

Lynchburg (Central Virginia) Regional Connectivity Study



Client

Virginia Department of Transportation's
Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment

Facts

Period 2017

Project Country United States

For the Virginia Department of Transportation's Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, EBP (formerly EDR Group), in collaboration with Michael Baker International and Renaissance Planning, led this multi-agency study involving state and regional partners in Virginia.

The purpose of the study was to assess the adequacy and economic impact of regional connections linking Lynchburg and the rest of Central Virginia. Connectivity is broadly defined to physical infrastructure such as roadways and broadband capacity as well as social and institutional connections that influence the competitiveness of the business community.

EBP led efforts to develop specific, quantifiable linkages between the region's economy and its multimodal transportation system. The study identified opportunities for improving intra- and inter-regional connectivity. It also addressed workforce attraction and retention issues and the role of supportive communications infrastructure. EBP led the following analytical phases of the project: 1) characterize the region's traded industries, 2) define the role of connectivity infrastructure in the regional economy, 3) identify current constraints and potential connectivity improvements, 4) quantify the economic impacts of proposed transportation system improvements using TREDIS® and supporting research.

The result of the study was a set of recommendations for integrating regional investments into the statewide transportation plan, paired with other improvements and strategies to be championed by local partners. This study provided a platform for making informed transportation investment decisions tied closely to their economic impacts. The study also addressed synergies between transportation investment and other economic development strategies as part of a concurrent, coordinated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) update.

LYNCHBURG REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY STUDY

A PILOT STUDY TYING CONNECTIVITY DECISIONS TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



This document summarizes the strategies and actions recommended in the Study. There are eight strategy areas organized into three broad themes as listed below. Individual actions are also recommended under each strategy area.

1. LABOR MARKET AND INTRA-REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

- Placemaking
- Local Bottlenecks
- Transit and Transportation Demand Management

2. INTER-REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

- Intercity Passenger Rail
- Air Service Development
- Access on Key Highway Corridors
- Cargo-Oriented Development

3. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

- Broadband Coverage

Transportation systems and digital networks enable the flow of people, goods, and information that today's companies require in order to compete. Regions grow from the inside out when businesses and their workers become more productive, allowing them to provide for the region's residents and export products and services to other parts of the world. Regions also grow by out-competing other places and attracting skilled workers, successful businesses, and private investment. Under both circumstances, regional connectivity is critical for success.

This connectivity study was undertaken to strengthen the Lynchburg regional economy by first diagnosing the current role of connectivity in supporting the economy, and subsequently identifying and assessing opportunities for improvement



Contact Persons