



# PRESS RELEASE



Planning District Commission

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Town of  
Ashland  
Counties of  
Charles City  
Chesterfield  
Goochland  
Hanover  
Henrico  
New Kent  
Powhatan  
City of  
Richmond

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Media Contact: Chuck Gates**  
office: (804) 323-2033  
cell: (804) 370-6835  
cgates@richmondregional.org

## **COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR RICHMOND REGION APPROVED**

*Regional commission to discuss economic development with BioTech  
Park and VCU Innovation Gateway on Thursday*

**Richmond, VA** – Today, the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (RRPDC) released the Richmond Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy as approved by the United States Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (US EDA) and updated to include detailed implementation strategies. On Thursday, the RRPDC's board of representatives of the region's nine localities will gather to discuss economic development plans with the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park and VCU Innovation Gateway.

### ***Richmond Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy***

The Richmond Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the culmination of a three-year collaborative planning process to create an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen the regional economy with a special focus on distressed areas of the region. The CEDS provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of local governments, state agencies, economic development organizations, and private businesses to create jobs while stabilizing and diversifying the region's economy. The Richmond Regional CEDS focuses on three primary areas of economic growth and sustainability impact – people, place, and prosperity.

In 2011, the RRPDC called together a group of economic development leaders from the public and private sectors to formulate the Richmond Regional CEDS through a collaborative process of discussion and information sharing. The efforts were partially funded through a \$75,000 grant from the US EDA. In order for projects to qualify for US EDA assistance, they must be consistent with the goals and objectives set out in a regional CEDS approved by the federal agency.

On December 12, 2013, the RRPDC Board adopted the Richmond Regional CEDS as submitted to the US EDA, who conditionally approved the document on May 22, 2014. Following the approval, the RRPDC detailed specific strategies for implementation and updated the document for public release on July 8, 2014. To obtain additional information about the CEDS, or to download the document, please visit [www.RichmondRegional.org/CEDS](http://www.RichmondRegional.org/CEDS).

### ***RRPDC Board Meeting – Virginia BioTechnology Research Park and VCU Innovation Gateway***

On Thursday, July 8, 2014, the RRPDC will take the next step in advancing the objectives of the Richmond Regional CEDS when it discusses how it may assist two of the region's key economic development organizations who were represented on the CEDS Strategy Committee. The RRPDC's board of representatives of the region's nine localities will hear Carrie Roth, the Interim President and

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CEO of the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park, and Nicole Colomb, the Enterprise and Economic Development Executive of the VCU Innovation Gateway.

Ms. Roth will provide an update on the new strategic focus of the BioTech Park and the opportunity to support the growth of the Richmond Region's innovation ecosystem. As a major component of that ecosystem, Ms. Colomb will offer information about VCU's new strategy for entrepreneurship – Venture Creation University, or VCU Squared. The strategy is focused on harnessing the entrepreneurial talent of two main sources of innovation – VCU faculty and students. Each of these efforts advance the recommendations outlined by the Richmond Regional CEDS and the Capital Region Collaborative.

Members of the media are invited to attend to hear the discussion and ask questions of the presenters and the locally-elected officials on the RRPDC board.

<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>Meeting of the RRPDC Board</b>
<b>WHY:</b>	<b>Presentation and discussion on key economic development strategies for the Richmond Region</b>
<b>PRESENTERS:</b>	<b>Carrie Roth (Interim President and CEO, Virginia BioTechnology Research Park) and Nicole Colomb (Enterprise and Economic Development Executive, VCU Innovation Gateway)</b>
<b>WHEN:</b>	<b>Thursday, July 10 at 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>WHERE:</b>	<b>RRPDC Board Room; 9211 Forest Hill Avenue, Suite 200; Richmond VA 23235</b>

**###**

*The **Richmond Regional Planning District Commission** is an intergovernmental agency that facilitates collaboration among the nine local jurisdictions in the Richmond Region. The 33-member RRPDC board includes 22 elected officials, seven local Planning Commission members, and four citizens representing the 1 million residents of the Town of Ashland, the City of Richmond, and the Counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, and Powhatan.*