



The Regional Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Meetings Being Held on Regional Economic Development

Roanoke, VA – September 26, 2008 – A series of public meetings is being held in the month of October to collect public input and ideas for economic development. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 from 5:30 to 7 PM at the Clifton Forge Firehouse (701 Church Street, Clifton Forge, VA 24422) and the second will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2008 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Roanoke County Administration Center in the 4th Floor Training Room (5204 Bernard Dr. SW, Roanoke, VA 24018). The meetings will begin with a brief presentation and the remainder of the meeting will be in an open house format. The public may attend at any time during the posted hours to meet with project staff, view project information, and make comment.

The Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, a special committee formed of public and private community leaders is engaged in the development of a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Roanoke Valley and the Alleghany Highlands. The committee has met four times and has formulated its vision and set of goals for regional economic development as well as a detailed listing of economic development projects for the region. Members of the public are encouraged to visit to view project exhibits and to make comment on the draft regional project listing.

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The Roanoke Valley - Alleghany CEDS document will highlight and recommend projects that will increase regional competitiveness and lead to sustainable economic development. The CEDS will serve as a comprehensive listing of projects that will combine studies and documents from a variety of organizations including regional chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, local governments, workforce development organizations, and other local and regional groups.

The Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission is coordinating this regional effort and hopes to complete the strategy by early 2009. The CEDS Strategy will make the region eligible for federal funding from the US Economic Development Administration.

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Roanoke Valley - Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Public Information and Comment Meeting

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of two upcoming public meetings for the Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Roanoke Valley – Alleghany Regional Commission has convened a group of public and private leadership representing 9 localities in a region including the Alleghany Highlands area and the Roanoke Valley. This group has worked to develop a vision statement, a list of goals for the new economic development strategy, and a listing of specific projects and investments to be made to enhance regional economic development. The following meetings are an opportunity for you to learn more about the strategy and its development process, to review the listing of projects, and to make comments. The meeting will begin with a presentation but you may attend at any time after the meeting begins to meet with project staff and to view project information.

Members of the public are also asked to visit <http://www.regionalstrategy.org> for project updates and to make additional comments through email to project staff, internet forums, or project surveys.

Wednesday, October 1, 2008

5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Clifton Forge Fire Hall

701 Church Street

Clifton Forge, VA 24422

Thursday, October 9, 2008

5:30 PM to 7:00 PM

Roanoke County Administration Center

4th Floor Training Room

5204 Bernard Drive SW

Roanoke, VA 24018

Please contact John M. Hull at 540-343-4417 or jhull@rvarc.org with any questions.