan and Staunton Rivers, amenities include swimming and wading pools, camping, cabins, fishing, tennis courts, children's playground, hiking, picnicking, boat rentals, boat launches, and day use areas are available. It is the home of many national fishing tournaments.

Occoneechee State Park, named for Native Americans who lived in the area for hundreds of years, is located on Buggs Island Lake. The Native American Heritage Festival and Powwow is held on the second weekend in May.

Staunton River Battlefield State Park is the 300-acre Civil War historic site of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge of June 25, 1864. Battlefield, earthworks, nature walking trails, wildlife observation tower, and a visitor center that features displays on the history of the area. There are also artifacts on display from a prehistoric Native American village found at the park. The park is near Clover, Virginia, 18 miles east of South Boston.

## 2. Bicycling and Multi-use Trails

In 2004, Halifax County Trails, Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan was developed and adopted by Halifax County. With the assistance of Southside Planning District Commission under the Rural Transportation Program, this Plan is in the process of being updated and expanded to include the entire Planning District 13, in order to provide a comprehensive Multi-Use Trails plan throughout the district. In Halifax County, there are twelve (12) stops along the Virginia Wildlife and Birding Trail.

### *The Tobacco Heritage Trail*



A very successful regional group has been the Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails, Inc. This group was established in 2005 to purchase and convert the local railroad corridors into non-motorized trails to attract visitors to the area and create opportunity for the entrepreneurial spirit of local citizens along the trail. The trail is expected to grow in popularity as more miles are added. Once fully implemented, the Tobacco Heritage Trail will consist of 174 miles of trails across five Southside Virginia counties.

Halifax County is a member of Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails, Inc. Cotton Mill Park, in the Town of South Boston, has been designated as a local Trail Head for the Tobacco Heritage Trail. The Tobacco Heritage Trail is a multi-jurisdictional rails-to-trails initiative that has been master planned. Abandoned railroad right-of-way was acquired in Halifax County for completion of the trail from South Boston west bound towards Pittsylvania. The Tobacco Heritage Trail is a part of the East Coast Greenways and is also the backbone to the conceptual plan of Beaches to Bluegrass Trail System, which connects Virginia Beach oceanfront to the mountains in western Virginia.

The off-road trail is non-motorized and multi-use – for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding, with handicap accessible portions. Local citizens – cyclists and horseback riders – realizing the safety, recreational and economic benefits of off-route trails began to investigate potential routes for such a system. Inspiration for the trail system came from the New River State Park and the Virginia Creeper Trail, which have been very successful in western Virginia.

Care should be taken to not overstate the number of tourists that might visit these new tourism assets and their economic impact on the community. Trails are most successful where there are strong destination points to pull the tourists in, such as the Town of Abingdon at the head of the Virginia Creeper Trail or Galax, the “World Capital of Old Time Mountain Music,” and the New River itself on the New River Trail. Also, trails usually require a strong regional marketing campaign that links together the tourism assets of the region near the trail.

The creation of these new assets will generate some additional tourism traffic and dollars. They will also contribute greatly to the quality of life in Halifax County. Even as tourists hit the Virginia Creeper Trail or New River Trails, they encounter local residents taking their morning

jog or a family cycling the trail together. A successful artisan center would attract tourists and locals alike. Trails that allow equestrian use, as some portions of the Tobacco Heritage Trail will, attract the development of new housing oriented toward families with horses.

A system of long distance recreational trails to serve all citizens in Southside Virginia is envisioned as an economic development and quality-of-life tool – valuable to bring in tourism dollars and valuable to residents for health and recreational benefits. The Tobacco Heritage Trail was born from this initiative. Currently, the Town of South Boston has a 2 mile section of trail complete, with the trailhead beginning at Cottonmill Park and ending at Berry Hill Resort.

In 2016, Halifax County was approved for initial grant funding from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission for the next phase of trail extension, from Berry Hill to Roger's Island, for another 3 miles of completed trail in the system. Matching funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation has recently been applied for at the time of the Plan update.

### **3. Canoeing & Kayaking**

Southern Virginia Wild Blueway consists of three rivers and two lakes spanning Halifax and Mecklenburg counties. The Blueway's three rivers — the Dan, the Staunton (*or Roanoke*) and the Banister — combine for more than 100 miles of navigable water. Of that, over 80 miles have been designated as [Virginia Scenic River](#) across all three of these rivers. Some sections of the



Blueway's rivers pass through historic waterfront towns, but far more is completely undeveloped, allowing you to paddle for miles and see more osprey or bald eagles than other humans. Fishing along the rivers is exceptional, with the Staunton River being known as one of the best spots for inland striper fishing on the East Coast. You can pull over your canoe or kayak and enjoy a break or leisurely picnic lunch along much of the Blueway.

### **4. Fishing, Water Sports, and Camping**

The many lakes, rivers, and streams of the Halifax region provide abundant fishing, watersports and camping opportunities. Although Bugs Island Lake (Kerr Reservoir) and Lake Gaston are hosts to several Bass and Catfish tournaments throughout the summer, some of the best fishing is done without a boat from the banks and shorelines.

- Bugs Island Lake (Kerr Reservoir) - with over 800 miles of shoreline. Bugs Island Lake is about 48,900 acres at full pool and has one of the best largemouth bass fisheries in the country.
- Banister Lake - a 400-acre lake bordering the Town of Halifax is best known for good

crappie and catfish populations. A public boat landing is located by the Hwy 501 N. Bridge.

- Hyco Lake - covers 3,750 acres with 160 miles of shoreline.
- Mayo Lake - a 2,800 acre lake with 85 miles of shoreline and a 120-acre park
- Lake Conner - a 100-acre impoundment in Halifax County, Virginia. The lake is owned and managed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Located in rural Southside Virginia, Lake Conner offers anglers great fishing opportunities in a picturesque wooded setting. However, Lake Conner is best known for holding the State Record largemouth bass (16 pounds - 4 ounces) since 1985.
- Lake Gaston - 34 miles long, it starts at the Kerr Dam and extends along the Roanoke River Bed to the Gaston Dam near Thelma, NC. The shoreline is approximately 350 miles and covers 20,300 acres.

## 5. Auto Racing



Halifax County is part of Virginia's Racing Region and the home of former Nextel Cup drivers, Ward Burton and Jeff Burton. Halifax County is home to South Boston Speedway, a NASCAR sanctioned, 4/10 mile asphalt oval track, host of Busch Series Grand National Racing Division since 1982.

It is also home to Virginia International Raceway, including the VIR Motorsport Country Club and clubhouse. Membership provides access to the 3.3 mile Virginia International Raceway. As "America's Motorsport Resort," there's something for everyone. With

luxury onsite lodging, delicious dining options, an exclusive driver's club, karting, off-road racing, skeet shooting, pistol, and rifle ranges, skid pad and more, there's never a dull second. The grounds offer a unique setting and specialized facilities for corporate retreats, group activities and conference space. And onsite parcels are available for sale or lease to motorsports industry tenants.

## 6. Team Sports

The general public can participate in baseball and softball activities through:

- South Boston American Legion Post 8
- South Boston Dixie Youth Majors
- South Boston Dixie Youth Pre-Majors
- South Boston Dixie Youth Minors
- Dixie Angels

Youth soccer is the fastest growing sport in the Halifax County Area and is offered through the American Youth Soccer Organization. Halifax Virginia AYSO Soccer is a non-profit youth

soccer organization which provides recreational soccer activities to children between the ages of four years old and 18 years old in the Halifax, Virginia area. Halifax AYSO has two seasons in the spring and fall. Seasons are typically eight weeks long with new teams re-formed each season to create balance and competitiveness. Games are normally played on Saturday mornings during the season. AYSO's philosophy of "everyone plays" ensures that all players are afforded the opportunity to play at least half of each game and team sizes are held to a minimum to further allow extended playing time for each player.

Basketball and volleyball leagues are also available.

## **7. Horseback Riding**

Trail riding is an increasingly popular sport among Virginia horseback riders. Increased interest in trail riding and decreased availability of private, informal trails lost to construction cause land managers, saddle club members, and other trail user groups to establish close liaisons to develop new trails and to maintain existing trails. The Staunton River Trail in Halifax County is an equestrian trail under development. The trail will connect Staunton River Battlefield State Park and Staunton River State Park. There are already trails within the Staunton River State Park and overnight facilities for horses and equestrian campers. Portions of this trail may be developed as multi-use. Further connection to downtown South Boston would benefit residents and visitors as well.

Horseback riding is offered at Shangrila Retreat and the Halifax County Saddle Club.

## **8. Hunting**

The many thousands of acres of wooded, gently rolling terrain of Southern Virginia are the home to deer, turkey, ducks, and quail. The gobbler season runs from mid-April to mid-May. Quail season runs from September through April. October and November are the deer seasons for Archery and Muzzleloader hunters.

Hunting opportunities are also found at and through:

- Edmunds Farms - consisting of over 5,000 acres
- Falkland Farms, a 7,673 acre contiguous tract of land located on the eastern edge of Halifax County, Virginia bordering Kerr Reservoir.
- T&D Hunting, guided Whitetail Deer and Turkey Hunts.

## **9. Schools for Dance and Martial Arts**

- Essence of Movement Dance Studio
- We've Got Rhythm Dance Academy
- Hard Target Krav Maga

- South Boston United Martial Arts
- South Boston Cardio Kickboxing

## **10. Swimming Pools**

Swimming pools are available at the YMCA and at Staunton River State Park, and there are numerous private community pools.

## **11. Tennis**

Public tennis courts are available at the Halifax County Middle School and High School.

## **12. Bowling, Roller Skating, Movie Theaters**

The World of Sports Complex is located in Hwy 58 East, 2030 Bill Tuck Highway, includes the following activities in its 85,000 square foot facility:

- Bowling
- Arcade room
- Billiards Room with pool tables and air hockey
- Laser Tag
- Go Carts
- Full restaurant facilities (ABC licensed on premises) and a large selection of beverages
- Giant Soft Play area which includes tubes, tunnels and slides.
- Cinemas: has a classic design to compliment the blowing canter's theme. Cinema I seats 256, Cinema II seat 182. Both have private viewing rooms available upon reservation.

## **13. Golf**

Greens' Folly Golf Club, a 6,550 yard public course, is located between the towns of South Boston and Halifax. The Halifax Country Club is a membership club located on US 501 between Halifax and South Boston. The golf course measures 5,887 yards. Wedgewood Golf Center is a public driving range and putting facility on U.S. Route 360 west of Halifax. Tees-N-Southfork is a public driving range and restaurant facility on MacDonald Road in Scottsburg.

## **EDUCATION**

Nearly 5,800 students attend the County's early learning centers, elementary, middle, and high schools. In addition, the STEM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) serves 9-12 graders, and Project IDEA serves some 4-6 graders. Adult education and alternative education programs are also offered through the Halifax County Public Schools.

2 Early Learning Centers:

- Cluster Springs Early Learning Center
- South Boston/Halifax Early Learning Center

7 Elementary Schools (and Pre-School):

- Clays Mill Elementary – K-5, Pre-School
- Cluster Springs Elementary – K-5 (replacing the old elementary school in 2007)
- Meadville Elementary – K-5, Pre-School
- Scottsburg Elementary – K-5, Pre-School
- Sinai Elementary – K-5
- South Boston Elementary – K-5 (replacing the old elementary school in 2007)
- Sydnor Jennings Elementary – K-5, Pre-School



South Boston Early Learning



Cluster Springs Elementary

One Middle School:

- Halifax County Middle School is the only middle school serving Halifax County. Halifax County Middle School is located in South Boston, Virginia, serving grades 6-8, and was renovated and expanded in 2007.



Halifax County Middle School

One High School:

- Halifax County High School is the only high school serving Halifax County. Halifax County High School is a comprehensive high school located in South Boston serving grades 9-12.



Halifax County High School

Two 2 Private Schools:

- Centerville Christian School
- Halifax Christian School – Established in 1995, Halifax Christian is a ministry of the South Boston Church of God. The school provides religion based education for students in grades K-12.

Other private institutions are located nearby. Hargrave Military Academy, located in Chatham Virginia, is a private military academy that assists young men and women of secondary school age to become knowledgeable and responsible citizens of their community, nation, and world. Hargrave seeks to achieve their goals within a healthy environment, in which the Christian faith and principals pervade all aspects of the school program.

An all-girls college-preparatory school, Chatham Hall, offers students a rigorous academic environment, a rich extracurricular program and a beautiful 362-acre campus.

Founded in 1953, Sacred Heart School is a Catholic school located in nearby Danville, Virginia. Sacred Heart School is accredited by the Southern Association of College and Schools and the Virginia Catholic Education Association. The school serves pre-k through 9th grade and has approximately 360 students.

Founded in 1977, Westover Christian Academy operates as a ministry of Westover Baptist Church in Danville, Virginia. The school serves students from grades pre-k through 12 and has approximately 700 students.

Fuqua School is a private, pre-kindergarten – 12th grade, college preparatory school. The school has a student population of more than 500 students from 13 counties. Located in Farmville, Virginia, Fuqua School's mission is "to foster the development of boundless individual potential." This includes not only a rigorous liberal arts program but also a learning environment that promotes ethical behavior, critical and creative thinking, the flexible use of advanced technologies, an empathetic understanding of the global community, the ability to work collaboratively with people from diverse backgrounds and a positive sense of self.

Pathways Day School located in Scottsburg, Virginia, has the capacity to accommodate 60 students, now serving elementary, middle, and high school age students. Pathways Day School services students who are diagnosed with the following disabilities: Emotional Disability, Intellectual Disability, Specific Learning Disability, Other Health Impairments, Asperger's, and Autism (elementary). In 2014 we were fully accredited by Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF), whose accreditation process has been approved by the Virginia Council for Private Education as authorized by the Virginia State Board of Education.

Private schools in nearby Roxboro, North Carolina include Roxboro Christian Academy and Person Christian School.

#### Higher Education:

- Southern Virginia Higher Education Center – Satellite Campus for the following:
  - Certificate Programs & Associate's Degree Programs – Danville Community College & Southside Virginia Community College.
  - Bachelor's Degree Programs – Longwood University and Old Dominion University.
  - Master's Degree Programs – Longwood University, Old Dominion University, Virginia Tech, and University of Virginia.
  - Doctorate's Program – Old Dominion University
  - Adult Education: GED Preparation, Literacy/ESL, Workforce Training



The Southern Virginia Higher Education center now offers the Workforce Credential Grant Program. This program was initiated in 2016 by the Virginia General Assembly. It is designed to provide low-cost opportunities for students to receive training in a high demand field and receive industry-based certification or state licensure. Eligible programs include the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Welding Certification, Mechatronics Certification both through SoVA Center of Manufacturing Excellence, Work Ready Foundations©, and IT Academy.

There are 20 institutions of higher education within a 60-mile radius of South Boston, Virginia. A diverse selection of higher education ranging from traditional workforce training to some of the most advanced research Universities in the world make our location a strategic fit for business and family. Nearby Virginia schools include: Danville Community College, Southside Virginia Community College and Longwood University. Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center, a satellite campus of Southside Virginia Community College is located in South Hill, VA.

Colleges and Universities within 60 mile radius of Halifax County include:

- University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, NC)
- Duke University (Durham, NC)
- North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC)
- Piedmont Community College (Roxboro, NC)
- Vance-Granville Community College (Henderson, NC)
- Durham Technical Community College (Durham, NC)
- Averett University (Danville, VA)
- Hampden Sydney College (Hampden Sydney, VA)
- Lynchburg College (Lynchburg, VA)
- Randolph-Macon Women's College (Lynchburg, VA)
- Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA)

- Christ College (Lynchburg, VA)
- Sweet Briar College (Sweet Briar, VA)
- Central Virginia Community College (Lynchburg, VA)
- National College of Business and Technology (Danville and Lynchburg, VA)
- Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (South Boston, VA)
- Longwood University (Farmville, VA)
- Danville Community College (Danville, VA)
- Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (Danville, VA)
- Southside Virginia Community College (Keysville, VA)

Gifted Student Programs within the Region and the Commonwealth of Virginia that have been taken advantage of by local students are:

- The Virginia Governor's School Program began in 1973 when Governor Linwood Holton established the first summer residential programs for 400 gifted students from across the commonwealth. From its beginnings, the three summer schools in 1973, the program has expanded to more than 40 sites through the commonwealth.
- The Southern Regional Governor's School for Global Economics and Technology (GSGET) is a half-day academic year program for gifted and highly motivated juniors and seniors in Southside Virginia. GSGET offers a rigorous interdisciplinary curriculum in science and math with a focus on global economics and supported by technology. Formal writing skills are integrated into all areas of the curriculum. Admission to GSGET is based on a competitive selection process administered at each of the eleven participating school divisions.
- Governor's Schools for Global Economic and Technology is to educate gifted/highly capable students in global economics and technology and to serve as a resource or catalyst for improving educational opportunities for all high school students in Southside Virginia

## Economy

By evaluating the local economy and employment trends, factors may be identified which influence population growth or decline and provide some basis for policy changes by the governing body. Economic expansion or changes in the economic structure of a community trigger the conversion of land to new uses and in turn creates the need for new public facilities and services. Understanding these dynamic forces is therefore a prerequisite for comprehensive

planning. The two areas of population and economy are closely related; population increases when the economy can support such growth.

In Halifax County, commercial and industrial service type development is found along U.S. 58, U.S. 360, and the towns. Also, there are retail establishments, auto service centers, and personal services type establishments located throughout the County, primarily at crossroads areas. Implementation of the goals outlined later in this document is dependent on the County's investment in economic development activities, in good planning for agriculture, commerce and industry, and in investment in public services and facilities.

In 2005, the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) prepared a study titled Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This study, updated yearly, provides a wealth of data and detail concerning resources of and available to SPDC members including Halifax County. The document includes visioning, development strategies, priorities, and an implementation plan for economic development in the region. A copy of the study is available for public inspection at the Halifax County Administrator's Offices and at the SPDC offices in South Hill.

### *Industry*

#### **Agriculture and Forestry**

The United States Department of Agriculture publishes a census of agriculture every five years. The latest version is the 2012 Census of Agriculture. The number of farms in Halifax County increased by 3% from the 2007 data and shows a 9% increase in acres of land used from the prior census. Although many of the indicators of farming's vitality in Halifax County have increased, the County ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in the State in terms of the total value of agricultural products sold in 2012. Halifax County tobacco ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state by commodity group.

Forests and related wood products industries are a vital part of the economy and natural appeal of Halifax County. Halifax County ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the State with respect to average annual harvest value as of 2005 of \$7,459,933. This value increased over the last decade. The area of timberland in Halifax County totals 361,953 acres or about 68.2% of the County's 530,416 total acres

### *Tourism*

The Halifax County Tourism office is located in the Visitor Center at the intersection of Highways 58 and 360. The 4,200 square foot building features revolving exhibits; a merchandise nook with items like t-shirts, pottery, and art; helpful staff; bathrooms with baby-changing stations in both men's and women's; a meeting room that can be reserved; and a

phalanx of brochure racks touting everything from a local veterinary clinic to churches to wine tours, in addition to motels, B&Bs, restaurants, The Prizery and museums.

Halifax County offers an abundance of diverse tourism features which include, but are not limited to:

- Arts & Culture – Bob Cage's Sculpture Farm; The Prizery Fine Arts & Community Center; Summer Theatre Celebration.
- Parks & Outdoors – Staunton River State Park – International Dark Sky Park; Occoneechee State Park – Clarksville, VA; see Agritourism below for more.
- Blueways & Trails – Southern Virginia Wild Blueway – Staunton, Dan, Banister & Hyco Rivers; Tobacco Heritage Trail; Birding & Wildlife Trails.
- Motorsports – Virginia International Raceway – Onsite hotel & lodging, exclusive Driver's Club, karting, off-road racing, skeet shooting, pistol, and rifle ranges, skid pad, dining options, spa and more ; South Boston Speedway.
- History & Culture – Crossing of the Dan Revolutionary War Exhibit; Civil Rights Heritage Trail; L.E Coleman African American Museum; Historic Driving & Walking Tours; South Boston Halifax County Museum of Fine Arts and History; Halifax County Historical Society.
- Festivals – Heritage and Antique Machinery Festival; Noland Village Country Fair Day; Halifax County Annual Fair; South Boston's Harvest Festival; Virginia Cantaloupe Festival; Halicraft Art Festival; Bluegrass, Barbecue & Brew Festival at Patrick Henry's Red Hill – Brookneal.
- Public Art – Cage Sculpture Farm; Cage Art Gallery at The Prizery; Barn Quilts; Fire Hydrant Tour.
- Agritourism – Southern Virginia Botanical Gardens; Shangrila Guest Ranch; Faulkland Farms; Chiefla Stables; Bit By Bit Farm; Local wineries – Bright Meadows Farm Vineyard & Winery, Greenwood Vineyards, Hunting Creek Vineyards, and Molliver Vineyards & Winery; Hudson Heritage Farm; Amish Settlements; Hollering Hill Auction House.

More information may be found at <http://www.gohalifaxva.com/>

## PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

### *Government Services and Facilities*

County offices, including Administration, Finance Department, Building Inspection, Planning and Zoning, School Administration, and Health Department are located in the Mary Bethune Complex. Halifax County Sheriff's Office, Agricultural Development, Animal Control, Social Security Services, Court Services & Probation, Registrar, and Constitutional Officers are located in various County-owned buildings.

### *Public Safety*

#### **Law Enforcement and Public Safety**

Police protection is provided for Halifax County by the County Sheriff's Office, headquartered in the Town of Halifax. The Towns of Halifax and South Boston have their own Police Departments. A consolidated 911 dispatch center handles police, fire, and rescue dispatch. A Virginia State Police area headquarters office is also located in the County. Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Conservation Police is also included in local law enforcement of Hunting, Fishing and Boating.

#### **Fire Protection**

Halifax County and its towns are served by twelve (11) volunteer fire departments and the South Boston Fire Department. All fire departments have first responder capabilities.

#### **Emergency Medical Services**

Two (2) County fire departments (Turbeville and North Halifax) have primary medical response capabilities. In addition, emergency medical (rescue and transport) services are provided by the Halifax County Rescue Squad and one private ambulance service.

Halifax County is vulnerable to a variety of hazards such as flash flooding, river flooding, winter storms, high winds, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, and resource shortages. To respond effectively to any emergency of a size or complexity beyond routine response systems, it is critical that all Halifax County public officials, departments and agencies, non-governmental emergency organizations begin preparations as the incident is recognized and response ensues, and becomes particularly important as command organizes beyond the initial reactive phase of first responders.

Halifax County Emergency Operations Plan was adopted in November 2013 as required under the “Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Laws of 2000”, as amended Code of Virginia, § 44-146.13 and 44-146.29:2, which requires that the state and local governments develop and maintain current an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in order to be prepared for such events. This Plan may be found at [http://www.halifaxcountyva.gov/index.asp?Type=B\\_DIR&SEC={8B2FEF6B-100D-41ED-9F42-FDA8054F9CBF}](http://www.halifaxcountyva.gov/index.asp?Type=B_DIR&SEC={8B2FEF6B-100D-41ED-9F42-FDA8054F9CBF}).

The purpose of the Basic Plan is to establish the legal and organizational basis for operations in Halifax County to effectively respond to and recover from all-hazards disasters and/or emergency situations. It assigns broad responsibilities to local government agencies and support organizations for disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery operations. These responsibilities are generally extensions of normal day-to-day functions involving the same personnel and material resources.

The EOP employs a multi-agency operational structure based upon the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ Incident Command System (ICS) to manage, coordinate, and direct resources committed to an incident. Halifax County is a practitioner of NIMS and is committed to insuring that required trainings are provided to all persons with direct responsibility for implementing the plan and critical functions within the plan. Supporting plans for all-hazards disasters set forth the concepts and procedures whereby Halifax County can effectively apply available resources to insure that casualties and property damage will be minimized and those essential services will be restored as soon as possible following an emergency or disaster situation.

The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) identifies a range of disasters that could possibly occur in or near this locality. The EOP works to anticipate the needs that the jurisdiction might experience during an incident and provides guidance across County/Town departments, agencies, and response organizations by describing:

- How County/Town departments and agencies will be organized during response to an event, including command authorities;
- Critical actions and interfaces during response and recovery;
- How the interaction between the jurisdictions and regional, state, and federal authorities is managed;
- How the interaction between the jurisdictions and its private partner organizations (hospitals, non-governmental emergency organizations and others) is managed during emergencies; and
- How to handle and manage needs with resources available.

The EOP is applicable to all local agencies that may be requested to provide support. The plan has taken into consideration the local comprehensive plans adopted by Halifax County and the incorporated towns.

### ***Public Works and Utilities***

Halifax County and the Towns of South Boston and Halifax established a regional public service authority (Halifax County Service Authority - HCSA) in 2008 to own and operate public (County and Towns') water and sewer systems. The HCSA currently manages and operates the water and wastewater systems serving the Towns of South Boston and Halifax as well as Halifax County, including the communities of Clover and the Virginia International Raceway (VIR). The Towns of Virgilina and Scottsburg continue to operate and maintain their respective water and wastewater systems independent of the public service authority.



There are currently three systems within Halifax County that operate water treatment facilities. The HCSA obtains its source water, from the Dan River, with an inactive permit for withdrawals from the Banister River. The HCSA water treatment plant has a design capacity of 3 million gallons per day with an existing 5 MGD withdrawal permit on the Dan River. The HCSA also provides groundwater (well) water services for the Clover Community and VIR.

The Clover community and the Towns of Scottsburg and Virgilina all utilize groundwater supplies. The water source for the Town of Virgilina is groundwater from three wells which, since the 1992 drought have not been able to meet the Town's needs. Additionally, there have been reports of uranium and radium in water samples taken from Well #4 of the public systems for the Town of Virgilina.

In addition to the water problems of Virgilina, The Department of Environmental Quality has notified Virgilina that its treatment needed to be upgraded to remove ammonia. The town has been unable to do so due to insufficient funding. Scottsburg's treatment facility serves the Town and surrounding area; however, capacity has become very limited and the pumping system needs improvement. The Town of Scottsburg also needs sewer extensions to serve those residents still utilizing pit privies.

Sewer service is needed in the South Boston Speedway and the Edmunds Memorial Park area of the Town of South Boston to meet the existing needs of the residents and businesses and to open new areas for development.

The VIR Raceplex in southwest Halifax County is a business park for automobile related companies. VIR is served by a water and sewer system owned by the Halifax County Service Authority.

**HALIFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA**  
**WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES**

	Source	Water Facilities			Wastewater Facilities	
		Treatment Capacity	Storage	Present Use	Treatment Capacity	Present Use
HCSA	Dan River	3,000,000	3,250,000	1,300,000	4,000,000	1,500,000
Clover	2 wells	115,200	250,000	25,000	35,000	16,000
VIR	2 wells	51,200	250,000	9,800	97,000	11,000
Scottsburg	2 wells	71,000	350,000	29,000	30,000	18,000
Virgilina	3 wells	20,000	100,000	12,500	30,000	N/A

Halifax County must constantly re-evaluate its community facilities and services to ensure that the tax dollars are spent in the most cost-efficient manner possible. The County is in the process of developing a Capital Improvements Plan to chart its course with respect to buildings and facility expansions. The County has traditionally utilized its annual budgeting process as an opportunity to evaluate programs and services. The County has also attempted to work closely with Federal, State, and regional agencies to obtain grant funds and cost-sharing arrangements. With respect to costly utility expansions and extensions, the County should work closely with its towns and with State and Federal agencies to ensure that essential services are provided when growth occurs.

The Halifax County Service Authority currently operates as an enterprise system, independent of support or subsidy from local taxes and revenues. The service needs and expansion of water and wastewater services are managed under a Facilities Plan and Capital Improvement Plan that is reviewed annually and modified as necessary.

***Other Utilities***

**Electric Utilities –**

Halifax is serviced by Dominion Virginia Power, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, and Danville Power in the western county locations.

**Telephone Services –**

Halifax County is served by Verizon and Century Link for landline services. GCR offers landline to business service, as well as local internet service. Cellular services are provided by Verizon, US Cellular, Sprint, AT&T, and T-Mobile.

## **Broadband Communications and Technology**

Halifax County has its own internal fiber network around the Town of Halifax and connecting County buildings. The Town of Halifax is listed as a national Wi-Fi site and is a free “hot spot” for internet access. The Town of South Boston operates its own fiber optics network. All three localities are members of the Virginia Rural Broadband Planning Initiative and the Regional Telecom Management Group.

The Mid-Atlantic Broadband Coalition has fiber optics in the County, with multiple subscriber access points (MSAP). The Coalition has a business office in the Southern Virginia Technology Park. In addition, wireless broadband is available to limited areas of the County.

## *Transportation*

### **Streets, Roads, and Highways – Existing System**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has been responsible for planning and implementing highway programs in the Commonwealth since the 1930's. However, the General Assembly granted counties the option of sharing responsibility for determining highway improvement priorities with the Department of Transportation. Currently, VDOT maintains 848.21 miles of secondary roads in Halifax County. The total primary mileage in the County as of 2005 was 146.21 miles. The County actively participates in planning for both secondary and primary road improvements with VDOT through the 6-year planning process, as well as with the Southside Planning District Commission through the Regional Long Range Transportation Planning Group

Transportation system planning for Halifax County is a joint effort between the State and County. During the development of this plan, input from County citizens and officials concerning transportation issues was abundant. Existing, formally adopted plans notwithstanding, many specific concerns about traffic hazards or system deficiencies have been noted and are described at the end of the section which follows.

The County's strategic location along U.S. 58 and U.S. 360 and U.S. 501; its proximity to I-85 and I-95 are perhaps its greatest asset.

U.S. Routes 360 and 58 (and Interstate 85) are part of the National Highway System. Highway 58 is designated as a Corridor of Statewide Significance. The purpose of the NHS is to provide a system of highways that meets national defense requirements, serves interstate and interregional travel, and serves major travel destinations, international border crossings, major population centers, major ports, major airports, major public transportation facilities and other major intermodal facilities. The NHS routes selected by Virginia were chosen to ensure that there was adequate access to many types of locations such as ports, airports, intermodal facilities, freight distribution routes, national parks, recreation and scenic areas, historic sites

and military installation. These are the NHS designations.

- Interstate: The Eisenhower Interstate System of highways retains its separate identity with the NHS.
- Other Principal Arterials: These are highways in rural and urban areas which provide access between an arterial and a major port, airport, public transportation facility, or other intermodal transportation facility.
- Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET): This is a network of highways which are important to the United States strategic defense policy and which provide defense access, continuity and emergency capabilities for defense purposes.
- Major Strategic Highway Network Connectors: These are highways which provide access between major military installations and highways which are part of the Strategic Highway Network.
- Intermodal Connectors: These highways provide access between major intermodal facilities and the other four subsystems making up the National Highway System.

U.S. Route 58 from Hampton Roads through Halifax County to I-81 is designated a STRAHNET Route. U.S. Route 58 west of South Hill and U.S. Route 360 are designated as "Other Principal Arterials".

U.S. Highway 58 is a principal arterial. This highway traverses the southern boundary of the entire state and serves as the major east-west connector route. U.S. 58, originating in the Hampton Roads/Virginia Beach area, provides an important connection to major ports and industrial centers, as well as a prime tourist's travel route. Until recently, portions of this highway were two-lanes through the District. In 1989, the Virginia General Assembly established the U.S. Route 58 Corridor Development program to improve travel on the mostly two-lane, winding and hilly road, and enhance economic development potential across this largely rural portion of the state. This project involved four-laning several road segments in the District including the Riverdale section in Halifax County, and from South Hill to Clarksville in Mecklenburg. (Route 58 in Brunswick County is already a four-lane divided highway). Additionally, bypasses have been constructed around the towns of South Hill, Clarksville, and Boydton.

The Halifax/South Boston Industrial Park is located along U.S. 58, as well as Southern Virginia Technology Park, formerly known as Riverstone.

U.S. Route 360 remains an important truck route in the County. U.S. 501 is also a vital industrial and commercial transportation route, linking Halifax/South Boston with the City of Lynchburg (U.S. Route 460) and Buena Vista (I-81) to the north and the Durham/Raleigh, North Carolina area (I-85 and the Research Triangle) to the south. U.S. 501 south of South Boston to the North Carolina line has been widened to 4 lanes. The portion of U.S. Route 501 from Route 360 at Halifax to Buena Vista, Virginia, in its current state as a two-lane highway, is an impediment to economic development in Southside Virginia. The Southside Planning District and the County

of Halifax have requested that VDOT initiate the analysis and design of improvements to include the four-laning of this section of U.S. 501. Intersection improvements have been completed on U.S. 501 at Route 40, State Route 603 at Volens, and turning lanes have been added at Route 129 at Centerville.

Halifax County was a founding member of the Route 501 Coalition. The 501 Coalition's goal is to establish a 4-lane north/south corridor from I-85 in North Carolina to I-81 in Virginia.

### **Rail and Motor Transport**

The availability of freight rail service has been greatly reduced in the last three decades. More than 100 miles of rail having been abandoned within the Southside Planning District since 1970. The number of lines abandoned would have been even greater had not several lines or line segments been purchased or leased from the railroad companies and operated as "short lines". The Association of American Railroads defines short lines as local railroads with fewer than 350 miles of track and less than \$40 million a year in revenue. Short lines transfer cars and freight to and from the main rail lines and serve one or several industrial customers. There are three rail lines remaining in the District. The Norfolk-Southern from Brookneal through South Boston and into North Carolina (a spur off this line provides coal to the Clover Cogeneration Facility), the Norfolk-Southern from Emporia to Lawrenceville (primary customer Lawrenceville Brick and Tile), and the Virginia Southern Division of the North Carolina and Virginia Railroad (operated as a short line from Burkeville to Oxford, NC). The Virginia Southern short line, known as the Virginia-North Carolina Railroad, passes through Chase City and Clarksville and currently serves the Mecklenburg Cogeneration Plant and the sites of the former Russell Stover and the former Burlington Industries site in Clarksville.

There is no rail passenger service within Halifax County, or the Southside Planning District. Amtrak stations are located in Danville, 29 miles west of South Boston and in Petersburg, 40 miles north of Alberta.

In 1992, the U.S. Department of Transportation designated five high-speed rail corridors nationally. The Southeast High-Speed Rail Corridor, from Washington, D.C. through Richmond to Raleigh and in 1998 extended all the way to Jacksonville, Florida, has been identified as the most economically viable high-speed rail corridor in the country. Following years of intensive environmental study and significant public involvement, the transportation secretaries from Virginia and North Carolina announced the two states would work together to develop high-speed rail from Washington, D.C. to Richmond, La Crosse, Henderson, Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte. The route would include a connection to Winston-Salem. In October 2010, Virginia received \$44.3 million in federal high speed rail funds to complete the Tier II EIS for the corridor between Washington, D.C. to Richmond, known as DC2RVA. This report is due for completion in 2017. A significant study of the second segment between Raleigh and Richmond was approved by the Federal Railroad Administration in March 2017 putting the corridor on a firm footing for federal and state funding and public-private

partnerships. Linking the two vibrant state capitals and providing linkages to Washington, D.C. and passenger rail in the Northeast Corridor are important steps forward for increased accessibility to alternative modes of transportation on the East Coast.

Motor freight service is provided by numerous trucking companies, providing interstate shipping service and/or intrastate service.

## Ports

Halifax County (and Southside Planning District) is fortunate to be directly connected to the Port of Virginia at Hampton Roads via U.S. Route 58. At the Port, publicly and privately owned port facilities provide total cargo handling capability. The facilities include 4 general cargo terminals including an inland port - Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Newport News Marine Terminal, and the Virginia Inland Port in Front Royal. The Port of Virginia's strategic mid-Atlantic location and unparalleled transportation infrastructure offers steamship lines and shippers unbeatable access to two-thirds of the U.S. population with more than 75 international shipping lines and one of the most frequent direct sailing schedules of any port. Virginia has the best natural deep-water harbor on the U.S. East Coast. Virginia ports are located just 18 miles from the open sea on a year-round, ice-free harbor. The Port transports more intermodal containers to more cities faster and more efficiently than any other port in the United States. More than 50 motor carrier companies offer full freight handling and load-construction services. Virginia offers six direct-service trains to 28 major cities each day. The Planning District is also connected to the Port by rail. Norfolk Western provides a direct link from Lawrenceville in Brunswick County.

The Port of Richmond, located north of Petersburg on the James River, is another deep-water facility easily accessible from the District. Located 100 miles up-river from Hampton Roads, the port is a container and general cargo facility serving shippers throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. This port, owned by the City of Richmond, is a small intermodal facility with rail connections - CSX directly and Norfolk Southern via switch. In addition to rail, Interstates 85 and 95, and U.S. Route 360 connect the Planning District to the Port of Richmond.

## Airports

Halifax County owns and operates the William M. Tuck Airport. This facility is located approximately 3 miles northeast of the center of South Boston and has a 4,003 foot paved runway equipped with runway lights. One of the major obstacles facing future airport development is constraints on the length of runway 19 and ownership of the property under the runway protection zones (RPZ). A study prepared by Delta consultants recommended the purchase of all remaining parcels under the RPZ and necessary transitional areas to remove obstructions and reclaim the full runway length. Acquisition of aviation easements in the approach zones has been initiated. The fuel farm has been upgraded and additional fuel services are planned. The Airport Six Year Improvement Plan includes replacement, expansion,

and upgrade of runway, taxiway, and approach lighting systems, as well as a new terminal, hangars (public and corporate), and support structures.

Commercial passenger and air freight services are available to the County through four larger nearby airports which include Danville Municipal Airport (30 miles west of South Boston), Raleigh-Durham International Airport (52 miles south of the Virginia/North Carolina line), Piedmont International Airport at Greensboro, North Carolina (90 miles southwest of South Boston), and Richmond International Airport (130 miles northeast of South Boston calculate mileage from South Boston).

### **2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan**

In 2011, the 2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan was adopted as a part of efforts stemming from the Commonwealth's multi-modal long range plan and a more detailed subset report known as the *2035 Surface Transportation Plan*. The highway element of the *2035 Surface Transportation Plan* included proposed improvements on Virginia's federal functionally classified roadways. The Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia's Planning District Commissions (PDCs), and the local governments they represent partnered in the development of the new initiative to create regional transportation plans in rural and small urban areas that complement those in Virginia's metropolitan areas.

The transportation system within the rural areas for each region was evaluated, and a range of transportation improvements – roadway, rail, transit, air, bicycle, and pedestrian – are recommended that can best satisfy existing and future needs are coordinated by a metropolitan planning organization (MPO). In the case of the Southside Planning District, there is no MPO and the entire area is considered rural; therefore, the entire transportation network within the region was analyzed and is addressed in this report.

Each rural regional plan has a horizon year of 2035 and addresses the anticipated impacts of population and employment growth upon the transportation system. This plan will be reviewed and updated as needed, usually every 5 years. Each rural plan was developed as a vision plan, addressing all needs of the transportation system studied regardless of anticipated funding availability. It is envisioned that each regional plan will be used as a basis to identify transportation funding priorities.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### ***Natural Resources – Features and Environment***

Natural conditions and features of the land have an effect on development patterns. The features of topography, soils, geology, water and vegetation establish the basic suitability and capacity of the land for development. These features affect the way in which particular parcels

of land can be used, greatly influencing overall land use patterns and affecting the cost of public facilities and services.

Halifax County's natural conditions are a huge drawing card for visitors and a source of pride for residents. The County must work in concert with private, State, and Federal entities to protect and preserve resources. The abundance of the natural resources in the area help create new business and promote community growth.

### **Soil & Water Conservation**

An important Environmental Resource is the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Soil and Water Conservation Department. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board was established by the General Assembly to help guide the delivery of soil and water conservation services to citizens of the commonwealth. The board is supported mainly by DCR staff for programs covering soil and water conservation and dam safety and floodplain management. The board's responsibilities include:

- Oversight and support of Virginia's soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), including financial support, coordination, information exchange, the formation of districts, adjustments to their boundaries as well as other specified duties;
- Oversight and enforcement of dam safety and floodplain management programs and regulations;
- Approval of loan criteria for loans from the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund.

DCR's soil and water conservation staff administers nonpoint source pollution control programs required by state law. They include nutrient management, agricultural best management practices, resource management planning, shoreline erosion advice, and the administrative, technical and financial support of Virginia's 47 soil and water conservation districts.

Halifax Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1967, having originally been a part of the old Southside District. The District functions as a governmental sub unit of the Commonwealth of Virginia and is responsible for developing and implementing a program to conserve soil, water, and related resources in the 822 square miles within the boundaries of Halifax County. The District is responsible for the administration of the Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program, including the overseeing of compliance to practice specifications. The District is presently governed by a seven-member board of directors comprised of local, concerned citizens who serve on a voluntary basis, without compensation.

**Climate and Air Quality –** Climate is an important environmental factor as it affects tourism, recreation, agriculture, and even industrial concerns. A moderate climate prevails in Halifax

County. The average annual temperature is 57.8 degrees Fahrenheit, with summer and winter temperature averages of 77.5 degrees Fahrenheit and 38.0 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively. The area experiences an average annual rainfall of 41.8 inches and an average annual snowfall of 9.8 inches. Prevailing winds are south to southwest.

The State Air Pollution Control Board commented that there is no ambient air quality monitoring data available for any pollutants in the South Boston area; and no ambient air quality monitors in the vicinity from which surrogate data could be taken.

### **Geology, Soils, and Minerals**

Soils interact with topography to further determine natural land use patterns. A detailed soil survey of Halifax County and South Boston was completed in 2006. The soils survey is available in electronic format from the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service at <http://soils.usda.gov>. The survey is also available at <http://arcims.webgis.net/va/halifax/>.

Soils surveys are completed, updated, and published on a continuing schedule. As time passes, the data in the published surveys becomes dated. Official information about the soils in a given area is available from the NCGR Soil Data Mart, which provides the most current data about soils. Soil studies are important because soil content, stability, permeability and other physical properties directly affect land use and development decisions. Soils studies help to generally identify soil characteristics and limitations, as well as suitable locations for various public and private land use purposes. However, site specific soil(s) analyses must still be performed as development is contemplated for specific sites.

### **Topography, Drainage, and Flood Plains**

Halifax County is located in the south-central part of Virginia known as the Piedmont Region. Elevations range from 150 to 815 feet above sea level. Drainage is provided by the Dan, Banister, Roanoke (Staunton), and Hyco Rivers and their tributaries.

The slope of land is a determinant of land use. Level or nearly level land (0-5% slope) is well suited for all types of development. Rolling or gently sloping land (5-10% slope) is best suited for residential development on large lots. Steeply sloping land (above 15% slope) is best suited for open space, watershed and erosion protection, and conservation purposes. The topography of the County area is typical of that found within the Piedmont province of Virginia which is characterized by gently rolling hills and long northeast-southwest running ridges. Slope measurements in the County range from between 0 and 45 percent. The slope of land is an important development factor due to the higher cost and limitations of developing steeply sloped land. However, most of the land in the County ranges from 0 to 16 percent slope which does not represent a problem for most types of development and land uses. Generally speaking, most slope related development problems occur in the areas of major river valleys

and streams where penetrations along the hillsides have left steep and broken slopes.

Topographic conditions in Halifax County are generally not a deterrent to urban type or agricultural development. Topographic mapping from the United States Geologic Survey can be accessed at <http://arcims.webgis.net/va/halifax/>.

Perhaps the most obvious and easily understood conservation area is the flood plain, the area where water spreads out beyond the normal creeks or riverbanks in times of heavy rain. The flood areas that are not so obvious are the floodway fringe areas. These are areas in which flooding may occur once every 50 to 100 years.

Stream and river flood plains in Halifax County have been mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington, D.C. Halifax County qualifies for the National Flood Insurance Program. This program provides those structures within the mapped flood hazard areas with flood insurance coverage at moderate premium rates. Insurance under the program is underwritten by private insurance companies in conjunction with Federal monetary support. The County can protect itself and flood plain property owners from disastrous life and property losses by controlling the location and uses within the flood plain.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Flood Hazard Boundary Maps (FHB) are available for Halifax County from FEMA. Copies of these maps are available for public inspection in the County's administrative offices. However, site specific flood plain and wetlands analyses must still be performed as development is contemplated for specific sites.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency define wetlands as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. In addition, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, in its 1990 publication Virginia Non-Tidal Wetland Inventory, 1990 provided the acreages of non-tidal wetlands, deep water acreages, linear wetlands, and linear deep water habitat for Halifax County. Of 521,097 land acres in the County, 23,773 acres (4.5%) were identified as wetlands acres with 6,263 acres (1.1%) identified as deep water habitat.

## Water Resources

Halifax County is located in the southern portion of the Piedmont Region of Virginia. The Piedmont Region's geology is diverse, which leads to a wide range of water availability and quality levels. The Piedmont Region is predominantly rural. Agriculture and forestry dominate land use. The availability of both groundwater and surface water resources are present throughout the Region. Electronic mapping showing the general locations of lakes and streams in the County can be accessed at <http://arcims.webgis.net/va/halifax/>.

The most common use of groundwater for the area is for rural and domestic supplies. Soil associations and underlying rock formations produce water of generally good quality, dependent upon well construction and location. The potential for groundwater pollution is low to moderate, due to the area's rural nature and natural ground filtration properties. Land disposal of solid waste materials and sewage from septic systems present the greatest threats to existing groundwater quality.

Halifax County also has an abundant supply of surface water resources. A network of rivers, streams, and lakes is present throughout much of the area. Major rivers flowing across the County are: the Dan, Banister, Roanoke (Staunton), and Hyco Rivers.

John Kerr Reservoir and Lake Gaston are also major water impoundments found in the area. County impoundments include Banister Lake and Conner Lake. Additional tributaries such as creeks and streams account for the remaining surface water resources present.

The estimated groundwater used by Halifax County is 3.204 million gallons per day. Surface water usage totals 1.692 million gallons per day. While both ground and surface water resources are available and utilized by the District, the future development of groundwater has several advantages over the development of surface water resources. Groundwater development:

- allows continued use of land (no dams, reservoirs, etc.);
- requires little or no treatment cost due to natural filtration;
- involves no water loss due to evaporation; and,
- is less susceptible to drought related conditions and shortages.

The development of surface water resources are not without benefits. Surface water developments have the potential for additional uses, such as power generation, flood control, or recreation. Thus, these facilities of water supply could have multiple benefits associated with them.

The protection of both ground and surface water resources have been assigned great weight and heavily emphasized in new solid waste management regulations. Many of the requirement standards, which have been established in the regulations either directly or indirectly, address the protection of water resources, especially groundwater. The appropriateness of these groundwater safeguards are emphasized by the following:

- Fifty percent of the people in the U.S. use groundwater for drinking water.
- Groundwater makes up 95 percent of the fresh water resources in the U.S.
- Seventy-five percent of the cities in the U.S. use groundwater in some way.

- Groundwater is used by 95 percent of the people in rural areas of the U.S.  
(Source: Water Pollution Control Federation.)

The availability and quality of water resources within an area are of great importance. An analysis of water resources is necessary not only to determine the potential for future development, but also to ensure that the area's water resources are protected from abuse and utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Halifax County has several major rivers which traverse the area. The Roanoke (Staunton), Dan, Banister, and Hyco Rivers all supply the County with an abundant source of surface water. There are many other smaller streams throughout the County which serve as tributaries to these larger rivers. These waterways are all part of the larger Roanoke River Basin.

Projects needing large quantities of water can be located in the County due to two large rivers within or along its boundaries. The development of other water supplies is made possible by the large number of additional smaller streams. The surface waters of the County are soft, but considerable amounts of silt are present in some of the streams. Records of chemical quality and temperature are available. Flow information (mean discharge in cubic feet per second) is collected by the State from stream gaging stations along the Dan River, Hyco River, and Roanoke River.

Bedrock is comprised mostly of gneissic rocks in the western two-thirds of the County and of metamorphosed sediments in the eastern third. Small areas of unaltered sediments occur near Scottsburg, Mt. Laurel, and Cody. Generally, these rocks are covered by 10 to 40 feet of soil and partially weathered rock and are moderately to steeply inclined. Groundwater is present in the lower portions of the soil and weathered rock zone and in bedrock fractures. Bedrock fractures occurring below the water table are usually permanent water sources. Topographic location is often more important to well success than the type of bedrock encountered. Lower elevation wells are generally more productive than those on slopes or hills, except in the three areas where unaltered sediments occur where groundwater has been obtained at relatively shallow depths regardless of location.

Most recorded wells were drilled for individual home and/or farm use, few of which being located in favorable positions on the properties. Drilling was halted on most of these wells as soon as sufficient water quantities were reached. As a result, depth and yield ranges are 32 to 603 feet and 1/8 to 150 gallons per minute. Over half of these wells are less than 150 feet and yield 10 gallons per minute.

An undeveloped source of groundwater may be the sand and gravel deposits that border the rivers and large streams throughout the County. Although these unconsolidated materials are relatively thin, and large diameter wells would often be less than 50 feet deep, moderate to large supplies of water may be available from them.

The groundwater is soft and of good chemical quality in most portions of the County.

Objectionable amounts of iron have been reported from a few wells and water is often moderately hard in the extreme eastern part of the County. The three areas where unaltered sedimentary rock occur are where the hardest, most mineralized groundwater has been obtained. There have been reports of uranium and radium in water samples taken from Well #4 of the public system for the Town of Virgilina.

Groundwater is not an unlimited resource and must be utilized circumspectly. Over-utilization of groundwater can cause vicinity ground well water to descend below intake levels. Groundwater will continue to be a water source for many rural residents in Halifax County, but this source should be supplemented or replaced with surface water supply where concentrations of population occur and economic conditions warrant such. It is also notable that conjunctive use of groundwater to replenish surface water supplies is a method recommended by Virginia Polytechnic Institute researchers for extending the life of surface water supplies during drought. The Comprehensive Plan will address population concentrations and the related needs for public facilities and services.

### **Wildlife and Endangered Species**

Existing wildlife in the area includes, but is not limited to game birds, song birds, crows, hawks, eagles, waterfowl, deer, coyotes, squirrels, rabbits, bear, heron, beaver, owls, bats, rodents, snakes, and frogs. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list the following as threatened and endangered species which may be found in Halifax County: Bald Eagle, Carolina Darter, Whitemouth Shiner, and Nestronia.

### **Forestlands**

Forestlands are perhaps the most important aesthetic, environmental, and economic resources of Halifax County. While their annual value as a cash crop can be determined, their economic value as the scenic backdrop of the County is incalculable. They provide most of the beauty which the County offers as a residential community and tourist attraction, and are of great importance in reducing soil erosion and in creating wildlife habitats. Major stands of trees that remain along traffic arteries and between or within smaller residential neighborhoods reduce noise levels, provide a sense of privacy, create scale, protect residential values, and make urban development less noticeable by isolating smaller units.

The area's forest resources have a variety of potential uses, such as primary and secondary manufacturing, industrial energy, and construction. Other economic activities associated with the forest industry include harvesting, transportation, product development and marketing. Careful consideration should be given to permitting site sensitive businesses throughout forested areas, which include industrial scale solar facilities.

An economic impact study conducted by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service (June 2013) revealed that every single Virginia locality is affected by forestry-related industry to some

degree. The largest impacts tend to be somewhat more geographically concentrated in areas with pulp and paper mills or furniture manufacturing plants in clustered regions such as Southside. The Cooper Center Study found that forestry production generates more than \$17 billion in total industrial output annually and provides employment for more than 103,000 persons, representing 2.5 percent of total employment in Virginia. The housing downturn in 2006 followed by the severe recession during 2007-2009 resulted in employment declines in the furniture and paper manufacturing industries. However, the outlook for the industry is now largely on the upside. The industry is primed to grow again as the general economy recovers and the housing market improves. The area's forests also provide other societal and ecological benefits, such as water quality, carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, flood mitigation, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, scenic amenities and recreational opportunities.

## **Hazard Mitigation Planning**

In 2013, the Southside Planning District Commission updated the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for its jurisdictions to help reduce physical and economic losses in the wake of a natural disaster by encouraging proactive mitigation measures. The plan consists of two parts, a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) and the Mitigation Strategy. The plan can be viewed at <http://www.southsidepdc.org/index.php/projects/past-projects/46-2013-hazard-mitigation-plan-update>. This plan is to be updated every five years, with the next update to start in 2017.

## **LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### *Land Use*

As a guide for land use decision making, the Halifax County Comprehensive Plan should be used by the County's elected and appointed officials and the community as a guide in making decisions about (or that affect) land use and development. It is generally accepted that the goals and objectives and the future land use map are decision-making guides and that they do not have the force of law. However, in considering the roles and status of the plan, the County must remain aware that the policies and the map may be used in a "regulatory" manner in the issuance of State and Federal permits.

The plan and its goals and objectives serve short-term purposes. The plan is used by various sectors. Developers and/or others seeking County review or intervention may consult the policies to formulate a request that is consistent with the policies, thereby, increasing the chances of approval. The County staff will review requests in light of policies, pointing out those policies: (1) that support the request; (2) that are in conflict; and (3) that carry the most weight, thereby, shaping the overall staff response. Planning Commission members can make individual determinations as to the consistency of the request with the policies. They may

consider staff recommendation, but may choose to give different weights to the policies. The general public can reference the policies when speaking in favor of or against a petition. The Board of Supervisors can take into account and weigh the policy interpretations by the petitioner, the staff, the Planning Commission, and residents, as well as its own interpretations and priorities in making its decision.

The plan also serves important long-term functions. It gives guidance to new development management tools and to major adjustments of existing tools. The plan may be used in the development of plans for major capital facilities. And finally, it may guide the development of plans for projects that support implementation of the plan.

The comprehensive plan's function with respect to zoning is of prime importance to Halifax County since two of the main action items the County will undertake are the review (and amendment) of its subdivision and zoning ordinances. Once reviewed and amended, proper administration of the County's subdivision and zoning ordinances should require any review of a proposed text or map amendment – whether by the staff, the Planning Commission, or the Board of Supervisors – to be based on consideration of whether the proposed amendment is consistent with the Halifax County Comprehensive Plan and otherwise advances the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Because the comprehensive plan's standards are wide ranging but explicit, it should be the principal guide to the Planning Commission's discussions and actions concerning land use management and development, particularly zoning ordinance amendments. The Commission, however, should also look beyond the plan and consider whether proposed developments or requests for amendments to zoning or other ordinances, even if consistent with the plan, advance the best interests of public health, safety, and general welfare. This very general criterion calls for consideration of a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to the potential impact of a development or a proposed ordinance amendment on:

- the natural environment – i.e., how a proposed development (or potential development allowed by an amendment) may affect air quality, water quality, flooding, erosion, important natural areas, etc.;
- natural resources – i.e., how a proposed development (or potential development allowed by an amendment) may threaten or enhance the continued availability and efficient use of finite natural resources for agriculture or forestry; consideration needs to be taken also for renewable energy resources such as wind and solar power.
- the transportation system – i.e., whether any additional traffic generated by a proposed development (or a potential development allowed by an amendment) can be safely and efficiently accommodated by the County's transportation facilities;
- the provision of utilities and services – i.e., whether any additional demands for water supply, electricity, refuse collection, fire and police protection, education, health care, recreation, etc. generated by a proposed development (or potential development allowed by

an amendment) can be safely and efficiently accommodated by public, community, or private utility and service systems;

- the local economy – i.e., how a proposed development (or potential development allowed by an amendment) may affect employment opportunities and the general health of the Halifax County economy;
- historical, architectural, archeological, and cultural resources – i.e., how a proposed development (or potential development allowed by an amendment) may threaten or enhance the continued existence and integrity of resources of architectural, archeological, or cultural significance;
- neighboring development – i.e., how a proposed development (or potential development allowed by an amendment) may affect living or working conditions in neighboring areas (including whether development might deter or enhance the appropriate development or conservation of neighboring property);
- community function, character, and attractiveness – i.e., how a proposed development (or potential development allowed by an amendment) may enhance the attractiveness and functional mix of land uses needed to meet the needs of future populations and avoid adverse impacts; and,
- the provision of affordable and convenient housing – i.e., how a proposed development (or potential development allowed by an amendment) may affect people's ability to find affordable housing reasonably accessible to their place of employment.
- the development and availability of energy resources – i.e., how a proposed development (or a potential development allowed by an amendment) promotes the development of renewable energy resources or encourages the availability of an adequate supply of energy resources.

### *Existing Development Management Program*

A comprehensive plan should include the information related to development management such as: (1) a description of the County's existing development management program; (2) a description of the role that this program will play in implementing the plan; and, (3) a description of the steps that the County will take to coordinate the ordinances and codes to implement the plan. The County's existing development management program includes all of the ordinances, regulations, codes, policies, and directives that affect land use and development in the County.

The following paragraphs list the land use related ordinances, codes, and policies that have been adopted or implemented by Halifax County and which department(s) is responsible for managing the program. A brief statement of how each will be used to implement the plan is also included. In some cases, major adjustments or amendments that are needed to make the existing development program components more effective tools for implementing the plan are discussed.

Coordination of the various components of the development management program can be an important part of effective implementation of the plan. Generally, unless otherwise noted, management of the development program in the County is coordinated through the Halifax County Planning and Zoning Department.

## **1. Zoning Ordinance**

**Managing department/agency:** Halifax County Planning and Zoning.

**Use in plan implementation:** This instrument is used to ensure building and development activities are conducted in a manner contributing to the health, safety, and general welfare of residents, protection of buildings and properties, and the minimization of adverse or negative impacts of development on environmentally fragile areas.

The zoning ordinance will be reviewed and amended as needed and set forth in the Action Plan and Schedule at the end of this chapter.

## **2. Subdivision Ordinance**

**Managing department/agency:** Halifax County Planning and Zoning.

**Use in plan implementation:** This instrument is used to promote and ensure managed development and to avoid overcrowding of structures, thereby contributing to the health, safety, and general welfare of residents, protection of buildings and properties, and the minimization of adverse or negative impacts of development on environmentally fragile areas.

The subdivision ordinance will be reviewed and amended as needed and set forth in EXHIBIT X-A, Action Plan and Schedule at the end of this chapter.

## **3. Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance**

**Managing department/agency:** Halifax County Planning and Zoning.

**Use in plan implementation:** This instrument is used to promote and ensure managed development, thereby contributing to the health, safety, and general welfare of residents, protection of buildings and properties, and the minimization of adverse or negative impacts of development on environmentally fragile areas.

The erosion and sedimentation control ordinance will be reviewed and amended as needed during the planning period.

## **4. Flood Plain Ordinance**

**Managing department/agency:** Halifax County Planning and Zoning.

**Use in plan implementation:** This instrument is used to promote and ensure managed development, thereby contributing to the health, safety, and general welfare of residents,

protection of buildings and properties, and the minimization of adverse or negative impacts of development on environmentally fragile areas.

The flood plain ordinance will be reviewed and amended as needed during the planning period.

## 5. Other Regulatory Mechanisms

### *Building Inspection*

**Managing department/agency:** Halifax County Building Inspections Department.

**Use in plan implementation:** This function is used to ensure proper building methods and materials are utilized, thereby contributing to the health, safety, and general welfare of residents, protection of buildings and properties, and the minimization of adverse or negative impacts of development on environmentally fragile areas.

Building inspections rules and procedures will be reviewed and amended as needed during the planning period.

### *On-site wastewater treatment policy (through Halifax County Health Department)*

**Managing department/agency:** Halifax County Health Department.

**Use in plan implementation:** This program is used to ensure on-site wastewater treatment systems are regulated and properly permitted and installed, thereby contributing to the health, safety, and general welfare of residents and the minimization of adverse or negative impacts of development on environmentally fragile areas.

On-site wastewater treatment policies will be reviewed and amended as needed during the planning period.

## D. Additional Implementation Tools

Tools, in addition to those already included in the existing development management program that will be used to implement the plan are grouped into four categories which are: ordinances, capital improvement program, acquisition program, and specific projects. The following sections describe their use by Halifax County.

### 1. Ordinances and Ordinance Amendments

Halifax County is in the process of reviewing and potentially amending its subdivision and zoning ordinances. The police powers granted to the County by the State allow it to impose reasonable regulations with respect to land use and development, among other things.

## **2. Capital Improvements Program**

Halifax County has established a capital improvements plan. This work element will be instrumental in implementing the County's goals with respect to infrastructure carrying capacity and provision of public facilities and services.

## **3. Land Acquisition Program**

Halifax County may take steps to acquire land to ensure a public benefit, promote the general health, safety, and welfare of residents, and further the implementation of the comprehensive plan.

## **4. Area(s) Housing Plan(s) Development**

Halifax County may conduct a detailed study of housing conditions, for specific areas (or for the entire County). Such studies should include a needs and opportunities assessment to determine the types of housing needed in various parts of the County to meet current and projected needs, alleviate substandard housing conditions and, prepare to accommodate growth and associated housing related pressures brought on by growth.

The development of housing plans should involve a great deal of citizen participation, particularly from effected neighborhoods, the real estate community, and people in a position to know the difficulties individuals are having or may have in securing affordable, suitable, and adequate housing.

## **5. Corridor and Specific Area(s) Plan(s)**

Halifax County may undertake the development of corridor and/or area specific plans to address identified needs along its main corridors and/or in areas of the County that are experiencing growth, or may experience or be impacted by growth. These planning activities would be more of a strategic planning exercise, as opposed to the general nature of the comprehensive plan, leading to parcel specific recommendations concerning land use and development, design features and guidelines, and ordinance changes. Each of the County's designated planning areas should be considered for the development of a planning areas study, as well as the main corridors through the County such as U.S. 360, U.S. 58, and U.S. 501. The County may also consider corridor plans for some of its more heavily traveled, and potentially most developable secondary roads.

## **6. Update and Amendment of the Comprehensive Plan**

Virginia law requires localities to develop and periodically review, and perhaps update and amend comprehensive plans. The Code of Virginia also specifies that periodic reviews of comprehensive plans must occur each five years. Thus, Halifax County should next review and

update/amend its comprehensive plan in 2022. However, the County has a history of using its comprehensive plan as a land use and capital improvements planning guidance document. It uses the plan as it considers zoning changes and development requests. Thus, Halifax County should update and amend its comprehensive plan more frequently than specified by the State. The County should review its plan on a regular basis (annually or biannually) and as the need arises. Planning is not an exact science, and plans serve only as guides. If the circumstances that existed during plan development change, or begin to change, the County should continue to be proactive with respect to review, analysis, and amendment of its comprehensive plan.

## **7. Interagency Cooperation**

Halifax County should assume the lead to foster interagency cooperation to further its goals and continue to be proactive. One example is the County's proactive stance with respect to State and regional agencies charged with economic and industrial development. Halifax County has, and should continue to work closely with such agencies to attract economic and industrial development, thereby furthering County goals with respect to a stable economic base generally, and the development of specific industrial parks and sites. Other opportunities to foster interagency cooperation exist between the County and the four towns in the County; and the public agencies charged with providing services, facilities and utilities to each locality.

## **8. Community Facilities, Utilities, and Service Provision Policies**

The citizens of Halifax County rely on a variety of public and semi-public agencies and programs for community facilities, utilities, and services. The County should take the lead in gathering, cataloging, developing, or assisting with the development of policies concerning the provision of government facilities, utilities and services. The County should refine the capital improvements plan. It should also begin the process of gathering the policies related to the various activities and programs of service providers, acting as a repository of the data. The development of a comprehensive document containing at least a narrative of the policies and procedures of various service providers serving Halifax County should be undertaken. Such a document could be posted on the County's web site when developed, and used as marketing tool as the County entertains economic and industrial development prospects.

## **9. Specific Projects**

In addition to these potential projects and the continuation of its normal local government management, regulation, and administrative functions, programs, and services, Halifax County has included several specific projects and activities that will be used to implement the comprehensive plan. These are included as objectives (for achieving the goals and implementing the policies) cited for the issue areas discussed in Chapter VIII County-wide Goals and Implementation Strategies and Chapter IX Planning Areas' Goals and Implementation Strategies.

Specific projects the County intends to undertake include: study of amendments to the zoning and subdivision ordinances; refine the capital improvements plan; development of a parks and recreation master plan; development of small area plans for community planning areas; and, development of a transportation plan. These projects and others, are listed in the next section as action items in the County's Implementation Action Plan and Schedule.

#### **E. Implementation Action Plan and Schedule**

Good comprehensive planning requires that the plan document include a separate action plan and schedule. The action plan includes the priority actions that Halifax County will undertake to implement the plan. The accompanying schedule includes the fiscal year in which the actions are initiated and the year that they are complete. The schedule covers a 5-year period. The action plan and schedule can be a useful tool for the County's elected and appointed leaders, and the general public to gauge the implementation status of the comprehensive plan. Good planning also requires the action plan to include a description of the specific steps that will be taken to involve citizens in the implementation of the plan.

## IMPLEMENTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

### *2037 Implementation Matrix*

The following matrix provides recommended public policies and strategies to further the 2037 Vision for Halifax County. The matrix is a guide and a management tool to help achieve the desired long-term goals for the community; it is not a public directive. Timeframes are flexible and implementation will depend on community priorities, available funding, and leadership from both the public and private sectors. Successful implementation requires multiple partners.

Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix						
Community and Housing			Estimated Timeframe In years			Implementing Partners
			1-5	5-10	10+	
<b>Policy CH1</b>	<b>Encourage and support healthy living initiatives that improve the health and quality of life for residents.</b>					
Strategy 1	Continue to work with the State, Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails, Inc. and other localities to ensure the expansion of existing Tobacco Heritage Trail, as well as developing other greenways/trail systems & connections.	●	●	●	●	Virginia DCR Roanoke River Rails-To-Trails Southside PDC Rails-To-Trails Conservancy County Administration
Strategy 2	Work with local and regional health agencies, providers and hospitals, as well as recreational facilities, such as YMCA, to promote healthy lifestyles, and address obesity and related chronic diseases in Halifax County and surrounding localities.	●	●	●	●	County Administration Sentara HRH Virginia Department of Health
<b>Policy CH2</b>	<b>Address substandard housing conditions using methods that encourage cooperative approaches with property owners to improve blighted properties.</b>					
Strategy 1	Continue to monitor, amend, enforce County ordinances to require property owners to improve, maintain the general appearance of all residential properties, occupied and vacant alike, as well as controlled by absentee owners.	●	●	●	●	County Administration Planning & Zoning

Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix						
Community and Housing		Estimated Timeframe In years			Implementing Partners	
		1-5	5-10	10+		
Strategy 2	Undertake a study of housing conditions and community issues within Halifax County to identify feasible strategies to address community challenges and revitalize neighborhoods.	●			Virginia DHCD SPDC Neighborhood Residents Community Service Agencies	
Policy CH3	<b>Encourage residential development in areas targeted for growth and new development that meets the community needs for diverse housing types and enhances attractiveness and quality of residential neighborhoods.</b>					
Strategy 1	Proactively plan for new residential development by undertaking a Housing Strategic Plan to assess market conditions and opportunities, identify best areas for development or redevelopment, and define desired types of characteristics of housing development.	●			Virginia DHCD Southside PDC County Administration VHDA	

Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix					
Economy		Estimated Timeframe In years		Implementing Partners	
		1-5	5-10	10+	
Policy EC1	<b>Encourage and pursue business, industries, employers, and educational institutions in Halifax County that complement and diversify the economic base, provide quality jobs, enhance the quality of life, sustain the environmental quality of the region, and maintain the historic &amp; environmental integrity of the County.</b>				
Strategy 1	Work with the Southside Planning District Commission in updating the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, to include updates of any new Economic Development Studies done by the towns and partner agencies.				County Administration Southside PDC Halifax County IDA
Strategy 2	Work with Regional and State Agencies to develop competitive joint applications, for building and infrastructure improvements in order to recruit new business and industries.				County Administration Southside PDC Virginia DHCD Virginia DOT
Strategy 3	Work with stakeholders to identify underutilized properties within or adjacent to the industrial and business core of Halifax County and its urban and urban-like areas, that should be acquired or improved to enhance development opportunities. Pursue acquisition or improvement programs that may be appropriate.				Virginia DHCD Southside PDC County Administration Industrial Dev. Authority
Strategy 4	Work with rural, agricultural, and forestry stakeholders to provide opportunities for site sensitive industries to locate in rural areas to create employment opportunities and economic growth in the County.				Virginia DHCD Southside PDC County Administration Industrial Dev. Authority
Policy EC2	<b>Facilitate and encourage tourism initiatives as a part of the diversified economic development strategy for Halifax County.</b>				
Strategy 1	Participate in the update of the Regional Bike, Pedestrian and Trails Plan, using the Virginia Outdoors Plan as a guide for program and facility needs. Include opportunities for trails, blueways, bike routes, Safe Routes to School, and natural and historic areas. Facilitate opportunities for small business development, i.e. bike rentals & repairs, bed & breakfasts.	•	•		County Administration Southside PDC Virginia DCR Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails Halifax County Tourism Towns

**Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan  
Implementation Matrix**

Economy		Estimated Timeframe In years			Implementing Partners
		1-5	5-10	10+	
Strategy 2	Monitor the economic impact of tourism related initiatives to provide quantitative measurement of fiscal and business outcomes.	●	●	●	Virginia Tourism Corporation Halifax County Tourism Local Businesses County Administration Towns
Strategy 3	Develop and Implement the Halifax County Tourism Plan and provide coordinated strategies for promoting destinations and attracting visitors and new investment.	●			Halifax County Tourism Virginia Tourism Corporation County Administration Towns
Strategy 4	Pursue Virginia Tourism Corporation funding opportunities for regional marketing efforts that promote tourism in the County and throughout the Region and State.	●			Virginia Tourism Corporation County Administration Southside PDC Halifax County Tourism Towns Virginia DCR
Strategy 5	Develop and promote county-wide Agri-tourism Plan, that will include hospitality services, hiking/biking/equestrian activities, farm & market recreation, distillery & wineries, bird-watching, star-gazing/astronomy events.	●			Halifax County Ag Department Virginia Tourism Corporation Halifax County Tourism Local Business Virginia DCR

**Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan  
Implementation Matrix**

Public Facilities and Services		Estimated Timeframe In years			Implementing Partners
		1-5	5-10	10+	
<b>Policy PFS1</b>	<b>Health, Education and Social Services: Ensure citizens of Halifax County have access to adequate public facilities and services such as health care, educational programs, and social services and ensure that public facilities and services are sized, located and managed to protect or restore the quality of the natural environment while providing adequate levels of service to meet the needs of citizens.</b>				
Strategy 1	Assess current facility inventory and identify facility requirements associated with the level of need, appropriate quantity and size, and relationship to current population, while planning for future development.	•	•		County Administration Virginia DHCD Southside PDC
Strategy 2	Ensure that when existing public facility sites are no longer needed for their original use, the land formerly used for that purpose is reserved for other public uses.	•	•	•	Planning & Zoning Planning Commission County Administration
Strategy 3	Designate and reserve future public facility sites that will be required by future growth and development.	•	•		County Administration Planning Commission
<b>Policy PFS2</b>	<b>Transportation: Ensure a balanced and efficient transportation system, to include multi-modal opportunities, serving Halifax County that will shape and serve growth areas, given State and local finances, topography, geography, natural systems, and surrounding land uses and development.</b>				
Strategy 1	Participate in Six Year Improvement Plan Program to provide general improvements, as well as extensive improvements for connectivity throughout the County.	•			Southside PDC Virginia DOT County Administration
Strategy 2	Cooperate with regional stakeholder agencies to find options for improving public transportation access to business and services. Identify areas that will benefit from Safe Routes to School Program.	•	•	•	County Administration Southside PDC Higher Education Center Virginia DRPT

Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix						
Public Facilities and Services		Estimated Timeframe In years			Implementing Partners	
		1-5	5-10	10+		
Strategy 3	Work with regional and state agencies to develop reasonable transportation improvement plans for short and long-term that employ realistic improvement options regarding safety & operational deficiencies, economic development, capital improvements, and are consistent with the vision for Halifax County.	●	●	●	Southside PDC Virginia DOT County Administration Halifax County IDA	
Strategy 4	Continue to pursue additional community trail and sidewalk connections to enhance pedestrian linkages between neighborhoods, businesses and community services. Solicit MAP-21 funding for priority projects that promote alternatives for transportation and enhance safety, as well as links business and industrial areas to neighborhoods.	●	●	●	Virginia DOT Southside PDC County Administration	
Policy PFS3	<b>Public Safety: Provide and plan for efficient public facilities and services to meet the community needs of Halifax County and surrounding service areas.</b>					
Strategy 1	Develop annual management report for public safety services that identifies capital equipment and staffing needs.	●			Public Safety Departments County Administration	
Strategy 2	Integrate into County's capital improvement program, as appropriate.	●	●	●	County Administration Public Safety Departments	
Policy PFS4	<b>Electric &amp; Communications Facilities: Provide and plan for efficient public facilities and services to meet the community needs of Halifax County and surrounding service areas.</b>					
Strategy 1	Work with regional entities and providers to expand access to existing broadband fiber-optic networks that can benefit economic development, enhance educational opportunities, as well as improve public safety communications.	●	●	●	County Administration DHCD Tobacco Commission	
Strategy 2	Work with state, regional, and commercial entities to provide accurate site mapping of current facilities to plan for future expansion and upgrades to electric and communication facilities.	●	●	●	County Administration Planning Commission GIS Utility Providers	

Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix						
Public Facilities and Services		Estimated Timeframe In years			Implementing Partners	
		1-5	5-10	10+		
Strategy 3	Work with state, regional, and commercial entities to properly site and develop new generation facilities and transmission infrastructure, including facilities that generate electricity from wind or solar resources and pipeline infrastructure.	•	•	•	County Administration Utility Providers	

Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix						
Environment (Natural, Cultural, Historical Resources)			Estimated Timeframe		Implementing Partners	
			In years			
1-5	5-10	10+				
<b>Policy EN1</b>	<b>Ensure wise use of Halifax County non-renewable earth and mineral resources and air quality, while protecting the beauty of the landscape and conserving the protective functions of wetlands and floodplains.</b>					
Strategy 1	Review and analyze development and redevelopment proposals for consistency with future land use maps for each planning community.		•			County Administration Planning Commission
Strategy 2	Adopt and enforce ordinances and procedures to regulate land use, development, and redevelopment and supports applicable State and Federal laws and regulations regarding land uses and development in natural hazard areas and environmentally fragile areas.		•	•	•	County Administration Planning Commission
Strategy 3	Preserve ambient air quality through support of continued enforcement of Virginia's emission standards and notify the State Air Pollution Control Board of significant land use changes which may require a permit; and encourage clean alternate energy generation.		•	•	•	County Administration
Strategy 4	Support State and Federal policies that regulate the location and intensity of development in State designated environmentally fragile areas.		•	•	•	County Administration
Strategy 5	Work with VDOT and Halifax County to improve traffic safety and drainage to mitigate the impact of localized flooding and seek alternative methods of hazard avoidance.		•	•	•	Virginia DOT County Administration
<b>Policy EN2</b>	<b>Recreation &amp; Public/Open Spaces: Ensure proper planning for and provision of recreational opportunities to Halifax County residents and visitors, while preserving open spaces and protecting the natural environment.</b>					
Strategy 1	Continue to work with the State, Roanoke River Rails-to-Trails, Inc. and other localities to ensure the expansion of existing Tobacco Heritage Trail, as well as developing other greenways/trail systems & connections.		•	•	•	County Administration Southside PDC Virginia DCR VDOT
Strategy 2	Protect ecological and otherwise fragile areas for open space uses and reserve flood hazard areas for open space uses.		•	•	•	County Administration Virginia DCR Southside PDC

Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Matrix						
Environment (Natural, Cultural, Historical Resources)			Estimated Timeframe In years			Implementing Partners
			1-5	5-10	10+	
Strategy 3	Prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to understand community recreation needs, inventory existing parks & recreation facilities, identify future improvements & new facilities, and identify funding sources and strategies for implementation.	•				Virginia DCR Southside PDC County Administration VA Dept. of Forestry
Policy EN3	<b>Utilize the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan developed by Southside Planning District Commission as a guide and resource to develop proactive mitigation strategies to help reduce physical and economic losses in the wake of a natural disaster.</b>					
Strategy 1	Develop location, density, and intensity criteria for new, existing development and redevelopment including public facilities and infrastructure so that they can better avoid or withstand natural hazards.	•				Planning Commission County Administration Southside PDC
Strategy 2	Develop policies that minimize threats to life, property, and natural resources resulting from development located in or adjacent to hazard areas, such as those subject to erosion, high winds, or flooding.	•	•	•		Planning Commission County Administration Southside PDC
Strategy 3	Allow development and redevelopment within special flood hazard areas subject to the provisions and requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program and flood plain related regulations.	•	•	•		Planning Commission County Administration
Strategy 4	Discourage inappropriate development by limiting residential and commercial development density, structure size, and development intensity through the use of zoning.	•	•	•		Planning Commission County Administration
Policy EN4	<b>Promote natural and historic resources as community assets that contribute to the high quality of life and recreational opportunities, and economic sustainability of Halifax County.</b>					
Strategy 1	Promote the architectural and cultural heritage of Halifax County for revitalization, business development and tourism using various outreach methods including webpage listings, historic walking tours, promotional materials, and cross promotion with regional localities.	•	•	•		Virginia DHR Southside PDC Virginia Tourism Corporation Local Tourism Offices

**Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan  
Implementation Matrix**

Environment (Natural, Cultural, Historical Resources)		Estimated Timeframe In years			Implementing Partners
		1-5	5-10	10+	
Strategy 2	Consider interpretive signage along trails, public parks or natural areas to raise awareness and educate the public about significant natural, cultural and historic resources..	●	●	●	Virginia DCR Virginia Tourism Corporation Southside PDC VDOT Local & State Historical Societies
<b>Policy EN5</b>	<b>Protect, preserve and conserve important natural and historic resources in Halifax County.</b>				
Strategy 1	Consider appropriate preservation tools that can be employed to protect and sustain the National Historic Register of Historic Properties and Districts in Halifax County and in the region. These tools may include a local historic preservation ordinance or update, financial incentives, increased public awareness of resources, or voluntary design guidelines for property rehabilitation and development	●	●	●	County Administration Virginia DHR Local Businesses Local & State Historical Societies Southside PDC
Strategy 2	Work with State and Local agencies to secure funding for rehabilitation & development of acquired historical and/or recreational property within the County that will increase tourism opportunities, while promoting the County's historical character.	●	●	●	County Administration Virginia DCR Virginia DHR Southside PDC Roanoke River Rails-To-Trails Virginia Tourism Corporation
Strategy 3	Protect, preserve, and conserve important natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and other resources in the County in the course of developing renewable energy resources.	●	●	●	County Administration Virginia DCR Virginia DHR Southside PDC Roanoke River Rails-To-Trails Virginia Tourism Corporation

**Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan  
Implementation Matrix**

<b>Land Use and Development</b>		<b>Estimated Timeframe</b>			<b>Implementing Partners</b>
		<b>In years</b>		<b>1-5</b>	
<b>Policy LU1</b>	<b>Residential: Ensure future Residential Development in Halifax County is consistent with existing development patterns, is sustainable, is aesthetically pleasing, and compliments the County's character.</b>				
Strategy 1	Continue to monitor, amend, enforce County's ordinances to require property owners to improve, maintain the general appearance of all residential properties, occupied and vacant alike, as well as controlled by absentee owners.	•	•	•	County Administration
Strategy 2	Encourage, as applicable, the provision of more affordable and available housing for potential medium or higher income residents in the County.	•	•	•	County Administration
Strategy 3	Continue to seek support such as Community Development Block Grants to improve neighborhoods and raise the general quality of Halifax County's housing stock, encouraging rehabilitation or demolition of substandard housing.	•	•	•	County Administration Southside PDC DHCD
Strategy 4	Support programs and initiatives that provide for residential developments of good housing quality, adequate community facilities and promote a good residential environment, as well as encouraging cluster residential developments with open space set asides.	•	•	•	County Administration Southside PDC DHCD
Strategy 5	Encourage innovative and environmentally friendly development design that incorporates vegetative buffers and landscaping, limits the amount of impervious surfaces, and includes effective storm water management alternatives	•	•	•	County Administration Planning Commission Developers
<b>Policy LU2</b>	<b>Commercial: Ensure and promote economic development that compliments Halifax County's image and character, assures employment stability and provides ready access to needed goods and services in the County.</b>				
Strategy 1	Continue to monitor, amend, enforce County ordinances to require property owners to improve and maintain the general appearance of all commercial properties, occupied and vacant alike, as well as controlled by absentee owners.	•	•	•	County Administration

**Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan  
Implementation Matrix**

<b>Land Use and Development</b>		<b>Estimated Timeframe</b>			<b>Implementing Partners</b>	
		<b>In years</b>	<b>1-5</b>	<b>5-10</b>		
Strategy 2	Encourage public and private groups responsible for economic growth within the County and Regional localities, to work to achieve general agreement in the proper planning and timing of commercial development near and adjacent to the urban and urban-like areas, when pursuing economic development and to coincide with the extension of County & Town services and utilities.		●	●	●	Planning Commission County Administration Halifax County IDA Tobacco Commission
Strategy 3	Plan for and provide, where possible, tourist opportunities that will enhance the economic development of the County and the region.		●	●	●	VTC Halifax County Tourism
Strategy 4	Review and analyze development and redevelopment proposals for consistency with current zoning and land use map, as well as future land use maps.		●	●	●	County Administration Planning Commission
<b>Policy LU3</b>	<b>Industrial: Ensure sustainable industrial development in suitable areas in Halifax county, adjacent to its Towns and urban areas, where such activities already occur or can be reasonably accommodated by utility facilities and services.</b>					
Strategy 1	Continue to monitor, amend, enforce County ordinances to require property owners to improve and maintain the general appearance of all industrial properties, occupied and vacant alike, as well as controlled by absentee owners.		●	●	●	Administration Planning & Zoning
Strategy 2	Promote industrial growth at specific sites within and near urban and urban-like areas, considering proximity to labor, resources, transportation network, markets, utilities, and the slope, geology, soil and flooding characteristics of each location.		●	●	●	Planning Commission Halifax County IDA VGA
Strategy 3	Encourage the development of new, planned industrial areas that are compatible with the County's current utility capacity, as well as the future capacity with planned upgrades to water/wastewater facilities.		●	●	●	Planning Commission County Administration Utilities Halifax County IDA

**Halifax County, Virginia 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan  
Implementation Matrix**

<b>Land Use and Development</b>		<b>Estimated Timeframe In years</b>			<b>Implementing Partners</b>
		<b>1-5</b>	<b>5-10</b>	<b>10+</b>	
Strategy 4	Support the Virginia Growth Alliance and Halifax County Industrial Development Authority as they work to attract industrial and economic development to the County.	●	●	●	County Administration VGA Halifax County IDA
<b>Policy LU4</b>	<b>Maintain up to date land development ordinances to ensure effective planning for growth, easy customer use, equitable application, and consistent, defensible administration.</b>				
Strategy 1	Update existing zoning ordinances to address modern land uses and development standards. Ensure clear, consistent provisions. Update regularly.	●	●	●	County Administration Planning & Zoning
Strategy 2	Continuously monitor to ensure accuracy, and enhance accessibility and availability to the public.	●	●	●	Planning & Zoning County Administration
<b>Policy LU5</b>	<b>Provide responsible governmental leadership that furthers the Vision for Halifax County and promotes best practices for achieving the desired outcomes.</b>				
Strategy 1	Maintain good communication with citizens using a variety of outreach methods regarding public facilities and services, community needs, and alternatives for resolution.	●	●	●	County Administration Board of Supervisors Planning Commission
Strategy 2	Consider annual review of the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan by using the Implementation Matrix as an “annual report” tool.	●	●	●	Planning Commission County Administration

## **Appendices List**

**A. Data Sources**

**B. Maps**

**C. Survey  
Results**

## Appendix A

### Data Sources

This appendix contains the source data for charts and tables found in this Plan ( particularly on pages 8 to 17). It also contains some additional data on town populations, education, taxable sales, and housing. All of the data found in this Appendix is derived from the Southside Planning District Commission's publication, *SPDC Data Resource Book 2017* which can be found here: <http://www.southsidepdc.org/index.php/data-census/spdc-data-book>

### Population Decrease (page 8)

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015 Est.
Brunswick	19,575	20,136	17,779	16,172	15,632	15,987	18,419	17,434	16,698
Halifax	41,271	41,442	39,611	36,965	37,692	36,030	37,355	36,241	35,125
Mecklenburg	31,933	33,497	31,428	29,426	29,444	29,241	32,380	32,727	31,081
Southside PDC	92,779	95,075	88,818	82,563	82,768	81,258	88,154	86,402	82,904
Virginia	2,677,773	3,318,680	3,966,949	4,648,494	5,346,812	6,187,358	7,078,515	8,001,024	8,382,993

Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1940-2010

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program 2015

### Aging Population (page 8)

2000, 2010, & 2015

2000	Under 18		18 to 64		65 & Older		Total 2000 Population	Median Age
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total		
Brunswick								
County	3,767	20.50%	11,973	65.00%	2,679	14.50%	18,419	38.1
Halifax County	8,735	23.40%	22,247	59.60%	6,373	17.10%	37,355	40.7
Mecklenburg								
County	6,984	21.60%	19,620	60.60%	5,776	17.80%	32,380	40.9
Southside PDC	88,154	100.00%	53,840	61.10%	14,828	16.80%	88,154	n/a
Virginia	1,738,262	24.60%	4,547,920	64.20%	792,333	11.20%	7,078,515	35.7
US	72,293,812	25.70%	174,136,341	61.90%	34,991,753	12.40%	281,421,906	35.3

2010	Under 18		18 to 64		65 & Older		Total 2010 Population	Median Age
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total		
Brunswick County	3,367	22.40%	11,185	61.10%	2,882	16.50%	17,434	41.3
Halifax County	7,983	24.30%	21,239	56.30%	7,019	19.40%	36,241	44.7
Mecklenburg County	6,376	24.60%	19,567	57.70%	6,784	20.70%	32,727	45.8
Southside PDC	17,726	22.90%	51,991	57.80%	16,685	19.30%	86,402	n/a
Virginia	1,853,677	26.00%	5,170,410	61.70%	976,937	12.20%	8,001,024	37.5
US	74,181,467	27.00%	194,296,087	60.00%	40,267,984	13.00%	308,745,538	37.2

7/2015 Estimate	Under 18		18 to 64		65 & Older		Total 2015 Est.	Median Age
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total		
Brunswick County	2,854	17.10%	10,581	63.40%	3,263	19.50%	16,698	43.5
Halifax County	7,280	20.70%	19,879	56.60%	7,966	22.70%	35,125	45.8
Mecklenburg County	5,864	18.90%	17,626	56.70%	7,591	24.40%	31,081	48.2
Southside PDC	15,998	19.30%	48,086	58.00%	18,820	22.70%	82,904	n/a
Virginia	1,870,422	22.50%	5,324,178	64.20%	1,104,849	13.30%	8,299,449	37.8
US	73,645,111	22.90%	200,012,857	62.20%	47,760,852	14.90%	321,418,820	37.8

U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 2000 & 2010

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program 2015

### Median Ages in Southside Virginia & Northern North Carolina (page 9)

	2000	2010	2015		2000	2010	2015
Alamance County NC	36.3	38.7	39.7	Halifax County VA	40.7	44.7	45.8
Appomattox County VA	39.1	42.8	43	Halifax County NC	37.2	41.7	43.2
Bedford County VA	39.7	44.3	45.8	Henry County VA	39.3	44.7	46.5
Brunswick County	38.1	41.3	43.5	Lunenburg County VA	40.5	43.8	45.4
Campbell County VA	38.3	41.1	42.8	Martinsville City VA	40.8	43.6	43.5
Caswell County NC	38.2	43.6	45.7	Mecklenburg County	40.9	45.8	48.2
Charlotte County VA	40	43.7	44.8	Northampton Co. NC	40	45.5	48.3
Danville City VA	40.5	42.6	41.9	Nottoway County VA	38.6	41.4	41.9
Dinwiddie County VA	38.5	40.7	42.8	Orange County NC	30.4	33.1	33.8
Durham County, NC	32.2	33.2	34.9	Person County NC	38	41.4	43.3
Emporia City VA	38.8	37.9	38.8	Pittsylvania County VA	39.6	44.2	46
Franklin County, VA	39.7	44.1	46.3	Prince Edward Co. VA	31.5	30.9	30.8
Granville County NC	36.2	39.8	42.2	Rockingham County NC	38.5	42.2	44.2
Greensville County VA	38.1	40.9	41.3	Sussex County VA	37.6	40.6	40.5
Guilford County NC	34.9	36.3	37.2	Vance County NC	35	38.6	40.3
				Warren County NC	39.7	44.9	47

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 2000 & 2010, U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program 2015

## Population Projections (page 10)

Race	Halifax County					Virginia				
	White	Black	Asian	Other	Total	White	Black	Asian	Other	Total
2000	22,531	14,204	91	529	37,355	5,120,110	1,390,293	261,025	307,087	7,078,515
	60.3%	38.0%	0.2%	1.4%	100.0%	72.3%	19.6%	3.7%	4.3%	100.0%
2010	22,011	13,293	133	804	36,241	5,486,852	1,551,399	439,890	522,883	8,001,024
	60.7%	36.7%	0.4%	2.2%	100.0%	68.6%	19.4%	5.5%	6.5%	100.0%
2020	21,236	13,156	197	1,180	35,770	5,755,170	1,678,122	605,360	772,825	8,811,512
	59.4%	36.8%	0.6%	3.3%	100.0%	65.3%	19.0%	6.9%	8.8%	100.0%
2030	20,388	12,956	274	1,872	35,489	5,978,914	1,766,810	790,250	1,109,307	9,645,281
	57.4%	36.5%	0.8%	5.3%	100.0%	62.0%	18.3%	8.2%	11.5%	100.0%
2040	19,400	12,486	401	2,993	35,281	6,167,568	1,820,482	1,014,116	1,528,062	10,530,228
	55.0%	35.4%	1.1%	8.5%	100.0%	58.6%	17.3%	9.6%	14.5%	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau (2000 & 2010 Population), Weldon Cooper Center (projections)

## Gender (page 10)

	Under 18		18 to 64		65 & Up		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Male	4,025	50.4%	10,414	49.0%	2,835	40.4%	17,274	47.7%
Female	3,958	49.6%	10,825	51.0%	4,184	59.6%	18,967	52.3%
Total	7,983	100%	21,239	100%	7,019	100%	36,241	100%

Source: US Census, 2010 Decennial Census

## Farm Data 1969-2012 (page 11, 12, & 13)

Year	# Farms Reported	Farms			Farm Value	
		Land in Farms (acres)	Average Farm Size (Acres)	% of County as Farmland	Avg Value of Land & Buildings Per Farm	Per Acre
1969	2,362	327,899	138.8	62.65%	\$25,482	184
1974	1,873	265,296	142	50.69%	\$45,664	322
1978	1,750	263,083	150	50.26%	\$71,181	489
1982	1,652	256,344	155	48.98%	\$101,131	680
1987	1,252	242,244	193	46.28%	\$122,298	594
1992	1,042	232,852	223	44.49%	\$180,038	827
1997	940	227,816	242	43.52%	\$253,465	1,015
2002	905	221,684	245	42.35%	\$384,446	1,588
2007	908	193,683	213	37.00%	\$590,848	2,770
2012	935	211,593	226	40.43%	\$520,118	2,298

Year	1969-1992: Farms by SIC Type (1969-74: Only Class 1-5 1978+: All farms) / 1997-2012 Farms by NAIC Type																
	Cash-Grain / Oilsseed & Grain	Tobacco	Hay & Other Field Crop	Veg. & Melons	Fruit & Tree Nut	Horticultural Specialty/ Greenhouse or Nursery	Poultry	Dairy	Beef	Cattle Feedlots	Hog & Pigs	Sheep & Goats	Animal Specialty / Aquaculture & Other Animal Prod.	Livestock - Other	General Crop	General-Primarily Livestock	Misc. Farms
1969	13	1468	2	0	2	0	8	24						45	13	14	24
1974	39	1372	10	0	3	0	6	16					1	49	8	2	9
1978	73	1420	15	9	1	3	5	13	132				2	56	14	7	
1982	133	1153	21	11	2	3	6	14	189				7	71	30	12	
1987	57	793	26	8	4	1	6	7	241				12	48	42	7	
1992	40	627	37	12	6	4	2	9	240				8	33	18	6	
1997	42	484	77	9	3	5	3	9	275	6	7	1	19				
2002	40	277	170	10	5	10	8	8	293	16	9	5	54				
2007	37	73	327	25	21	8	9	10	293	15	18	7	65				
2012	37	73	368	33	14	15	19	1	297	6	9	23	40				

Year	Irrigated Land		Cropland (reported)				Woodland (reported) incl. woodland pasture	
	# Farms that irrigate Reported	Acres irrigated	# Farms Reporting cropland	Total Cropland	# Farms Reporting Harvested Crps	Harvested Cropland	# Farms reporting woodland	Woodland
1969	227	1,766	2,313	115,882	2,189	41,728	1742	162,611
1974	153	1,557	1,852	101,333	1,800	43,291	1253	119,401
1978	154	1,521	1,739	101,506	1,705	45,067	1216	130,807
1982	69	817	1,627	95,751	1,558	47,560	1143	127,989
1987	257	2,992	1,223	95,535	1,127	37,355	876	113,646
1992	146	2,482	1,016	95,381	937	36,971	754	105,998
1997	178	3,990	908	92,098	818	37,960	688	104,222
2002	126	2,617	834	89,044	684	34,281	706	91,361
2007	59	1,549	777	70,640	566	37,974	670	79,448
2012	85	2,152	821	61,485	634	41,568	715	94,322

Year	Tobacco			Farm Sales		Farm by Type of Organization (1969-74: Only Class 1-5, 1978+: All farms)					
	# Farms reporting tobacco	Acres of Tobacco	Pounds of Tobacco	Avg. Total Sales per Farm (Market)	Total Sales	Individual or Family	Partnerships	Corporation Family	Corporation Other	Other	
1969	1,872	9,882	16,841,470	\$6,130	\$14,479,904	1327	233	39		14	
1974	1,508	10,432	18,446,187	\$12,743	\$23,867,000	1367	139	7		2	
1978	1,439	11,601	21,130,701	\$17,994	\$31,489,000	1486	229	26	5	4	
1982	1,192	9,448	17,753,206	\$21,050	\$34,774,000	1437	190	11	1	13	
1987	843	6,746	11,478,971	\$17,658	\$22,107,000	1083	147	10	2	10	
1992	651	8,388	16,901,418	\$32,047	\$33,393,000	940	89	9	0	4	
1997	516	9,034	19,196,993	\$42,743	\$40,179,000	836	86	9	3	6	
2002	309	4,524	9,359,544	\$30,635	\$27,724,000	829	65	7	0	4	
2007	85	2,482	4,883,392	\$32,227	\$29,262,000	812	75	18	0	3	
2012	79	3,785	7,191,678	\$39,065	\$36,526,000	823	73	34	0	5	

The three tables above are all sourced from the Census of Agriculture, published by the US Department of Agriculture.

#### Employment by Industry, Third Quarter of 2016 (page 14)

Industry	Establishments	Employs	Total Wages	Avg Weekly Wage
Health Care and Social Assistance	343	2,052	\$88,811,820	\$832
Manufacturing	37	1,891	\$85,872,570	\$873
Educational Services	10	1,348	\$42,215,606	\$602
Retail Trade	118	1,287	\$29,384,115	\$439
Accommodation and Food Services	61	948	\$11,990,797	\$243
Transportation and Warehousing	38	942	\$38,810,008	\$792
Public Administration	35	667	\$24,053,729	\$694
Construction	70	633	\$25,281,697	\$768
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	31	420	\$7,799,466	\$357
Other Services (except Public Administration)	89	344	\$8,444,755	\$472
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14	336	\$5,141,240	\$294
Wholesale Trade	24	316	\$11,784,736	\$717
Finance and Insurance	43	208	\$8,431,385	\$780
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	45	183	\$8,418,904	\$885
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	19	123	\$5,012,182	\$784
Information	12	90	\$3,908,107	\$835
Management of Companies and Enterprises	7	54	\$2,630,557	\$937
Unclassified establishments	12	12	\$351,595	\$563
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	17		Confidential	
Utilities	4		Confidential	
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1		Confidential	
Total, All Industries	1,027	12,148	\$429,268,868	\$680

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed from Virginia Employment Commission

**Unemployment Rates and Labor Force 1990-2016 (page 14 – both charts))**

HALIFAX COUNTY				
Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
				Halifax
1990	18,230	16,813	1,417	7.80%
1991	18,678	17,043	1,635	8.80%
1992	19,088	17,485	1,603	8.40%
1993	18,867	17,536	1,331	7.10%
1994	18,232	17,027	1,205	6.60%
1995	18,249	16,869	1,380	7.60%
1996	18,191	16,130	2,061	11.30%
1997	18,252	16,191	2,061	11.30%
1998	17,950	16,644	1,306	7.30%
1999	18,403	17,242	1,161	6.30%
2000	16,209	15,392	817	5%
2001	16,725	15,500	1,225	7.30%
2002	16,758	15,035	1,723	10.30%
2003	16,239	14,583	1,656	10%
2004	15,502	14,289	1,213	7.80%
2005	15,792	14,818	974	6.20%
2006	15,763	14,834	929	5.90%
2007	15,403	14,422	981	6.40%
2008	15,745	14,667	1,078	6.80%
2009	16,531	14,668	1,863	11.30%
2010	16,686	14,651	2,035	12.20%
2011	16,361	14,564	1,797	11.00%
2012	16,051	14,528	1,523	9.50%
2013	15,856	14,407	1,449	9.10%
2014	15,569	14,352	1,217	7.80%
2015	15,181	14,215	966	6.40%
2016	14,904	14,042	862	5.80%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed from Virginia Employment Commission

## Travel and Tourism (page 16)

Travel Impacts by Counties of the Southside Planning District (2012-2015)							
2015	Expenditures	Payroll	Employed	State Tax Receipts	Local Tax Receipts	Lodging Excise Tax	Food Service Excise Tax
Brunswick	\$37,629,128	\$7,893,709	428	\$1,756,433	\$829,598	\$21,067	\$0
Halifax	\$46,190,611	\$10,036,590	552	\$1,758,580	\$862,443	\$401,227	\$1,594,295
Mecklenburg	\$130,943,181	\$26,479,622	1,394	\$6,143,212	\$3,835,948	\$467,944	\$1,753,774
SPDC	\$214,762,920	\$44,409,921	2,374	\$9,658,225	\$5,527,989	\$890,238	\$3,348,069
2014	Expenditures	Payroll	Employed	Receipts	Receipts	Excise Tax	Service
Brunswick	\$37,004,619	\$7,578,108	419	\$1,667,478	\$789,825	\$17,531	\$0
Halifax	\$45,441,092	\$9,638,936	541	\$1,670,144	\$821,405	\$351,588	\$1,415,419
Mecklenburg	\$127,179,177	\$25,106,882	1,348	\$5,760,039	\$3,606,927	\$407,682	\$1,607,922
SPDC	\$209,624,888	\$42,323,926	2,308	\$9,097,661	\$5,218,157	\$776,801	\$3,023,341
2013	Expenditures	Payroll	Employed	Receipts	Receipts	Excise Tax	Service
Brunswick	\$36,388,445	\$7,509,863	420	\$1,638,757	\$790,965	\$16,965	\$0
Halifax	\$43,020,865	\$9,205,856	525	\$1,608,292	\$791,965	\$345,260	\$1,398,043
Mecklenburg	\$120,592,010	\$23,906,785	1,303	\$5,450,401	\$3,483,039	\$331,267	\$1,521,465
SPDC	\$200,001,320	\$40,622,504	2,248	\$8,697,450	\$5,065,969	\$693,492	\$2,919,508
2012	Expenditures	Payroll	Employed	Receipts	Receipts	Excise Tax	Service
Brunswick	\$36,530,983	\$7,402,894	422	\$1,652,810	\$782,662	\$19,185	\$0
Halifax	\$42,353,096	\$8,851,159	516	\$1,587,235	\$768,478	\$326,472	\$1,165,593
Mecklenburg	\$115,666,525	\$22,394,445	1,250	\$5,252,542	\$3,292,811	\$363,838	\$1,457,804
SPDC	\$194,550,604	\$38,648,498	2,188	\$8,492,587	\$4,843,950	\$709,495	\$2,623,397

Travel Expenditures by County (2003-2008)						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Brunswick	\$29,856,924	\$31,929,652	\$33,447,017	\$34,970,844	\$36,857,606	\$37,968,038
Halifax	27,239,343	29,980,257	32,700,020	34,483,979	35,397,873	34,112,766
Mecklenburg	82,721,038	88,099,561	94,778,385	98,388,335	104,745,373	104,275,545
SPDC	139,817,305	150,009,471	160,925,422	167,843,158	177,000,852	176,356,349
Virginia	13,890,037,000	15,035,271,720	16,479,678,399	17,664,097,921	18,691,444,384	19,220,441,022

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation

<b>Travel Expenditures by County (2009-2015)</b>							
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Brunswick	\$33,526,388	\$34,061,597	\$35,666,895	\$36,530,983	\$36,388,445	\$37,004,619	\$37,629,128
Halifax	34,592,410	38,125,365	41,118,305	42,353,096	43,020,865	45,441,092	\$46,190,611
Mecklenburg	97,698,268	103,666,392	112,037,314	115,666,525	120,592,010	127,179,177	\$130,943,181
SPDC	165,817,066	175,853,354	188,822,514	194,550,604	200,001,320	209,624,888	214,762,920
Virginia	17,705,100,000	18,893,241,576	20,405,440,787	21,214,032,087	21,511,976,919	22,400,425,285	

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation

### Income and Poverty (page 16)

County	Pop. Below Poverty Level	Percent Below Poverty Level
Halifax County	6,675	19.20%
under 18 years	1,904	25.50%
with related children <18 yrs	1,866	25.20%
18-64 years	3,677	18.30%
65 years & older	1,094	15.10%
Virginia	921,822	11.50%
under 18 years	280,144	15.20%
with related children <18 yrs	273,606	14.90%
18-64 years	560,471	11.00%
65 years & older	81,207	7.60%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015

Census 2000	Per Capita Income			Median Household Income			Mean Household Income		
	Income	% VA	% US	Income	% VA	% US	Income	% VA	% US
<b>Brunswick County</b>	\$14,890	62.10%	69.00%	\$31,288	67.00%	74.50%	\$40,278	67.30%	71.20%
<b>Halifax County</b>	16,353	68.20%	75.80%	29,929	64.10%	71.30%	39,475	66.00%	69.70%
<b>Mecklenburg County</b>	17,171	71.60%	79.50%	31,380	67.20%	74.70%	40,939	68.40%	72.30%
<b>Virginia</b>	23,975		111.10%	46,677		111.20%	59,822		105.70%
<b>US</b>	21,587			41,994			56,604		

ACS 5 Year Average 2010-2015	Per Capita Income			Median Household Income		
	Income	% VA	% US	Income	% VA	% US
<b>Brunswick County</b>	\$18,245	53.42%	63.07%	\$36,919	68.51%	68.51%
<b>Halifax County</b>	19,782	57.90%	68.40%	35,240	54.20%	65.40%
<b>Mecklenburg County</b>	20,618	60.40%	71.30%	37,356	57.50%	69.30%
<b>Virginia</b>	34,152		118.10%	65,015		120.60%
<b>US</b>	28,930			53,889		

Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census 2000 (SF3 Sample Data) and US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2010-2015

## Average Weekly Wage by Industry (page 17)

2016 Average Wage by Industry	Virginia	Halifax County
Total, All Industries	\$1,055	\$680
Accommodation & Food Svcs	357	243
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgt	766	357
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	635	784
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	495	294
Construction	1027	768
Educational Services	847	602
Finance and Insurance	1702	780
Health Care and Social Assistance	936	832
Information	1783	835
Management of Companies & Enterprises	2206	937
Manufacturing	1103	873
Other Services (exc Public Admin)	807	472
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Svcs	1929	885
Public Administration	1446	694
Retail Trade	545	439
Transportation and Warehousing	983	792
Unclassified establishments	883	563
Wholesale Trade	1473	717

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed from Virginia Employment Commission

## Population of Halifax County's Towns

	1990	2000	2010	2015 Est.
Halifax County	36,030	37,355	36,241	35,125
South Boston	6,997	8,491	8,142	7,976
Halifax	688	1,389	1,309	1,249
Scottsburg	152	145	119	132
Virgilina	161	159	154	143

Source: US. Census Bureau, Decennial Census 1990, 2000, & 2010

US. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table S1501

## Educational Attainment

	2011-2015							
	Brunswick		Halifax		Mecklenburg		Virginia	
Population 18 to 24	1,817	100.00%	2,669	100.00%	2,356	100.00%	825,589	100.00%
Less than high school graduate	382	21.00%	417	15.60%	441	18.70%	90,470	11.00%
High school graduate (or equivalency)	537	29.60%	929	34.80%	996	42.30%	251,354	30.40%
Some college or associate's degree	821	45.20%	1,135	42.50%	839	35.60%	384,635	46.60%
Bachelor's degree or higher	77	4.20%	188	7.00%	80	3.40%	99,130	12.00%
Population 25 years and older	12,080	100.00%	25,321	100.00%	23,117	100.00%	5,566,373	100.00%
Less than 9th grade	993	8.20%	1,945	7.70%	2,157	9.30%	265,432	4.80%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,915	15.90%	3,177	12.50%	2,733	11.80%	383,502	6.90%
High school graduate (or equivalency)	4,312	35.70%	9,241	36.50%	7,509	32.50%	1,381,751	24.80%
Some college, no degree	2,363	19.60%	5,143	20.30%	5,257	22.70%	1,109,861	19.90%
Associate's degree	913	7.60%	1,896	7.50%	1,853	8.00%	403,610	7.30%
Bachelor's degree	906	7.50%	2,569	10.10%	2,267	9.80%	1,167,357	21.00%
Graduate or professional degree	678	5.60%	1,350	5.30%	1,341	5.80%	854,860	15.40%
Percent high school graduate or higher	75.90%		79.80%		78.80%		88.30%	
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	13.10%		15.50%		15.60%		36.30%	

Source: US. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table S1501

## Housing

Subject		
	Estimate	Percent
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
<b>Total housing units</b>	<b>18,057</b>	<b>18,057</b>
Occupied housing units	14,300	79.2%
Vacant housing units	3,757	20.8%
Homeowner vacancy rate	0.7	(X)
Rental vacancy rate	0.8	(X)
UNITS IN STRUCTURE		
Total housing units	18,057	18,057
1-unit, detached	13,456	74.5%
1-unit, attached	106	0.6%
2 units	199	1.1%
3 or 4 units	190	1.1%
5 to 9 units	353	2.0%
10 to 19 units	129	0.7%
20 or more units	246	1.4%
Mobile home	3,378	18.7%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0	0.0%
YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT		
Total housing units	18,057	18,057
Built 2014 or later	13	0.1%
Built 2010 to 2013	104	0.6%
Built 2000 to 2009	1,778	9.8%
Built 1990 to 1999	3,174	17.6%
Built 1980 to 1989	2,010	11.1%
Built 1970 to 1979	2,891	16.0%
Built 1960 to 1969	2,659	14.7%
Built 1950 to 1959	1,813	10.0%
Built 1940 to 1949	974	5.4%
Built 1939 or earlier	2,641	14.6%

## Housing (continued)

Subject		
	Estimate	Percent
ROOMS		
Total housing units	18,057	18,057
1 room	154	0.9%
2 rooms	241	1.3%
3 rooms	583	3.2%
4 rooms	2,669	14.8%
5 rooms	5,131	28.4%
6 rooms	4,089	22.6%
7 rooms	2,038	11.3%
8 rooms	1,550	8.6%
9 rooms or more	1,602	8.9%
Median rooms	5.6	(X)
BEDROOMS		
Total housing units	18,057	18,057
No bedroom	163	0.9%
1 bedroom	936	5.2%
2 bedrooms	4,382	24.3%
3 bedrooms	9,652	53.5%
4 bedrooms	2,331	12.9%
5 or more bedrooms	593	3.3%
HOUSING TENURE		
Occupied housing units	14,300	14,300
Owner-occupied	10,344	72.3%
Renter-occupied	3,956	27.7%
Average household size of	2.42	(X)
Average household size of renter-	2.45	(X)
YEAR HOUSEHOLDER MOVED		
Occupied housing units	14,300	14,300
Moved in 2015 or later	96	0.7%
Moved in 2010 to 2014	2,588	18.1%
Moved in 2000 to 2009	4,062	28.4%
Moved in 1990 to 1999	3,506	24.5%
Moved in 1980 to 1989	1,262	8.8%
Moved in 1979 and earlier	2,786	19.5%

## Housing (continued)

Subject		
	Estimate	Percent
VEHICLES AVAILABLE		
Occupied housing units	14,300	14,300
No vehicles available	1,299	9.1%
1 vehicle available	3,851	26.9%
2 vehicles available	4,507	31.5%
3 or more vehicles available	4,643	32.5%
HOUSE HEATING FUEL		
Occupied housing units	14,300	14,300
Utility gas	231	1.6%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	2,397	16.8%
Electricity	8,011	56.0%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	2,215	15.5%
Coal or coke	6	0.0%
Wood	1,300	9.1%
Solar energy	31	0.2%
Other fuel	18	0.1%
No fuel used	91	0.6%
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS		
Occupied housing units	14,300	14,300
Lacking complete plumbing	101	0.7%
Lacking complete kitchen	86	0.6%
No telephone service available	342	2.4%
OCCUPANTS PER ROOM		
Occupied housing units	14,300	14,300
1.00 or less	14,127	98.8%
1.01 to 1.50	132	0.9%
1.51 or more	41	0.3%
VALUE		
Owner-occupied units	10,344	10,344
Less than \$50,000	1,722	16.6%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	3,253	31.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,013	19.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1,378	13.3%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	1,163	11.2%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	633	6.1%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	173	1.7%
\$1,000,000 or more	9	0.1%

## Housing (continued)

Subject		
	Estimate	Percent
<b>MORTGAGE STATUS</b>		
Owner-occupied units	10,344	10,344
Housing units with a mortgage	4,845	46.8%
Housing units without a mortgage	5,499	53.2%
<b>SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER</b>		
Housing units with a mortgage	4,845	4,845
Less than \$500	304	6.3%
\$500 to \$999	2,061	42.5%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	1,414	29.2%
\$1,500 to \$1,999	710	14.7%
\$2,000 to \$2,499	210	4.3%
\$2,500 to \$2,999	83	1.7%
\$3,000 or more	63	1.3%
Median (dollars)	1,018	(X)
Housing units without a mortgage	5,499	5,499
Less than \$250	1,996	36.3%
\$250 to \$399	2,115	38.5%
\$400 to \$599	1,050	19.1%
\$600 to \$799	194	3.5%
\$800 to \$999	104	1.9%
\$1,000 or more	40	0.7%
Median (dollars)	297	(X)
<b>SELECTED MONTHLY OWNER</b>		
Housing units with a mortgage	4,772	4,772
Less than 20.0 percent	2,106	44.1%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	705	14.8%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	407	8.5%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	355	7.4%
35.0 percent or more	1,199	25.1%

## Housing (continued)

Subject		
	Estimate	Percent
Housing unit without a mortgage	5,391	5,391
Less than 10.0 percent	2,329	43.2%
10.0 to 14.9 percent	993	18.4%
15.0 to 19.9 percent	589	10.9%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	408	7.6%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	319	5.9%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	173	3.2%
35.0 percent or more	580	10.8%
Not computed	108	(X)
<b>GROSS RENT</b>		
Occupied units paying rent	3,007	3,007
Less than \$500	1,028	34.2%
\$500 to \$999	1,793	59.6%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	115	3.8%
\$1,500 to \$1,999	71	2.4%
\$2,000 to \$2,499	0	0.0%
\$2,500 to \$2,999	0	0.0%
\$3,000 or more	0	0.0%
Median (dollars)	549	(X)
No rent paid	949	(X)
<b>GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE</b>		
Occupied units paying rent	2,926	2,926
Less than 15.0 percent	451	15.4%
15.0 to 19.9 percent	287	9.8%
20.0 to 24.9 percent	353	12.1%
25.0 to 29.9 percent	297	10.2%
30.0 to 34.9 percent	220	7.5%
35.0 percent or more	1,318	45.0%

Source (all housing tables): US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2011-2015, Table DP04

## Taxable Sales by Year

Year	Brunswick County	Halifax County	Mecklenburg County	Southside PDC
1984	32,907,100	58,244,900	121,257,000	212,409,000
1985	34,363,700	63,899,500	123,662,000	221,925,200
1986	36,138,200	73,695,400	146,569,000	256,402,600
1987	37,712,100	79,575,500	140,440,000	257,727,600
1988	42,342,000	87,469,700	146,834,000	276,645,700
1989	41,498,300	95,990,000	156,371,000	293,859,300
1990	43,435,800	109,139,000	162,472,000	315,046,800
1991	40,874,600	109,162,000	156,912,000	306,948,600
1992	43,015,800	120,244,000	168,186,000	331,445,800
1993	43,623,400	127,846,000	188,111,000	359,580,400
1994	43,170,400	138,801,000	195,623,000	377,594,400
1995	44,058,500	174,128,000	206,053,000	424,239,500
1996	46,307,600	201,748,000	217,959,000	466,014,600
1997	50,926,300	205,803,000	226,374,000	483,103,300
1998	54,177,200	217,616,000	235,849,000	507,642,200
1999	54,231,900	215,488,000	240,733,000	510,452,900
2000	53,360,100	235,898,000	251,531,000	540,789,100
2001	52,581,000	230,766,000	247,073,000	530,420,000
2002	51,267,600	231,723,000	249,384,000	532,374,600
2003	52,385,800	236,458,000	250,361,000	539,204,800
2004	55,642,000	252,474,000	267,193,000	575,309,000
2005	54,584,700	245,801,000	262,221,000	562,606,700
2006	57,440,100	272,093,000	299,252,000	628,785,100
2007	61,351,000	276,044,000	324,611,000	662,006,000
2008	59,572,900	276,640,000	317,120,000	653,332,900
2009	53,669,600	270,521,000	298,261,000	622,451,600
2010	53,096,200	271,955,000	296,191,000	621,242,200
2011	55,527,500	279,340,000	310,766,000	645,633,500
2012	60,344,752	287,053,901	316,157,291	663,555,944
2013	60,095,391	290,389,956	325,321,736	675,807,083
2014	71,518,269	296,502,814	340,440,711	708,461,794
2015	66,583,183	304,313,163	494,498,439	865,394,785

Source: Va. Dept. of Taxation, published by Weldon Cooper Center

## Appendix B – Maps

### Current and Future Land Use Maps:

Overview Map

Clover

Cluster Springs

Four Forks

Scottsburg

Virgilina

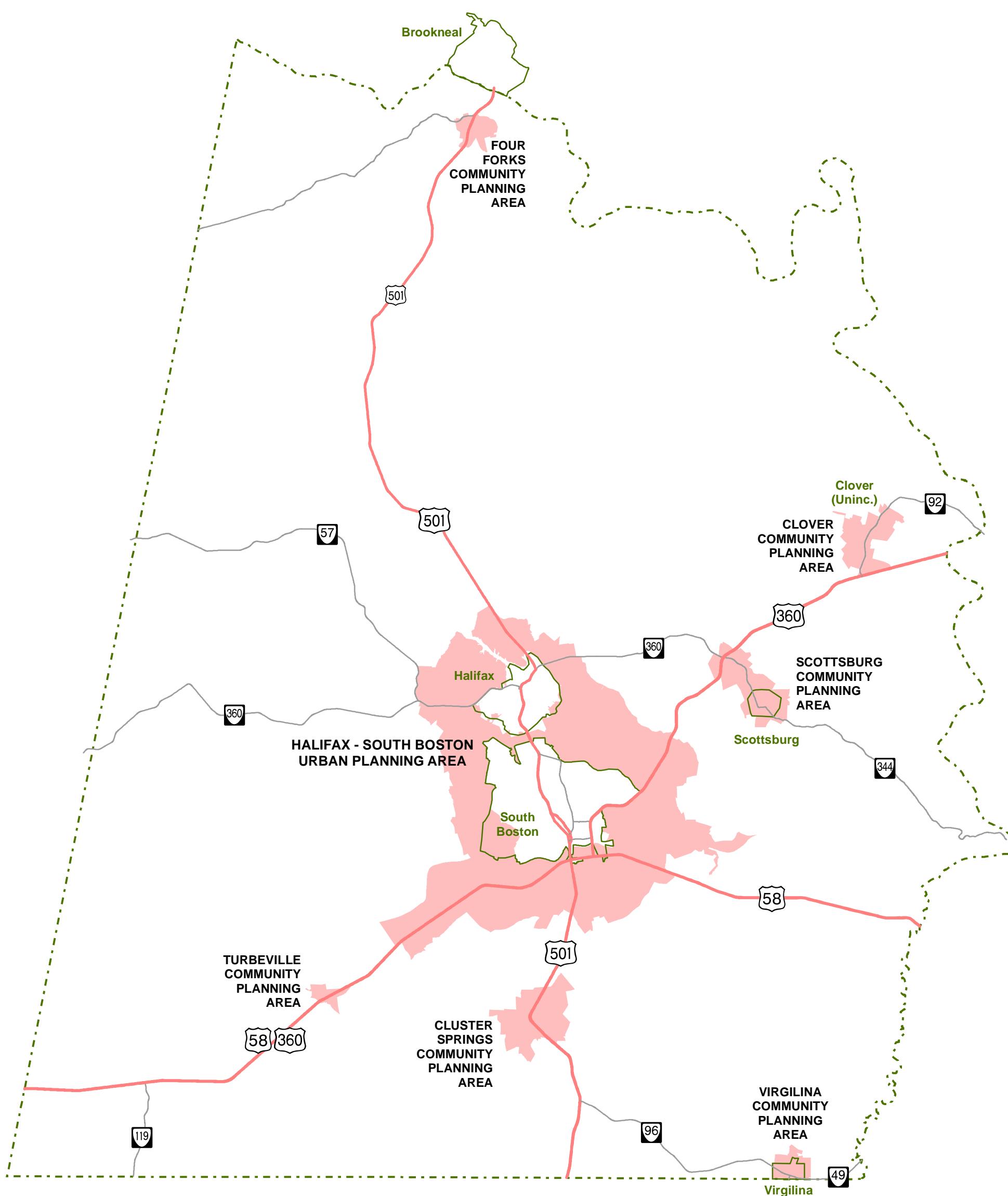
Turbeville

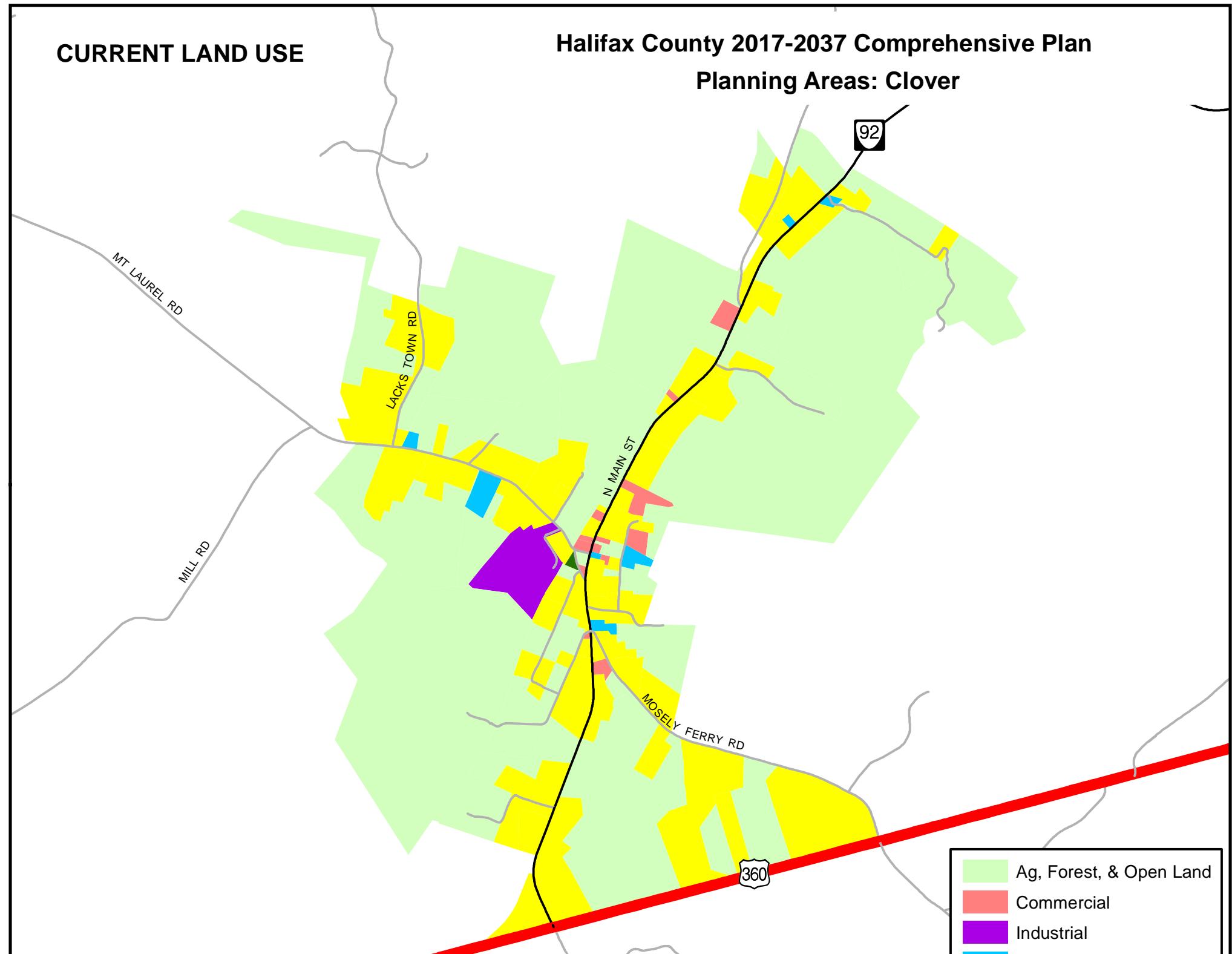
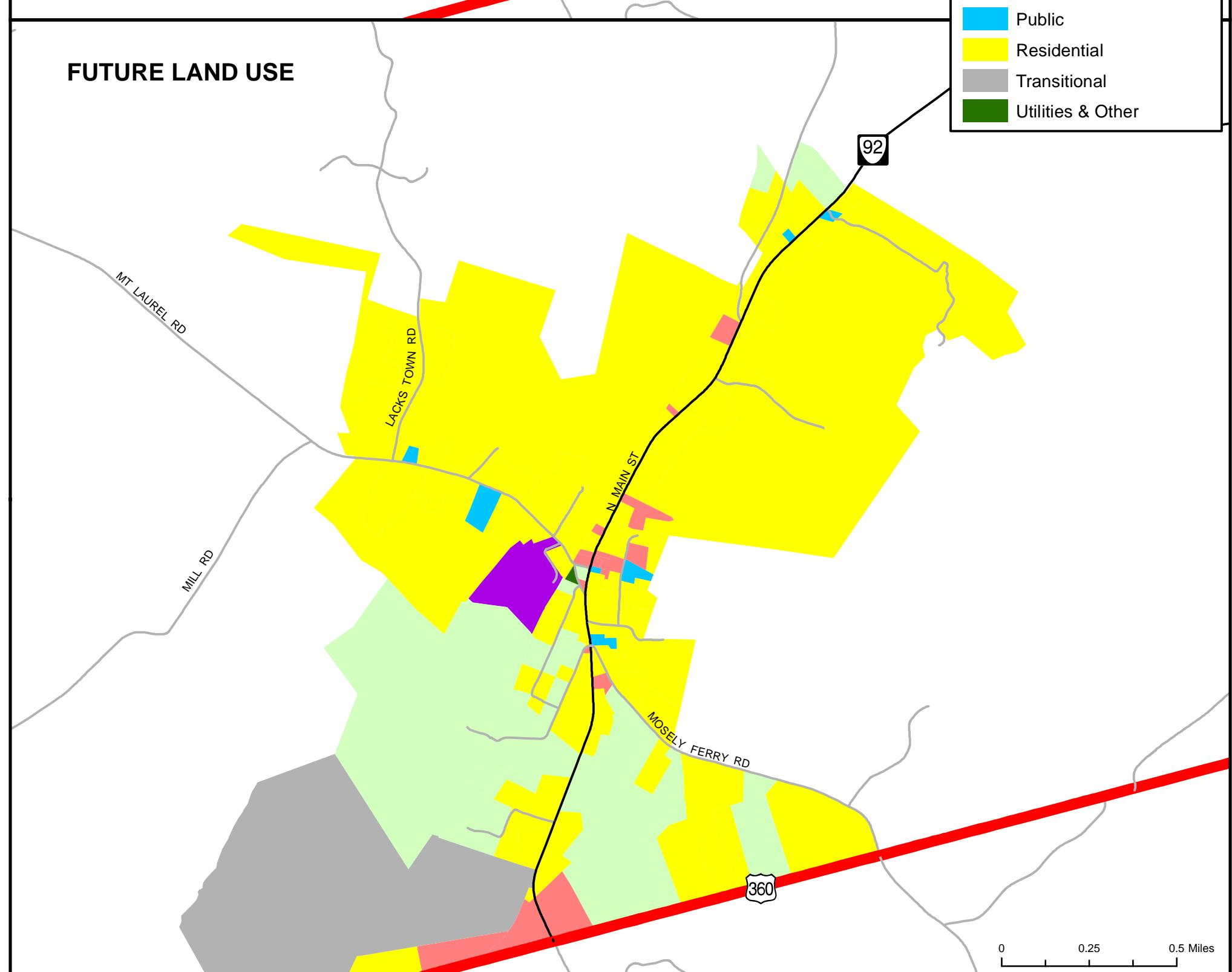
Urban Planning Area  
*(Halifax & South Boston)*

### Community Facilities Map

Halifax County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan

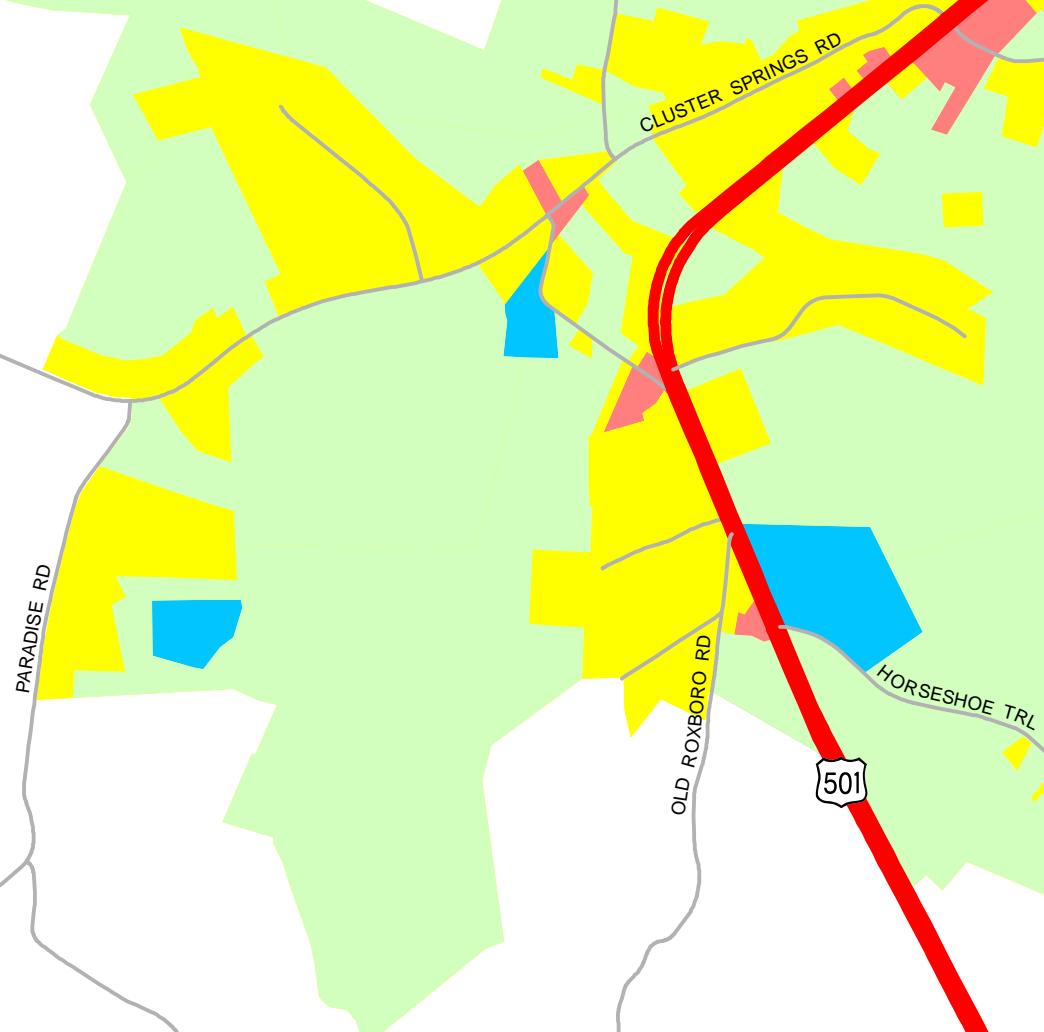
Planning Areas



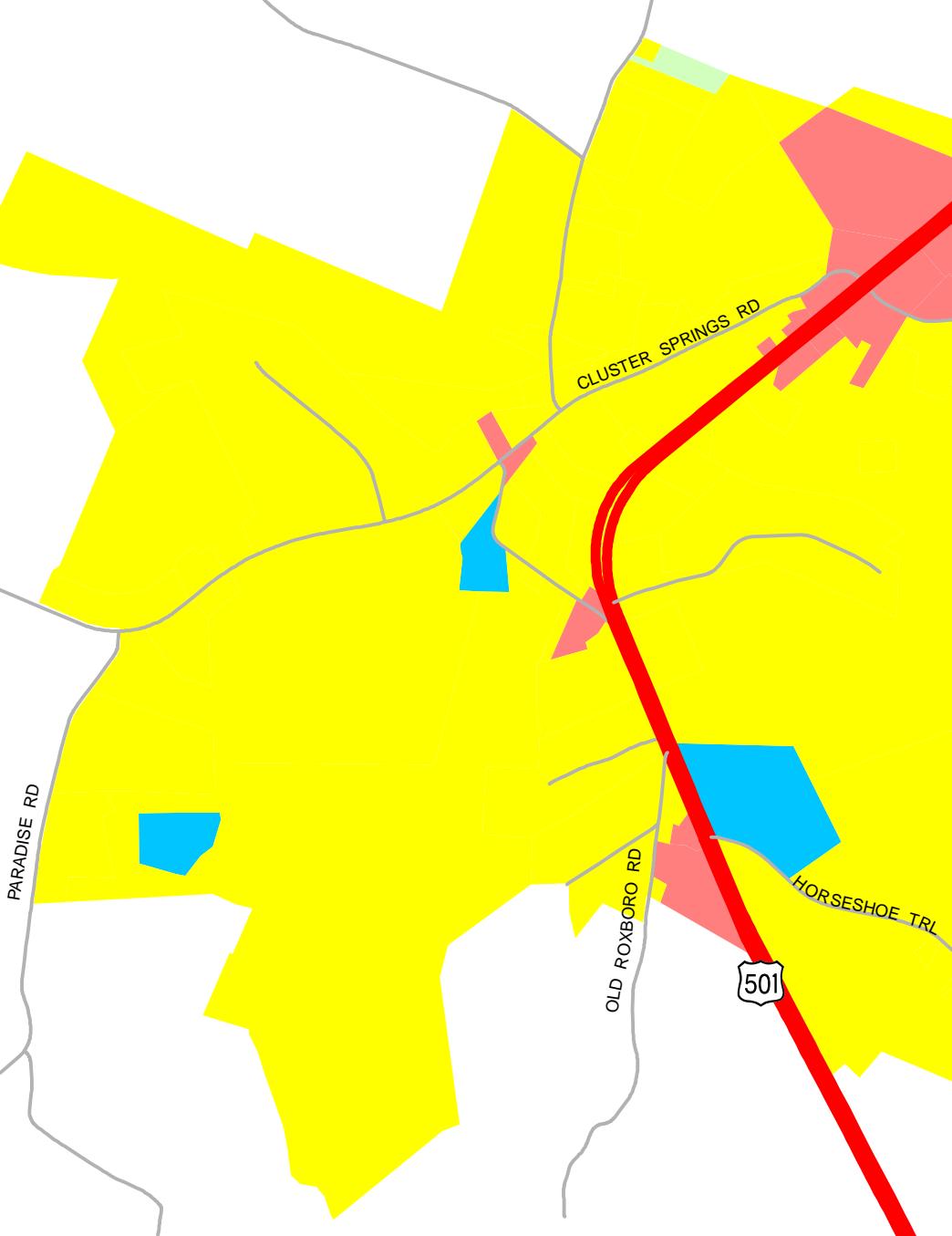
**CURRENT LAND USE****Halifax County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan****Planning Areas: Clover****FUTURE LAND USE**

**CURRENT LAND USE****Halifax County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan****Planning Areas: Cluster Springs**

N



- Ag, Forest, & Open Land
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Public
- Residential
- Transitional
- Utilities & Other

**FUTURE LAND USE**

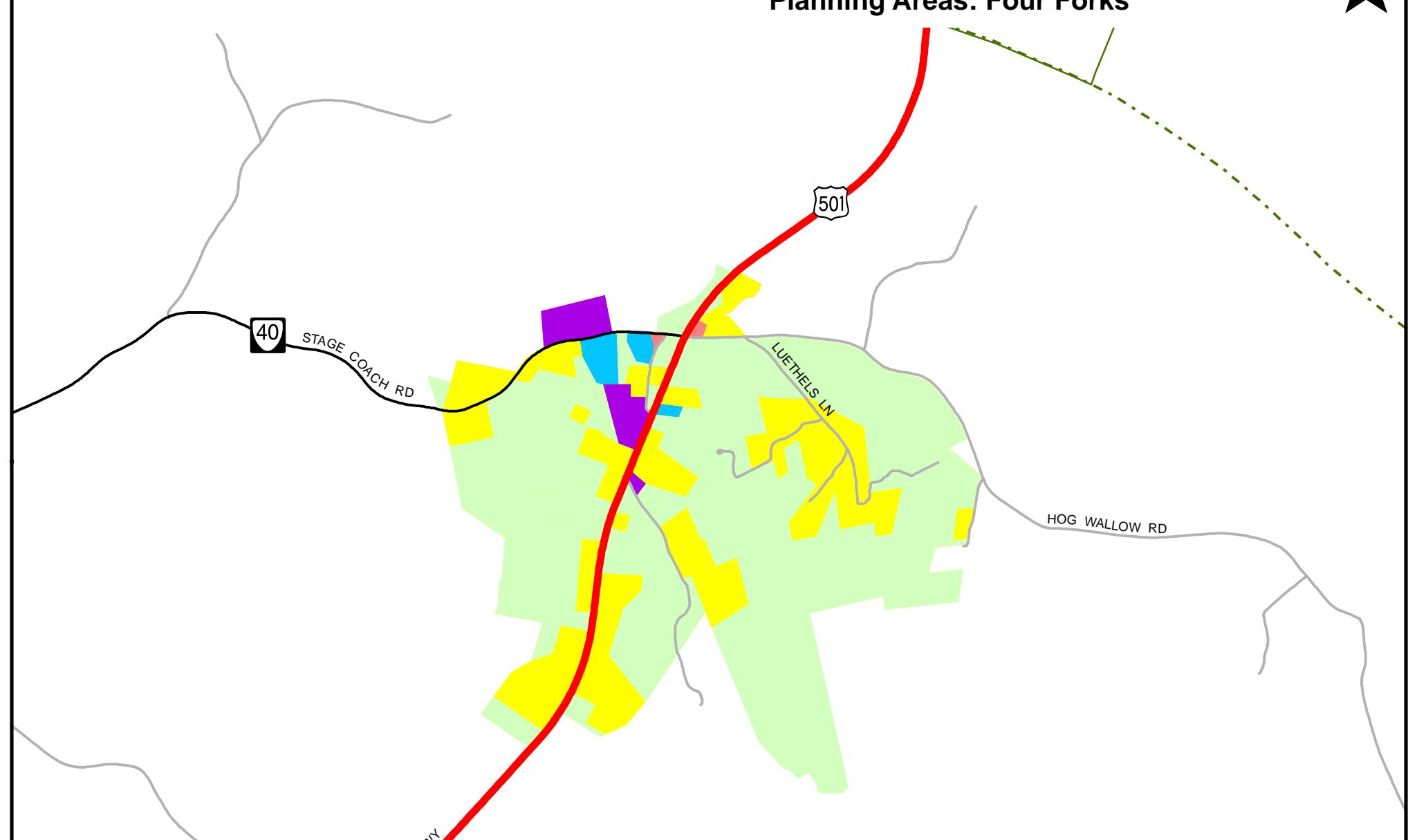
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# Halifax County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan

## Planning Areas: Four Forks

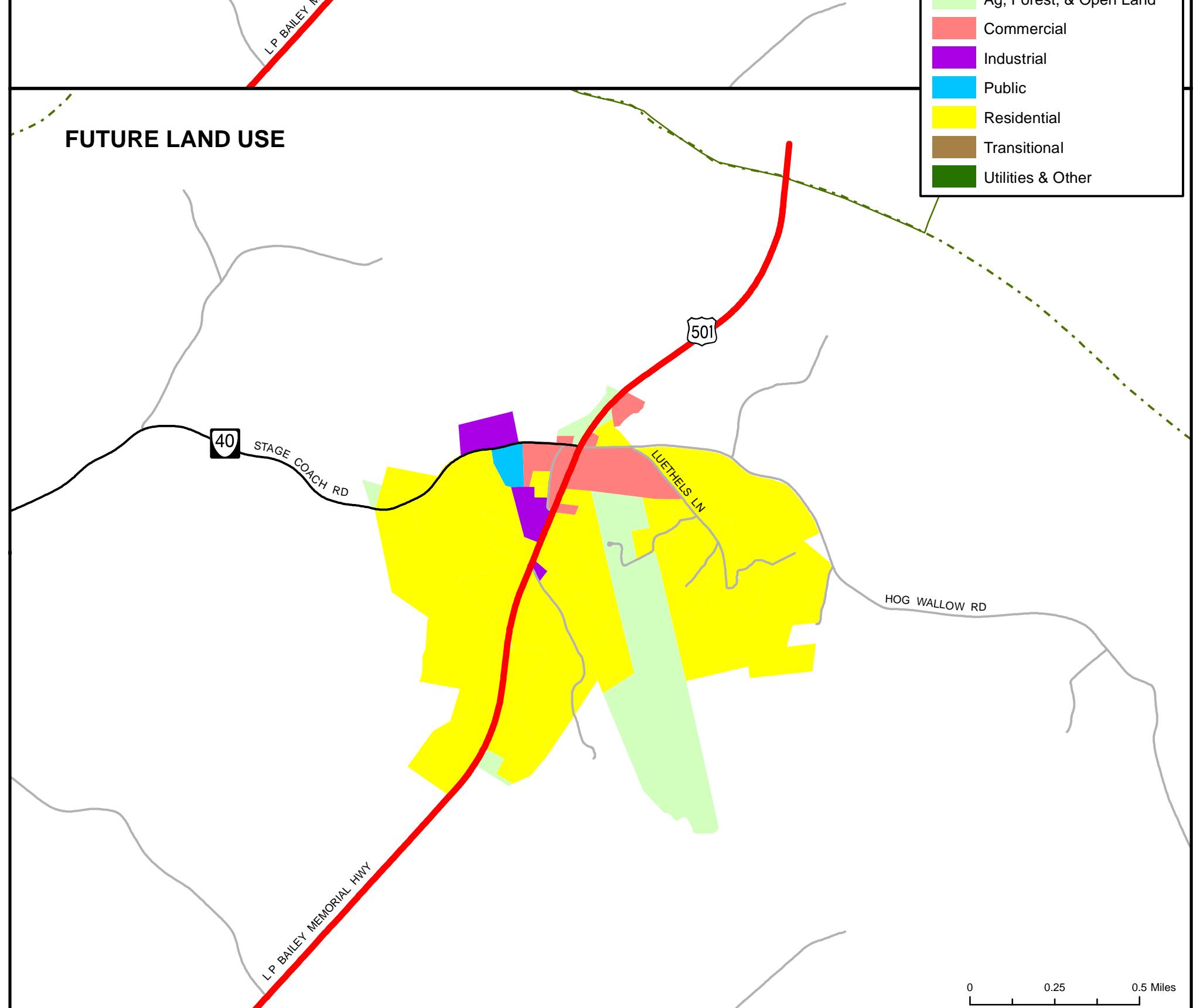
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### CURRENT LAND USE



- Ag, Forest, & Open Land
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Public
- Residential
- Transitional
- Utilities & Other

### FUTURE LAND USE



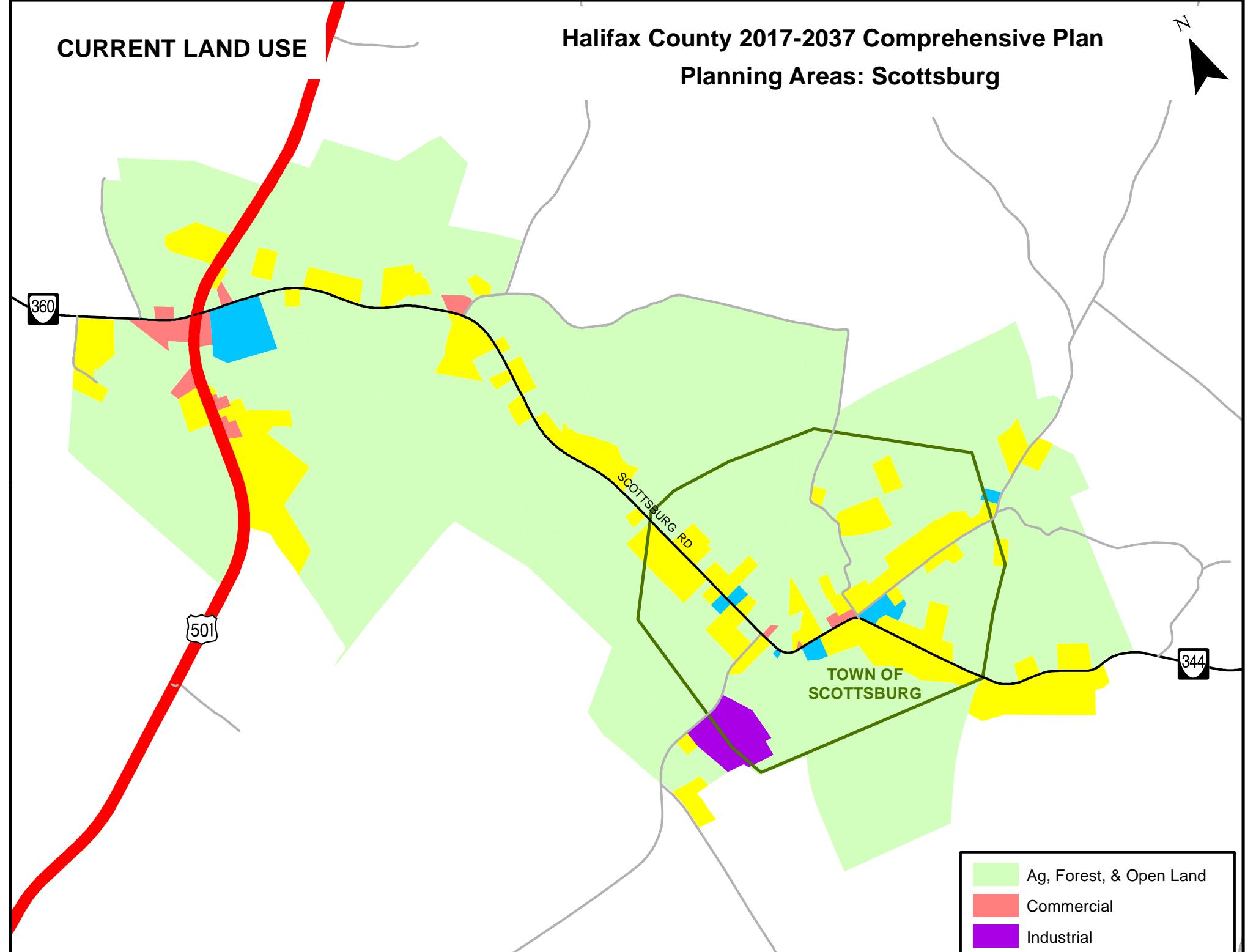
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# Halifax County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan

## Planning Areas: Scottsburg

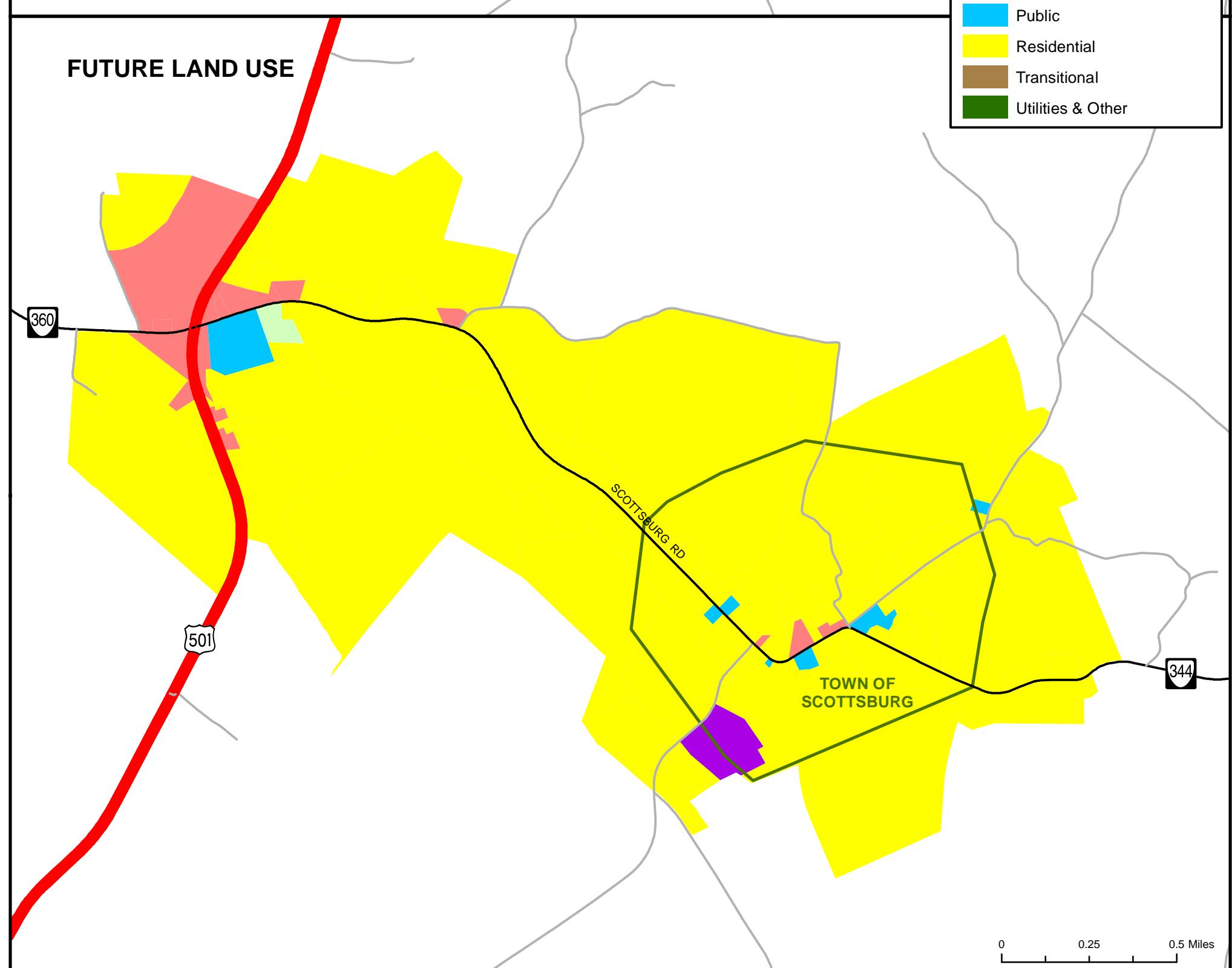


### CURRENT LAND USE



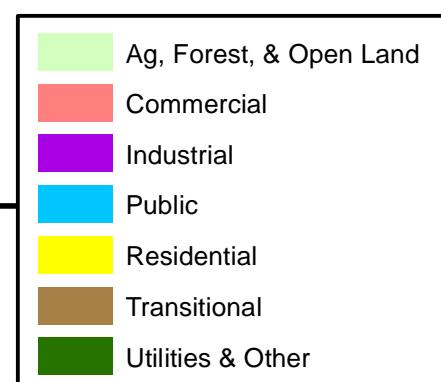
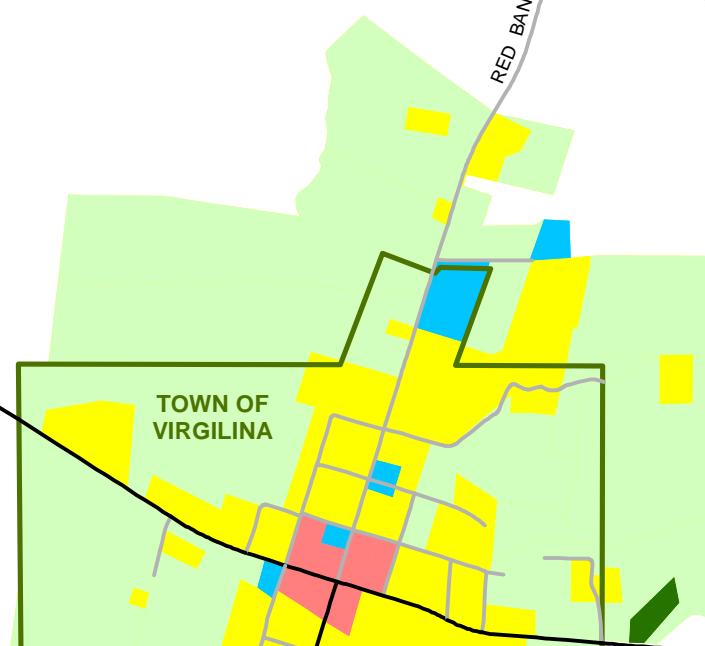
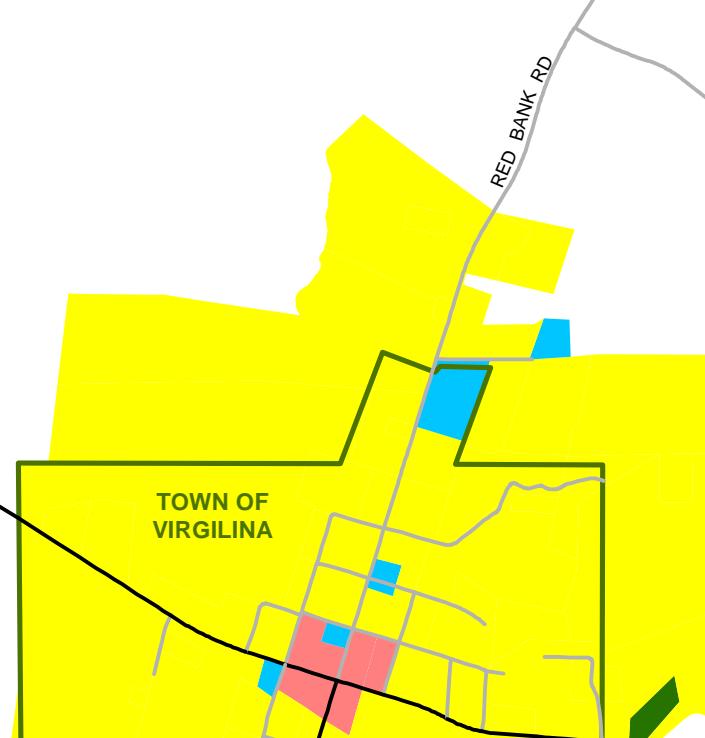
- Ag, Forest, & Open Land
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Public
- Residential
- Transitional
- Utilities & Other

### FUTURE LAND USE



**CURRENT LAND USE****Halifax County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan****Planning Areas: Virgilina**

N

**FUTURE LAND USE**

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

**CURRENT LAND USE****Halifax County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan****Urban Planning Area  
Halifax - South Boston**

TOWN OF HALIFAX

TOWN OF  
SOUTH BOSTON

58

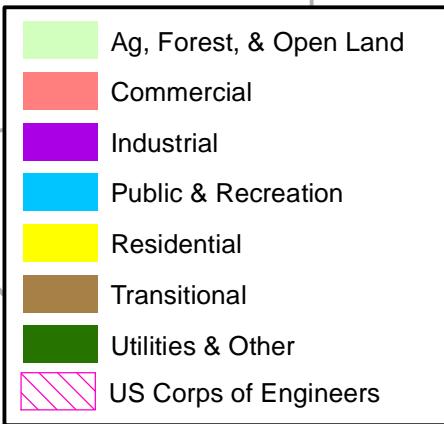
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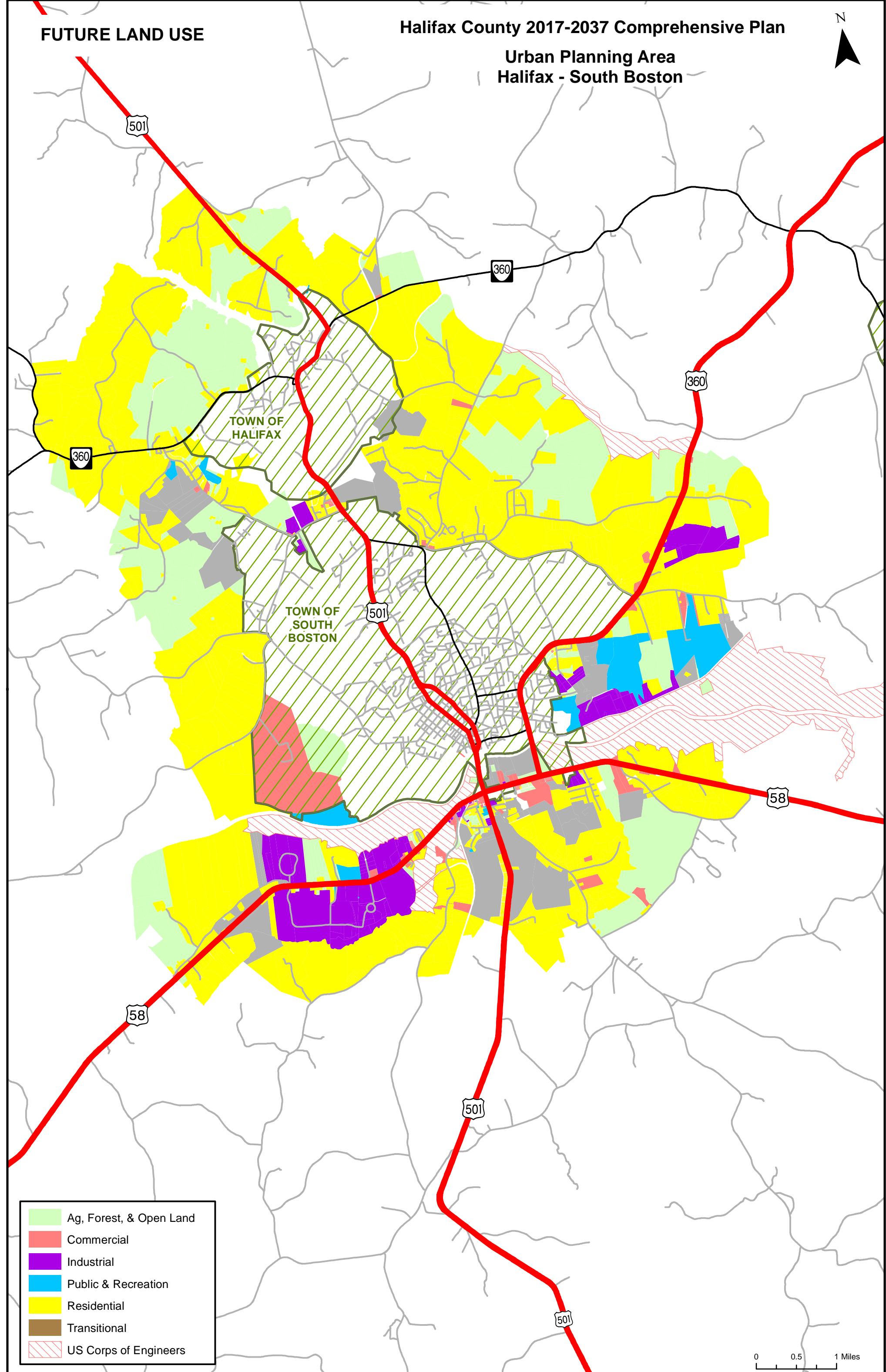
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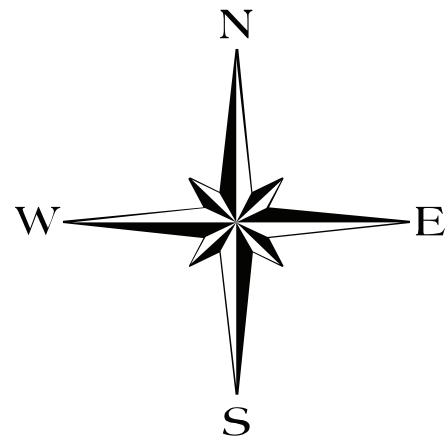


0 0.5 1 Miles

**FUTURE LAND USE****Halifax County 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan**

Urban Planning Area  
Halifax - South Boston





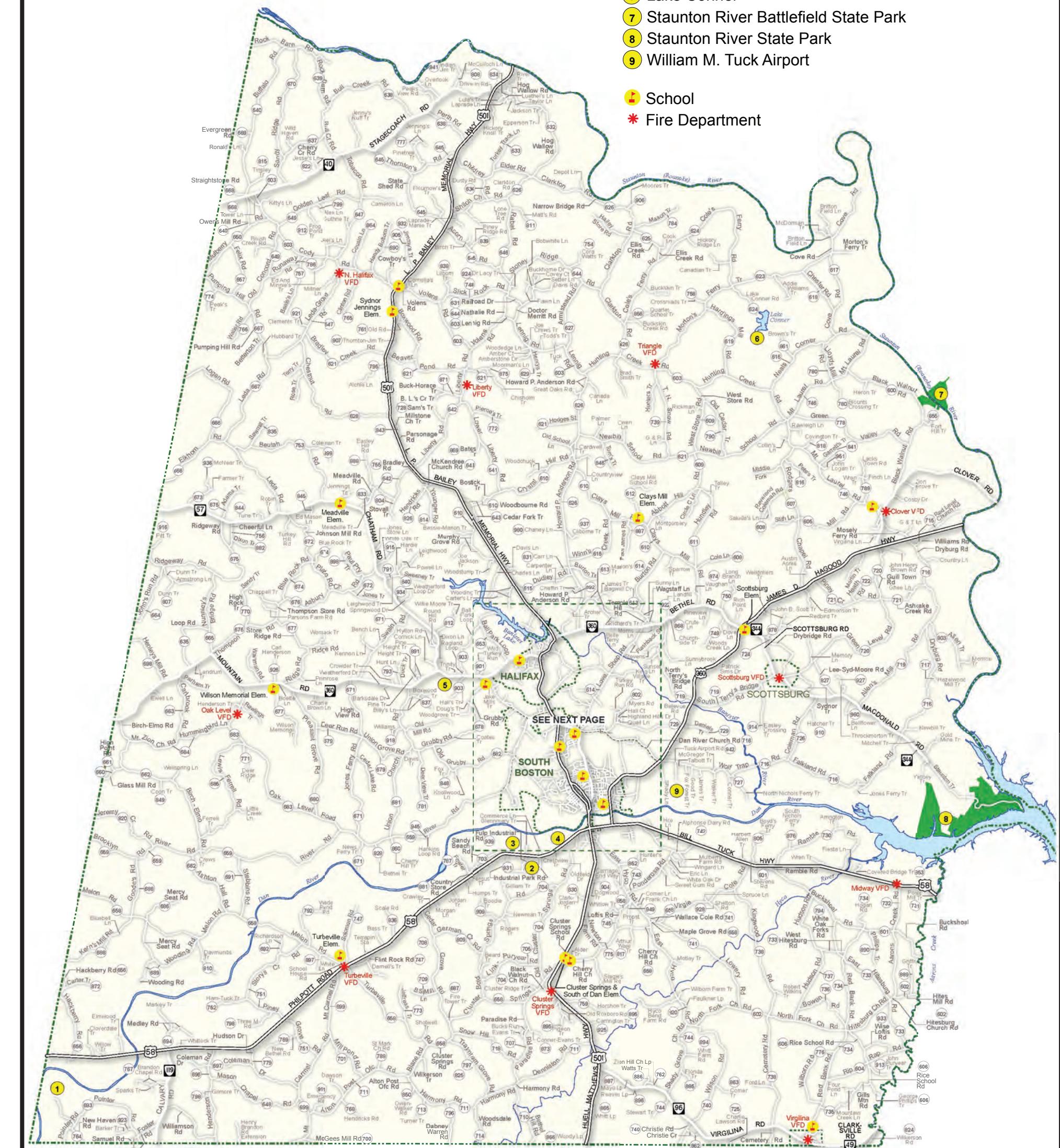
## **Exhibit VI-C**

### **Halifax County, Virginia**

#### **Selected Community Facilities**

## KEY

- 1 Virginia International Raceway  
VIR Raceplex
- 2 Virginia Motorsports Technology Park
- 3 Halifax-South Boston Industrial Park
- 4 Riverstone Technology Park
- 5 Southside Industrial Park
- 6 L.E. Coleman African-American Museum
- 7 Lake Conner
- 8 Staunton River Battlefield State Park
- 9 Staunton River State Park
- 10 William M. Tuck Airport



## **Exhibit VI-C (continued)**

### **Halifax County, Virginia**

#### **Selected Community Facilities**

## KEY

- 10 Berry Hill Plantation
- 11 Halifax County Administration
- 12 Halifax County Chamber of Commerce
- 13 Halifax County Courthouse
- 14 Halifax County Dept. of Tourism
- 15 Halifax County Sheriff's Dept.
- 16 South Boston Police Department
- 17 Halifax Town Hall
- 18 Town of South Boston Administration
- 19 Bob Cage Sculpture Farm
- 20 Edmunds Park
- 21 Halifax County War Memorial
- 22 Prizery
- 23 South Boston Speedway
- 24 J. Aubrey Houghton Industrial Park
- 25 Sinai Industrial Park
- 26 South Boston - Halifax County Museum
- 27 Mary Bethune Center:
  - Halifax County Alternative Education Center
  - Halifax County School Board
- 28 Mizpah Church
- 29 Southern Va. Higher Education Center
- 30 Halifax County STEM Academy
- 31 Halifax County Animal Shelter

 School

\* Fire Department

 Halifax-South Boston Regional Hospital

**H** Halifax-South Boston Regional Hospital

# TOWN OF SOUTH BOSTON

This map provides a detailed view of the Town of Halifax, Virginia, including its fire station locations and various landmarks. The map features a compass rose in the top left corner and a scale bar at the bottom left indicating distances from 0 to 1.5 miles. The map is divided into several sections, each with a dashed green boundary. The following table lists the fire stations and their corresponding numbers:

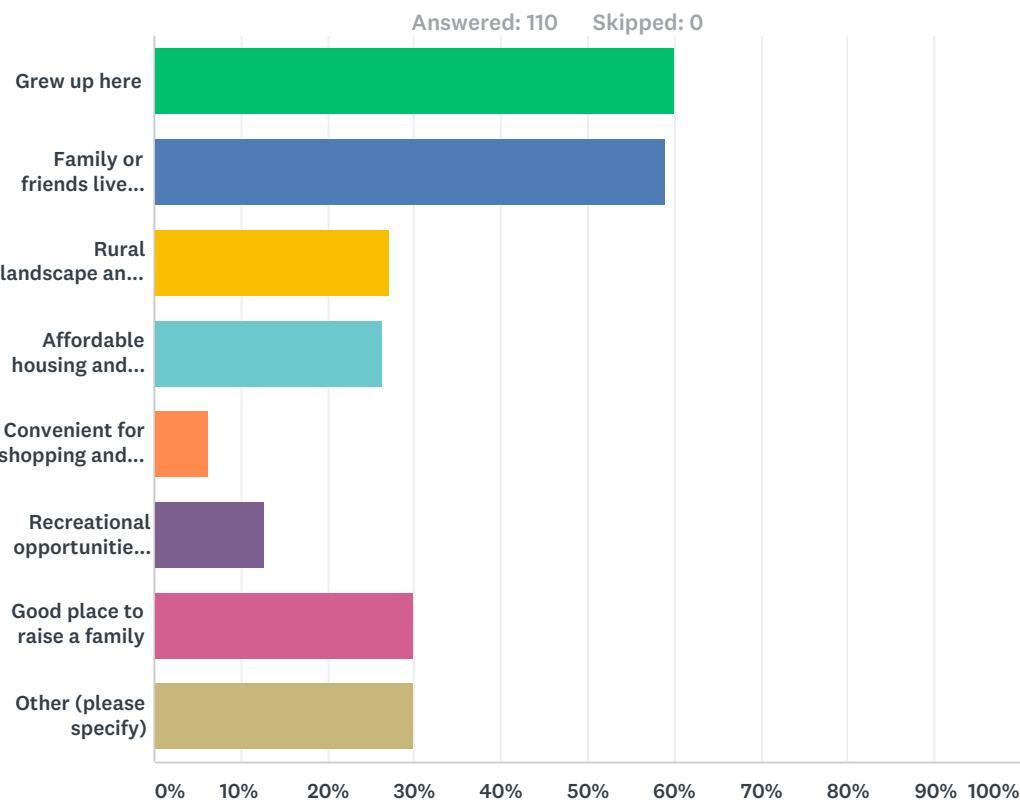
Fire Station Number	Location Description
10	Berry Hill Ln (dashed green boundary)
12	South Boston VFD (dashed green boundary)
13	Halifax Elementary (dashed green boundary)
14	Philpott Hwy (dashed green boundary)
15	Halifax VFD (dashed green boundary)
16	Old Halifax Rd (dashed green boundary)
17	Academy St (dashed green boundary)
18	South Boston VFD (dashed green boundary)
21	Highway Bethel (dashed green boundary)
22	Philpott Hwy (dashed green boundary)
25	Green's Folly (dashed green boundary)
26	Broad St (dashed green boundary)
27	Highway Bethel (dashed green boundary)
29	Philpott Hwy (dashed green boundary)
30	Academy St (dashed green boundary)
31	Farm Rd (dashed green boundary)

The map also includes labels for several roads and landmarks, such as Highway 501, Highway 360, Highway 626, Highway 760, Highway 783, Highway 129, and Highway 58. Other labeled areas include Lakeshore Dr, Banister Lake, and various streets like Jackson St, Elm St, Cary St, and Meadow Dr. The map is a comprehensive resource for emergency services in the Town of Halifax.

VI-25

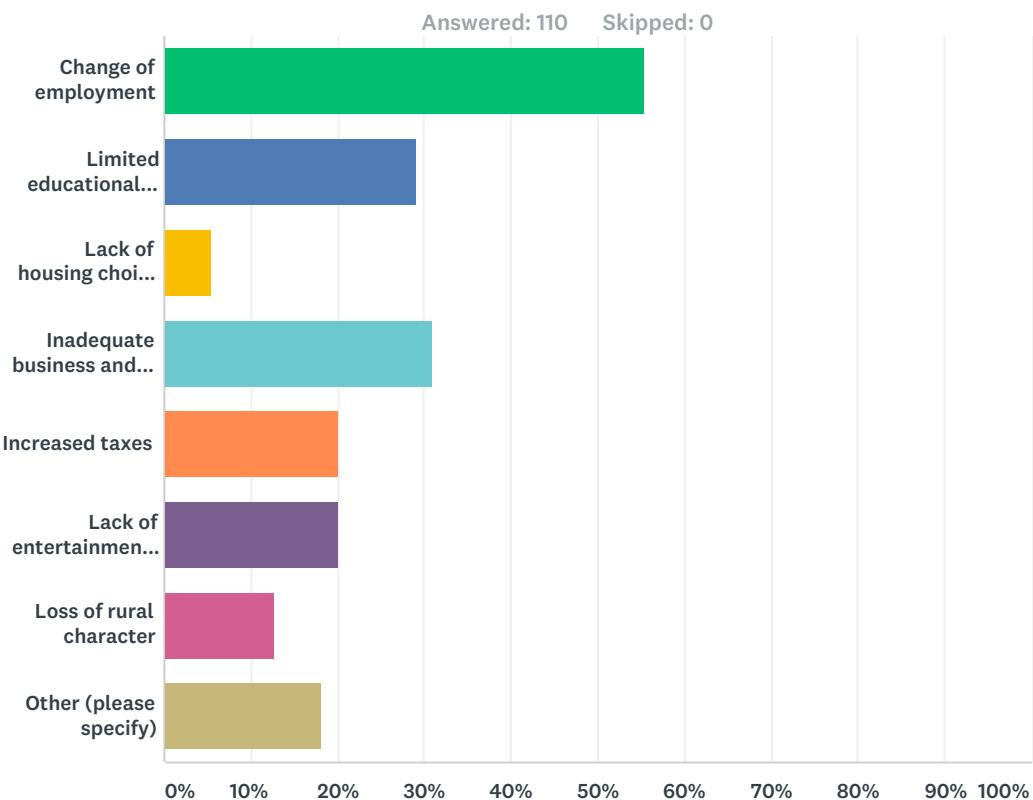
## **Appendix C – Survey Results**

## Q1 Why do you live in Halifax County, Virginia? Select all that apply.



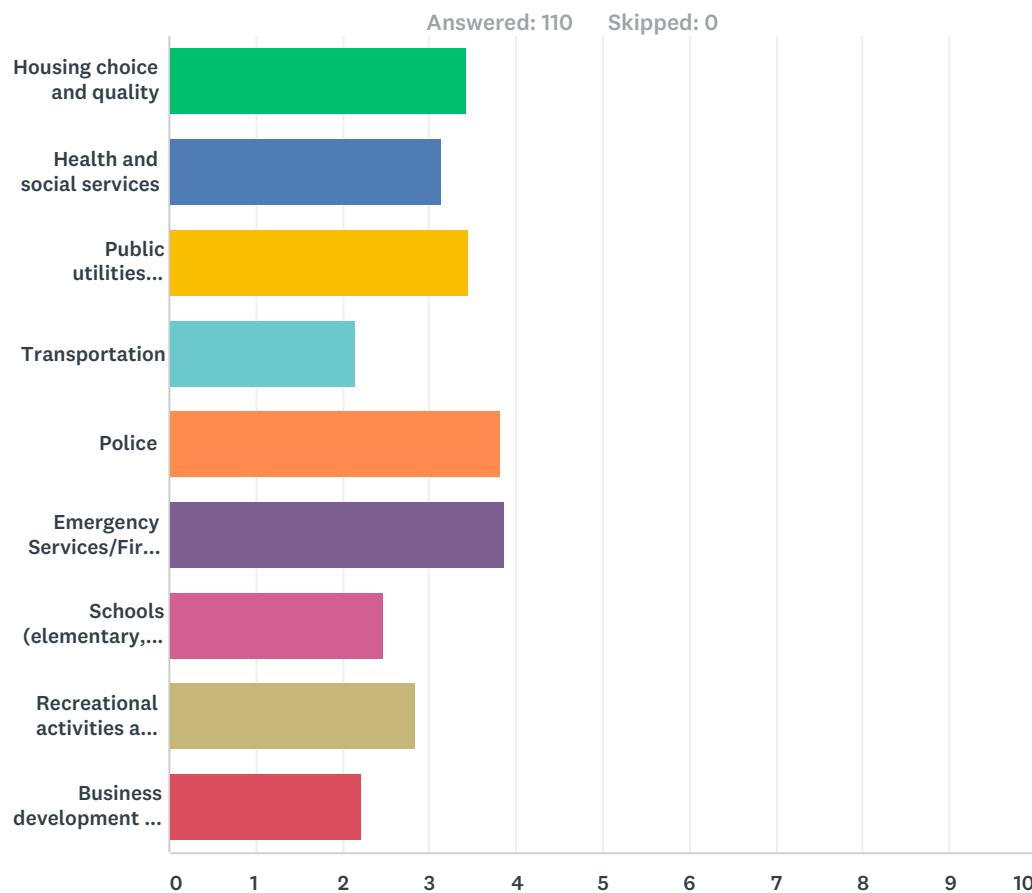
Answer Choices	Responses
Grew up here	60.00% 66
Family or friends live here	59.09% 65
Rural landscape and beauty	27.27% 30
Affordable housing and cost of living	26.36% 29
Convenient for shopping and business services	6.36% 7
Recreational opportunities (lakes, rivers, trails, parks)	12.73% 14
Good place to raise a family	30.00% 33
Other (please specify)	30.00% 33
Total Respondents: 110	

## Q2 What would most likely cause you to leave Halifax County, Virginia? Select all that apply.



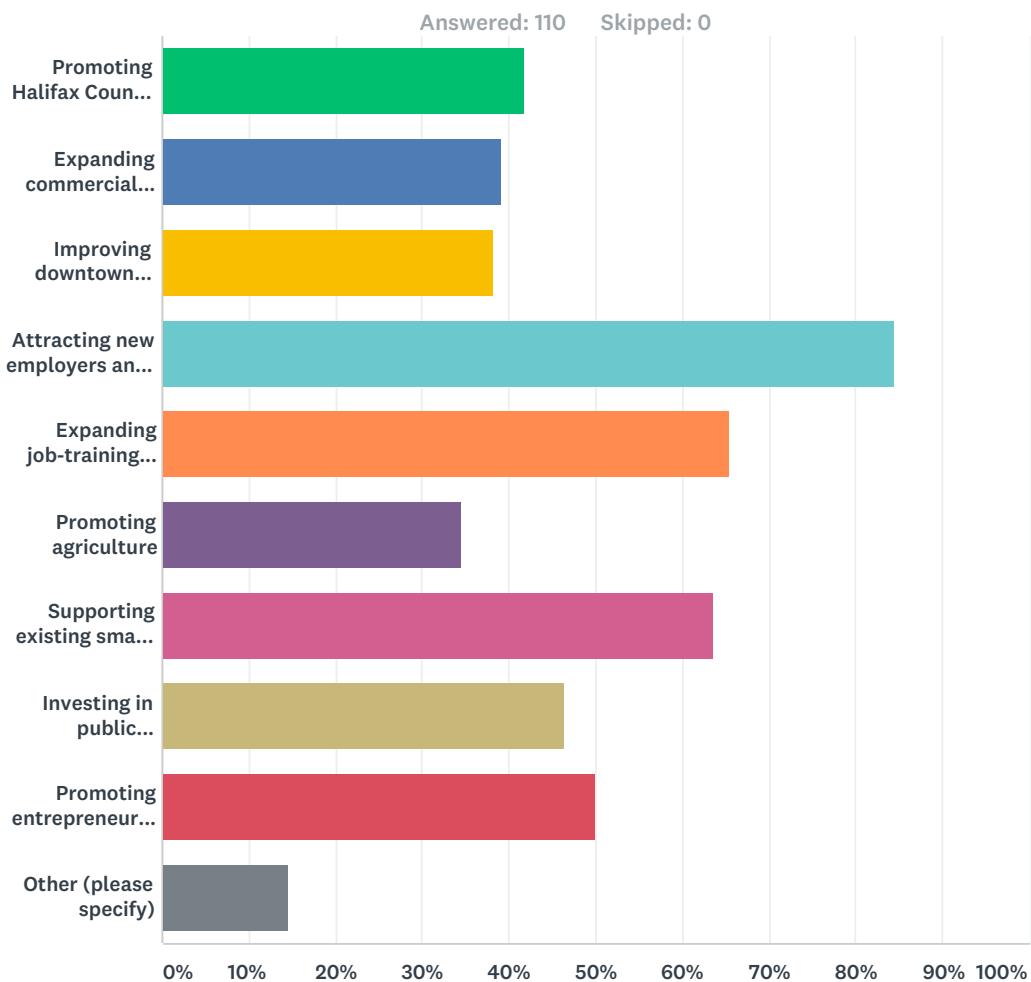
Answer Choices	Responses	
Change of employment	55.45%	61
Limited educational opportunities or quality of school system	29.09%	32
Lack of housing choices and styles	5.45%	6
Inadequate business and/or public services to support my needs	30.91%	34
Increased taxes	20.00%	22
Lack of entertainment or cultural activities	20.00%	22
Loss of rural character	12.73%	14
Other (please specify)	18.18%	20
<b>Total Respondents: 110</b>		

### Q3 How well do you feel the following services are being met in Halifax County, VA?



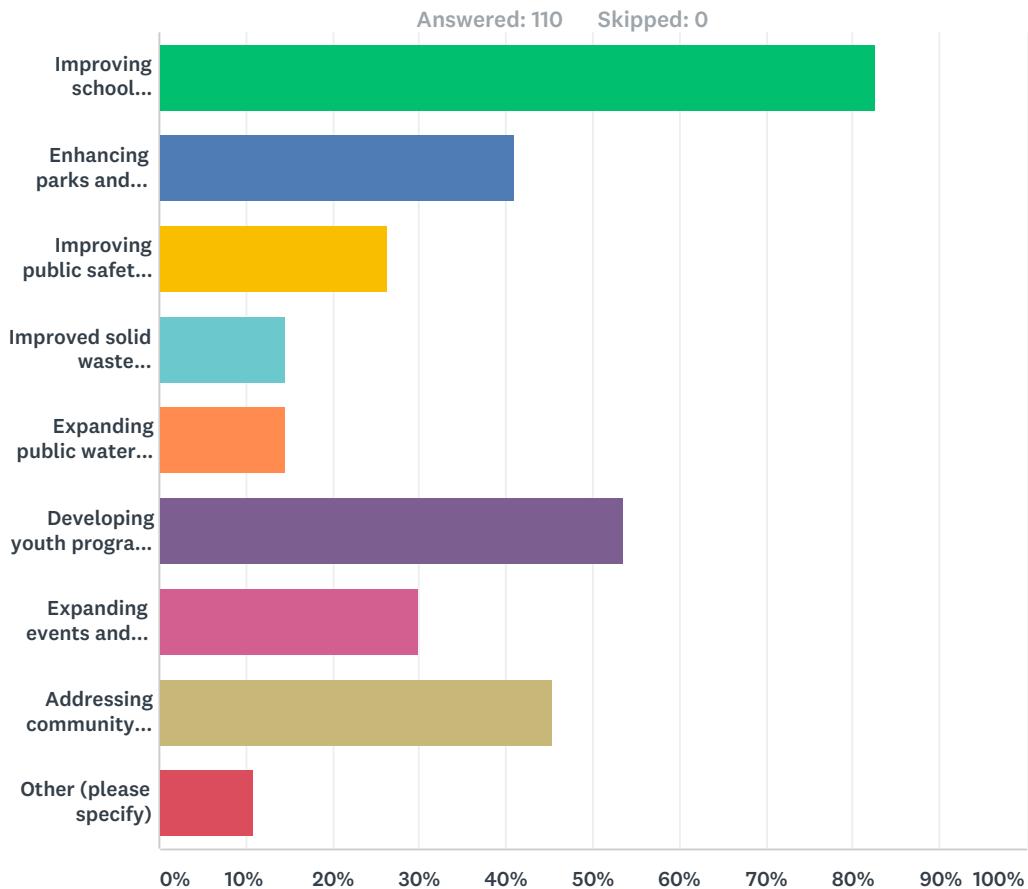
	Poor	Fair	Neutral/Do Not Know	Good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
Housing choice and quality	2.73% 3	22.73% 25	13.64% 15	50.91% 56	10.00% 11	110	3.43
Health and social services	8.18% 9	30.00% 33	10.00% 11	43.64% 48	8.18% 9	110	3.14
Public utilities (water, sewer, solid wastes)	2.75% 3	19.27% 21	17.43% 19	51.38% 56	9.17% 10	109	3.45
Transportation	33.03% 36	36.70% 40	13.76% 15	14.68% 16	1.83% 2	109	2.16
Police	2.73% 3	10.91% 12	5.45% 6	63.64% 70	17.27% 19	110	3.82
Emergency Services/Fire/Rescue	2.73% 3	9.09% 10	9.09% 10	56.36% 62	22.73% 25	110	3.87
Schools (elementary, secondary, higher education)	28.18% 31	29.09% 32	10.91% 12	30.91% 34	0.91% 1	110	2.47
Recreational activities and facilities	12.04% 13	40.74% 44	3.70% 4	37.04% 40	6.48% 7	108	2.85
Business development and recruitment	33.64% 37	36.36% 40	6.36% 7	21.82% 24	1.82% 2	110	2.22

## Q4 Economy: In the next 10 - 15 years, what should be the most important priorities for Halifax County? Select all that apply.



Answer Choices	Responses
Promoting Halifax County for visitors and tourists	41.82% 46
Expanding commercial businesses and shopping opportunities	39.09% 43
Improving downtown business districts	38.18% 42
Attracting new employers and industries	84.55% 93
Expanding job-training programs, educational opportunities, internships and apprenticeships	65.45% 72
Promoting agriculture	34.55% 38
Supporting existing small business	63.64% 70
Investing in public infrastructure (road access, utilities, expanding fiber optics networks for internet connectivity)	46.36% 51
Promoting entrepreneurship, new small or home-based business	50.00% 55
Other (please specify)	14.55% 16
<b>Total Respondents: 110</b>	

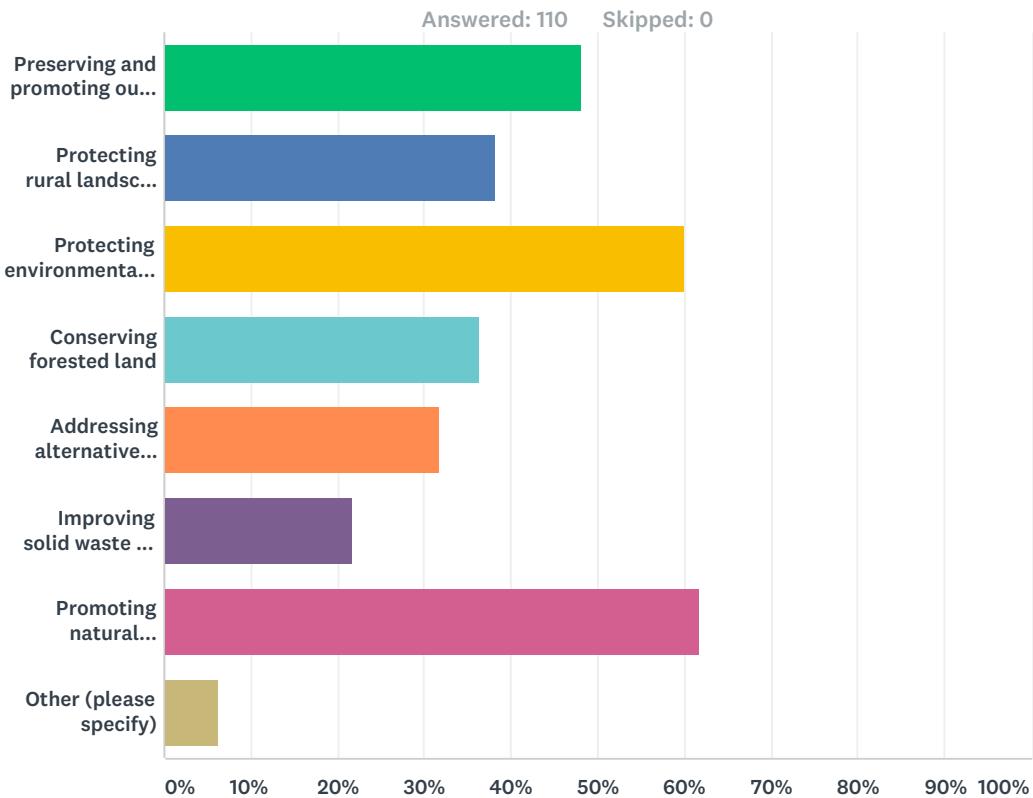
## Q5 Community Facilities and Services: In the next 10-15 years, what should be the most important priorities for Halifax County? Select all that apply.



Answer Choices	Responses	
Improving school facilities, K-12	82.73%	91
Enhancing parks and Recreational opportunities (trail, water access, etc)	40.91%	45
Improving public safety - police, fire, emergency services	26.36%	29
Improved solid waste management and recycling	14.55%	16
Expanding public water and sewer services	14.55%	16
Developing youth programs and outreach	53.64%	59
Expanding events and festivals	30.00%	33
Addressing community health and wellness	45.45%	50
Other (please specify)	10.91%	12
<b>Total Respondents: 110</b>		

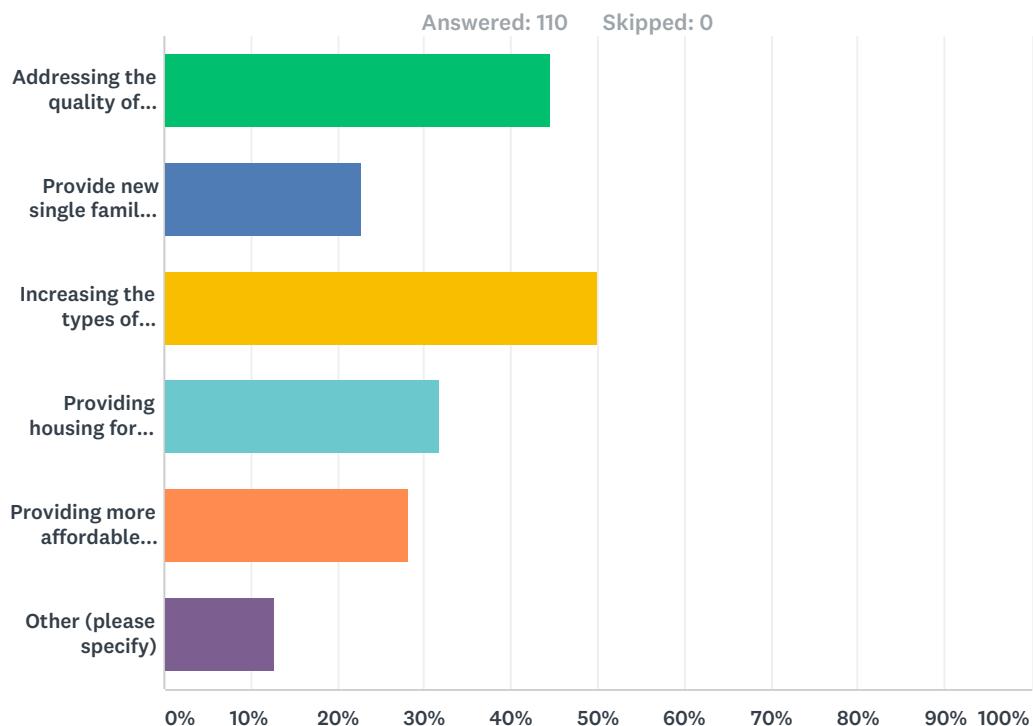
## Q6 Cultural and Natural Resources: In the next 10-15 years, what should be the most important priorities for Halifax County?

Select all that apply.



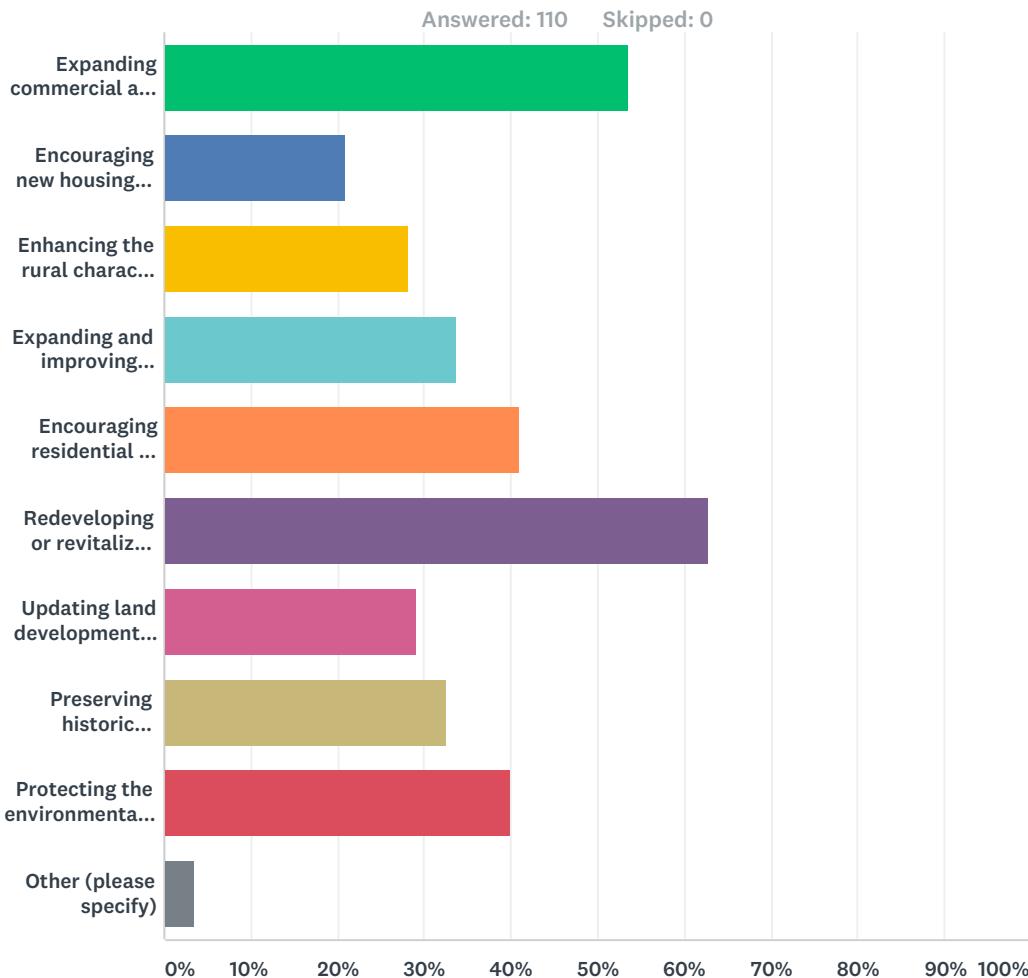
Answer Choices	Responses
Preserving and promoting our history and historic buildings	48.18% 53
Protecting rural landscape and character of the County	38.18% 42
Protecting environmental features, lakes, water quality, air, etc.	60.00% 66
Conserving forested land	36.36% 40
Addressing alternative energy	31.82% 35
Improving solid waste and recycling options	21.82% 24
Promoting natural resources and the outdoors for recreation and tourism (hiking, biking, water activities)	61.82% 68
Other (please specify)	6.36% 7
Total Respondents: 110	

## Q7 Housing: In the next 10-15 years, what should be the most important priorities for Halifax County? Select all that apply.



Answer Choices	Responses	
Addressing the quality of existing housing	<b>44.55%</b>	49
Provide new single family housing	<b>22.73%</b>	25
Increasing the types of housing choices (townhouses, apartments, lofts)	<b>50.00%</b>	55
Providing housing for special needs groups (seniors, ADA accessible, etc)	<b>31.82%</b>	35
Providing more affordable housing	<b>28.18%</b>	31
Other (please specify)	<b>12.73%</b>	14
<b>Total Respondents: 110</b>		

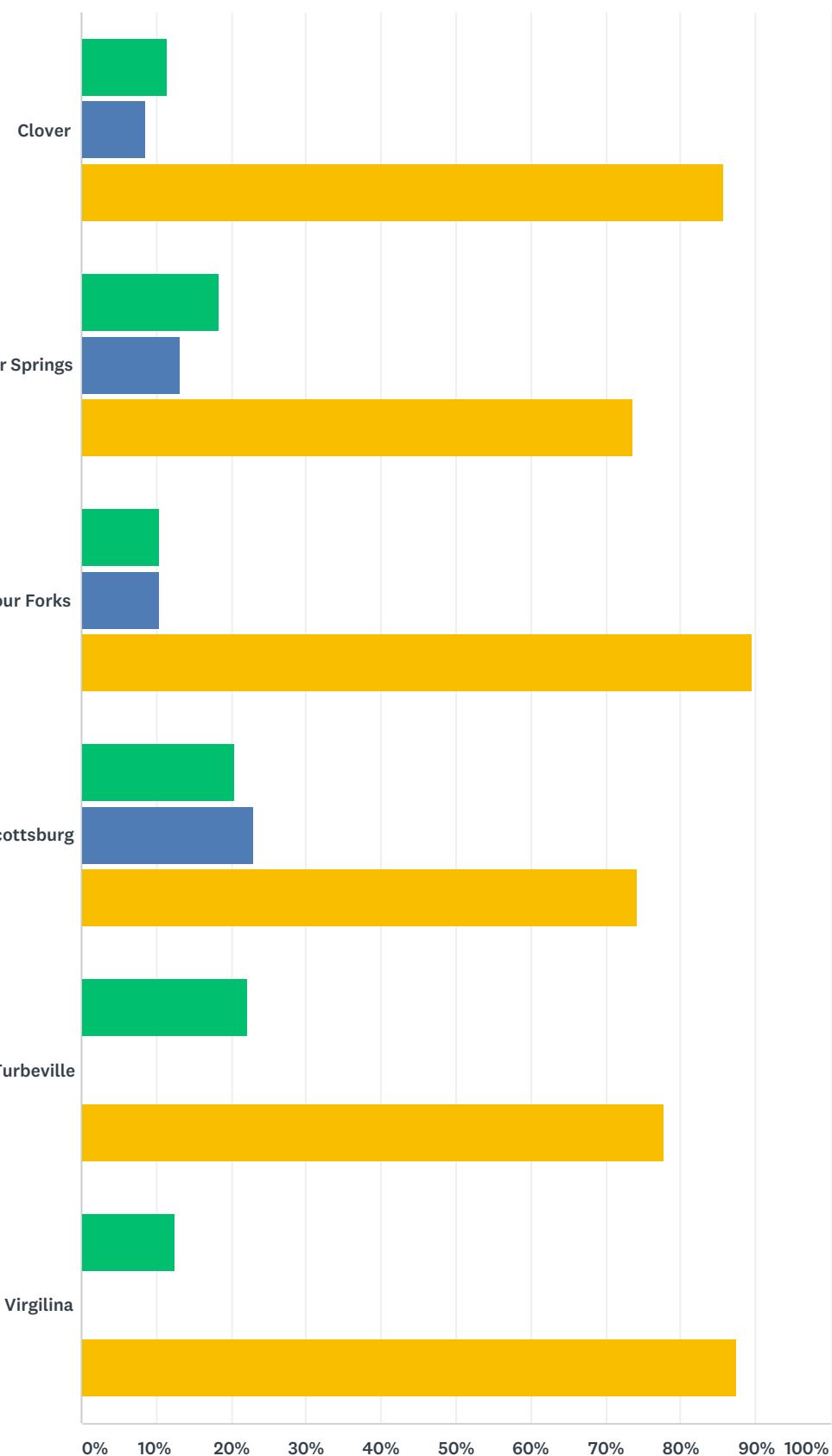
## Q8 Land Use and Development: In the next 10-15 years, what should be the most important priorities for Halifax County? Select all that apply.



Answer Choices	Responses	
Expanding commercial and business development	53.64%	59
Encouraging new housing development	20.91%	23
Enhancing the rural character of the County (farmland, forests, open space)	28.18%	31
Expanding and improving public utilities and roads to serve planned growth areas	33.64%	37
Encouraging residential and commercial development near existing towns and areas with existing public facilities	40.91%	45
Redeveloping or revitalizing deteriorated areas and buildings	62.73%	69
Updating land development regulations to promote quality of development and address changing standards	29.09%	32
Preserving historic buildings and sites	32.73%	36
Protecting the environmental quality of lakes, rivers and small streams	40.00%	44
Other (please specify)	3.64%	4
<b>Total Respondents: 110</b>		

**Q9 From the following Community Planning Areas listed in the 2007 Halifax County Comprehensive Plan, which area(s) do you best identify with. Select all that apply.**

Answered: 68    Skipped: 42



Live      Work      Visit

	Live	Work	Visit	Total Respondents
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Clover	<b>11.43%</b> 4	<b>8.57%</b> 3	<b>85.71%</b> 30		35
Cluster Springs	<b>18.42%</b> 7	<b>13.16%</b> 5	<b>73.68%</b> 28		38
Four Forks	<b>10.53%</b> 2	<b>10.53%</b> 2	<b>89.47%</b> 17		19
Scottsburg	<b>20.51%</b> 8	<b>23.08%</b> 9	<b>74.36%</b> 29		39
Turbeville	<b>22.22%</b> 6	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>77.78%</b> 21		27
Virgilina	<b>12.50%</b> 4	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>87.50%</b> 28		32