

Regional Accessibility

To: CTB Workshop September 16, 2009 By: Hannah Twaddell Renaissance Planning Group



Regional Accessibility

- What is regional accessibility?
- How can improving regional accessibility help
 Virginia thrive and prosper?
- What can we do to improve regional accessibility?
- How can we optimize existing and future transportation investments and community development?



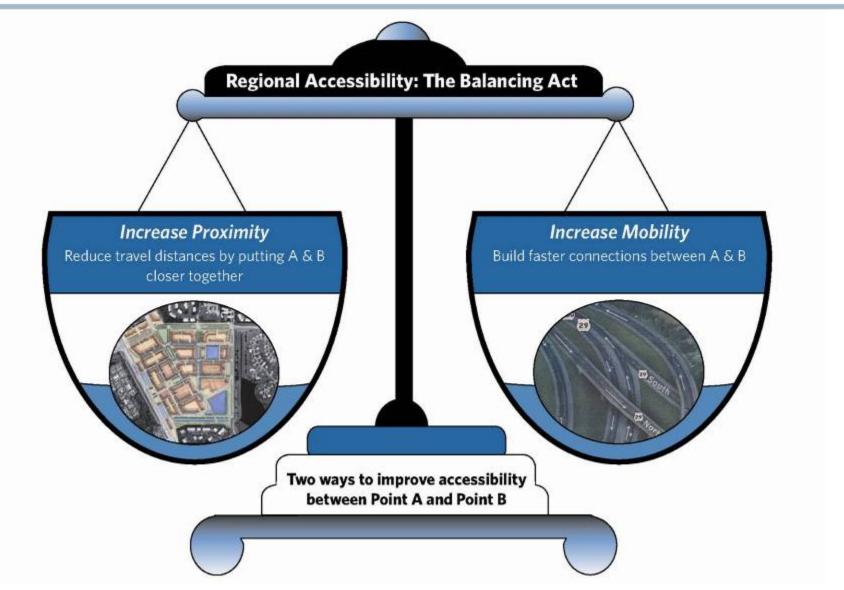
What is Regional Accessibility?

The ability to move from A to B within a defined region

- From one community or activity center to another
 - Commuting to work
 - Doing the weekly grocery shopping
 - Going out to dinner or to see a show
- Within a community or activity center
 - Taking children to school or the park
 - Picking up a quart of milk or a loaf of bread
 - Going out for ice cream
 - Visiting nearby friends



Balancing Accessibility and Mobility





What Makes a Region Accessible?

Proximity of Activities

- Origins and destinations located close to one another
- Safe, convenient access from one front door to the next for all travelers

Connectivity and Mobility

- Local streets connected to regional roadways
- Bicycle routes and sidewalks connected to local origins and destinations
- Local buses accessible to pedestrians and to regional mass transit

Transportation Choices

- Multiple routes
- Variety of modes



Why Is Regional Accessibility Important?

Highly accessible communities can ...

- Accommodate the travel demands generated by new growth
- Promote and sustain higher levels of economic activity
- Offer more choices of places to live
- Provide more ways to get around

Regional accessibility affects the amount of <u>time</u> and <u>money</u> we all spend on transportation.



Regional Accessibility

- What is regional accessibility?
- How can improving regional accessibility help
 Virginia thrive and prosper?
- What can we do to improve regional accessibility?
- How can we optimize existing and future transportation investments and community development?



Benefits of Strong Accessibility

Strong regional accessibility can help us to...

- Strengthen Economic Competitiveness
- Sustain the Natural Environment
- Improve Community Quality of Life
- Optimize Investments



Costs of Poor Accessibility

Poor regional accessibility can lead to ...

- Lost Jobs and Economic Opportunities
- Exacerbated Environmental Issues
- Quality of Life Concerns
- Unsustainable Investment Costs



VDOT estimates the I-95 corridor will need <u>24</u> additional lanes to accommodate future traffic. Alternative solutions must be found.



Regional Accessibility

- What is regional accessibility?
- How can improving regional accessibility help
 Virginia thrive and prosper?
- What can we do to improve regional accessibility?
- How can we optimize existing and future transportation investments and community development?

Improving Regional Accessibility

Focus on "The Five D's" for proximity, connectivity, and travel choices –

- Density
- Diversity
- Design
- Destination
- Distance to Transit

Density, Diversity & Design

- 1) Foster Efficient <u>Density</u>, <u>Diversity</u> and <u>Design</u>: Encourage development of higher-density communities that offer a mix of activities within close proximity of each other and safe, convenient connections for all transportation modes.
 - Participate in comprehensive plans, urban development area designations, and traffic impact analyses for major developments
 - Advance subdivision street acceptance requirements (SSAR)
 - Support local strategies (zoning, form-based code, parking ordinances)

Destination & Distance to Transit

- 2) Optimize Existing & New <u>Destinations</u> and <u>Distance to</u> <u>Transit:</u> Promote strategic location of residential and commercial land uses within and among regions to make efficient use of regional and local transportation networks
 - Prioritize transit investments in areas with affordable, higher-density housing and employment centers
 - Promote access management regulations and support growth management plans
 - Advance planning tools and decision-making processes to coordinate transportation investments with economic & community development

Transportation Choices

- 3) Expand <u>Transportation Choices</u>: Improve regional accessibility for all modes
 - Make more efficient use_of existing regional roadway and transit systems
 - Operational improvements
 - Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies
 - Managed lanes, value pricing, etc.
 - Multi-modal connectivity
 - Develop new resources_& incentives for state, regional and local multi-modal accessibility
 - Transit systems
 - Connected street networks
 - Bicycle & pedestrian networks

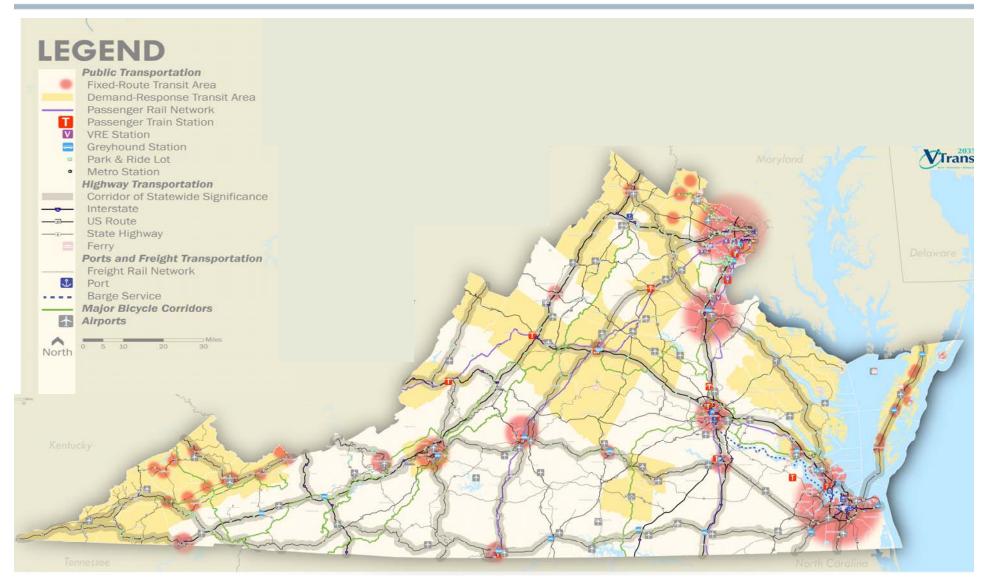


Regional Accessibility

- What is regional accessibility?
- How can improving regional accessibility help
 Virginia thrive and prosper?
- What can we do to improve regional accessibility?
- How can we optimize existing and future transportation and community development investments?

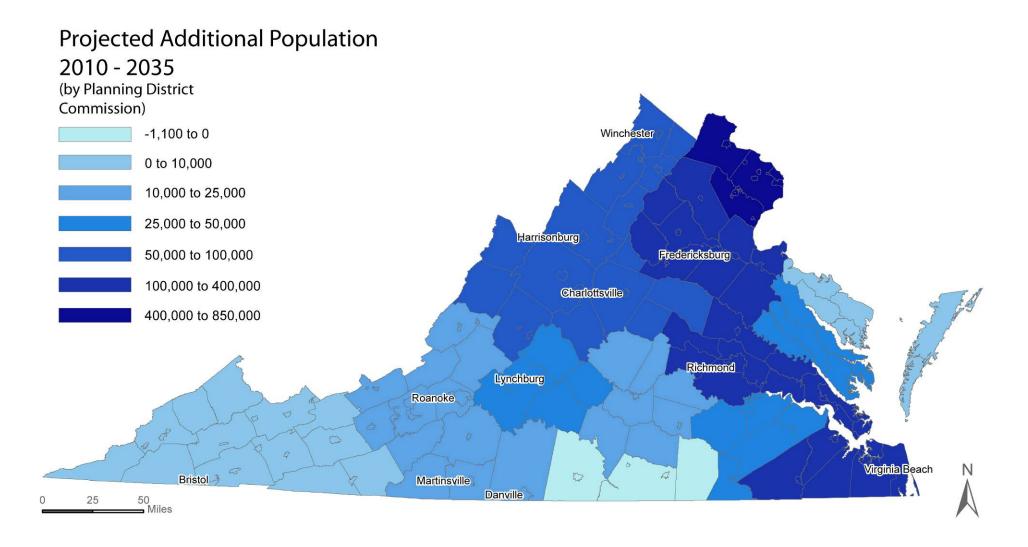


Existing Transportation Assets



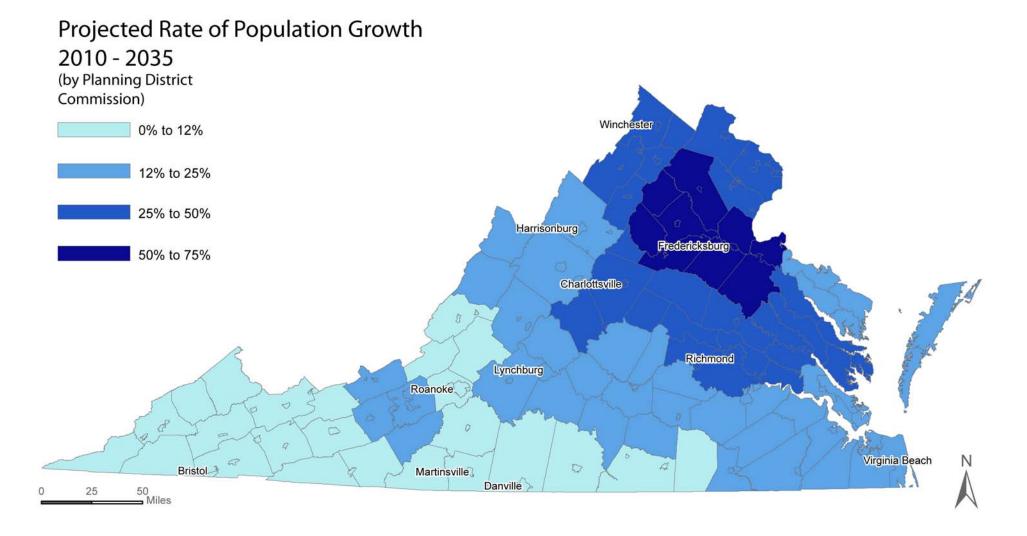


Population Growth (by PDC)



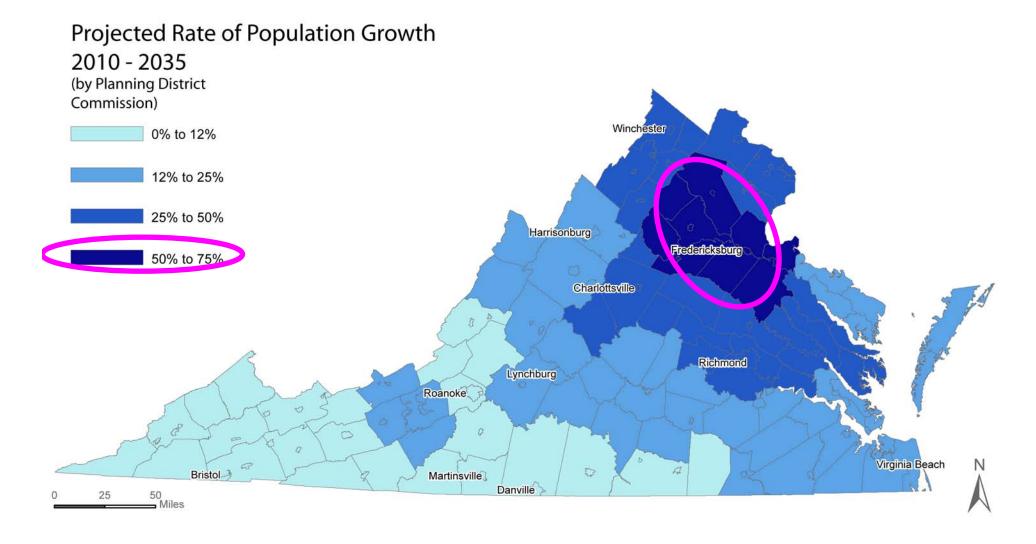


Rate of Population Growth (PDC)



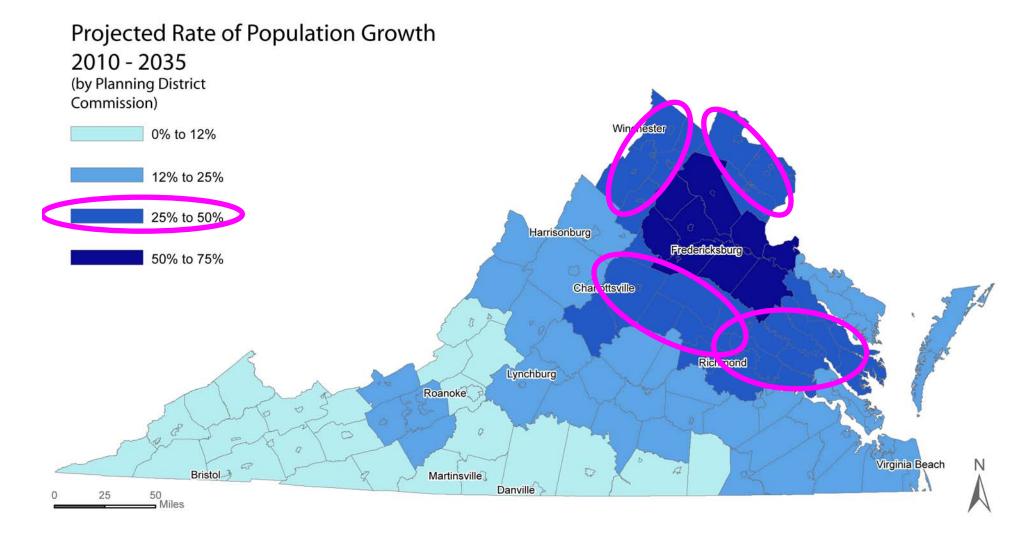


Fast-Growing Population



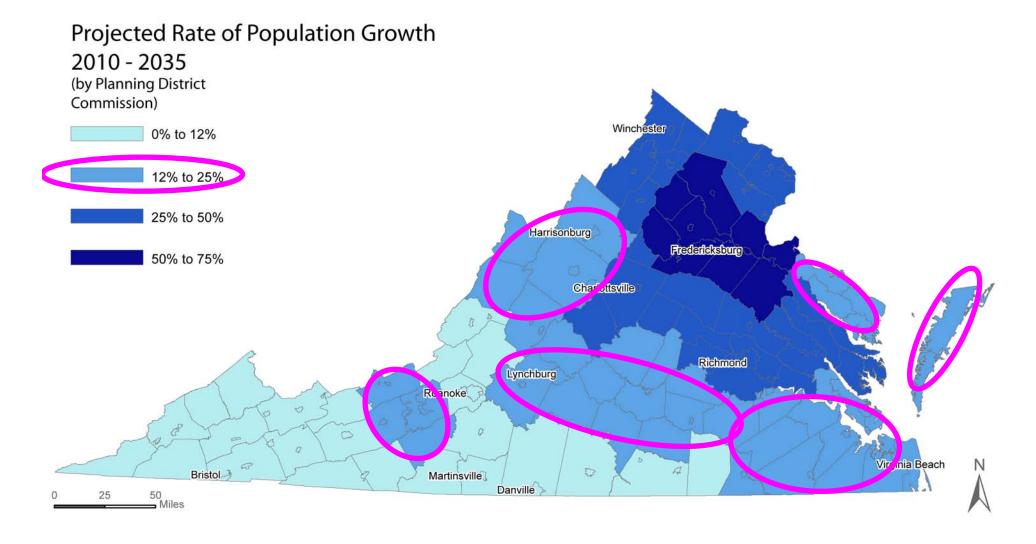


Emerging Population Growth



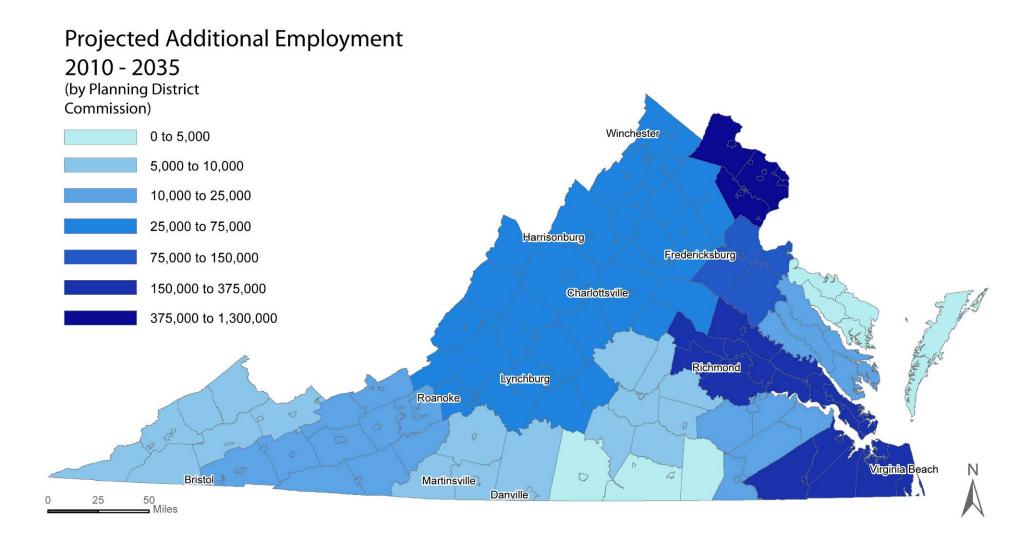


Future Emerging Population Growth



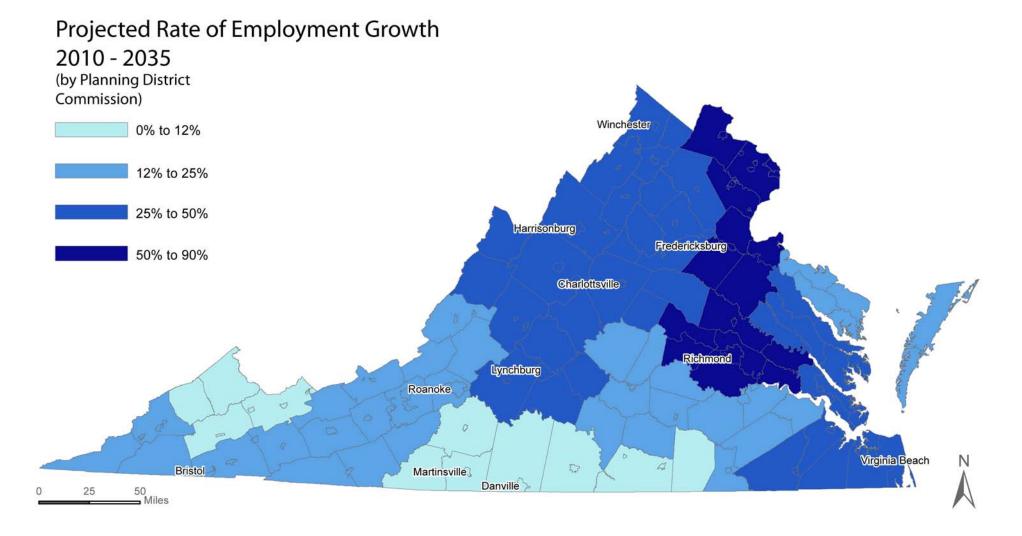


Employment Growth (by PDC)



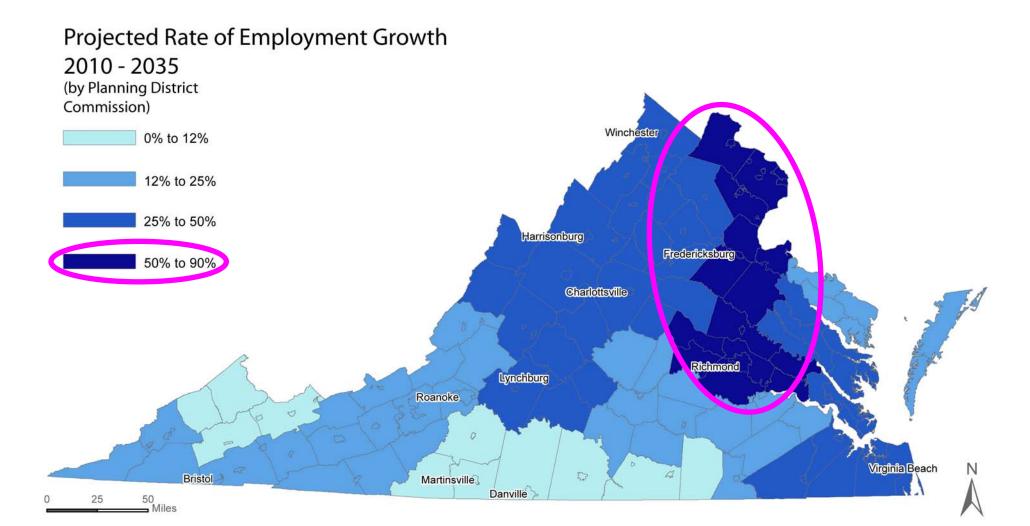


Rate of Employment Growth (by PDC)



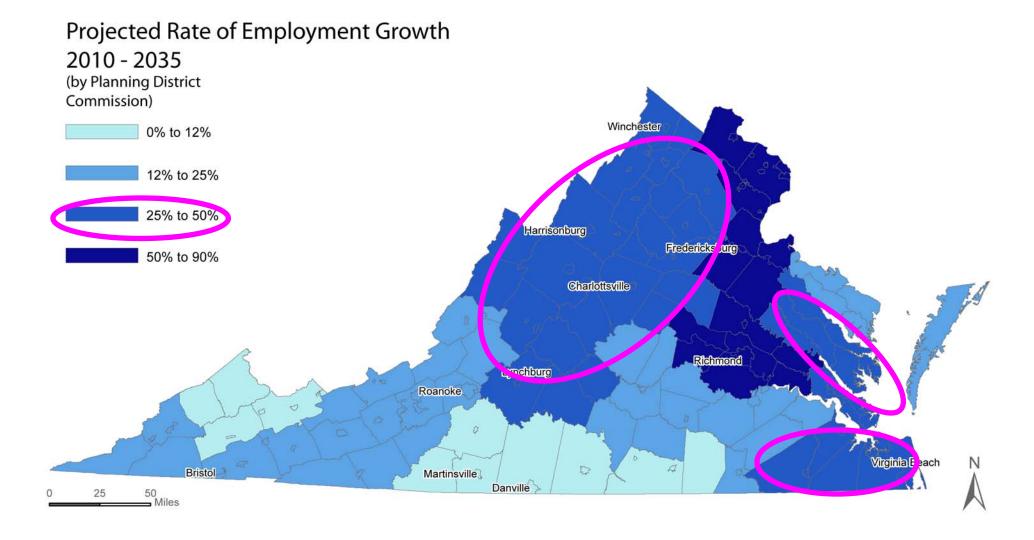


Fast-Growing Employment



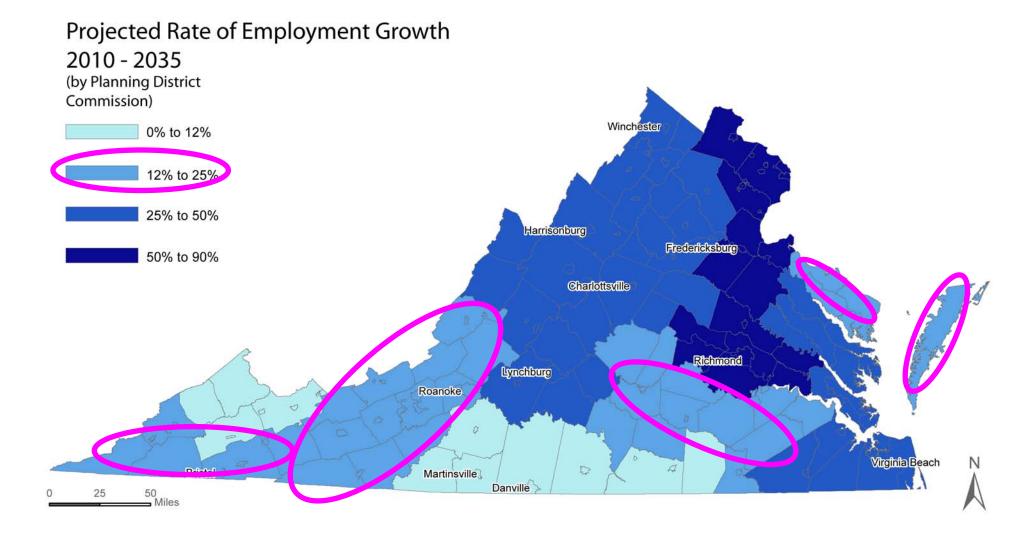


Emerging Employment Growth



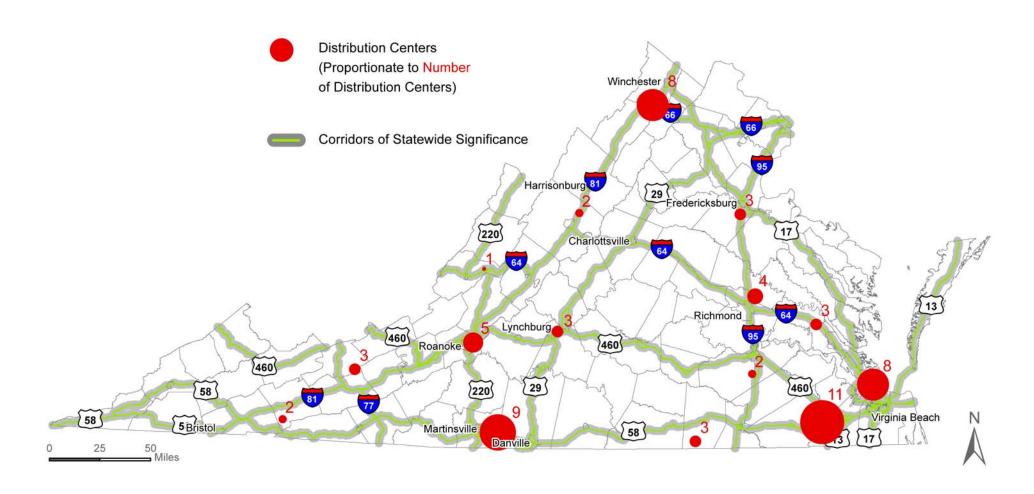


Future Emerging Employment Growth



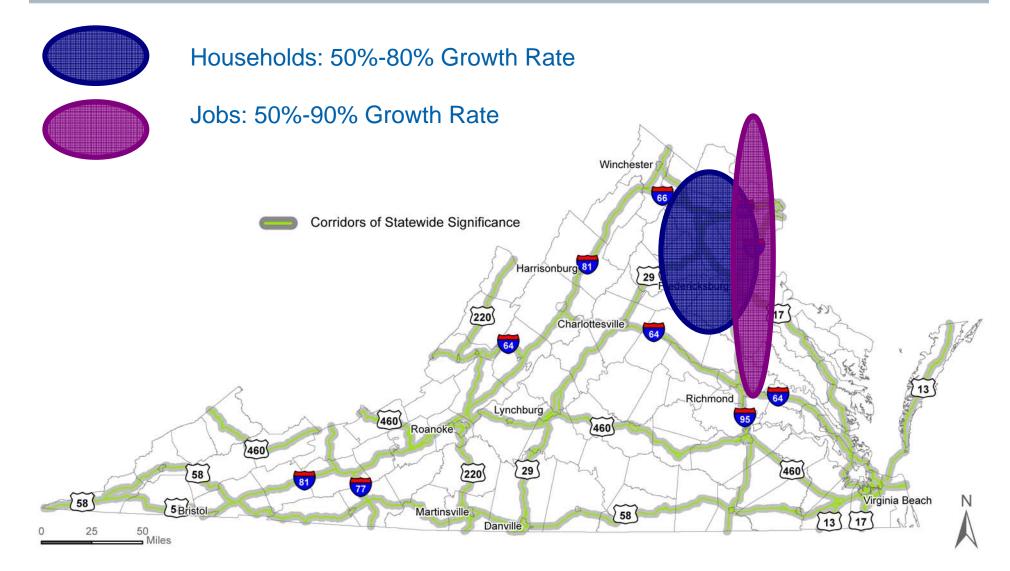


Major Distribution Centers





Fast Growing Areas

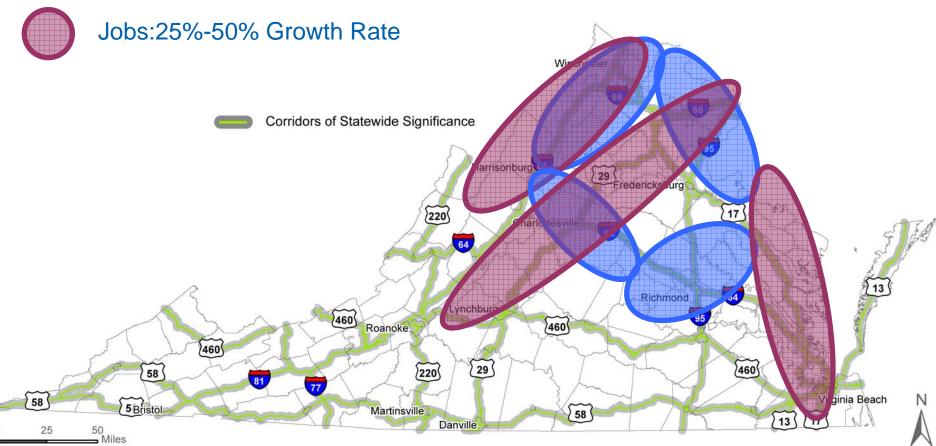




Emerging Areas



Households: 25%-50% Growth Rate



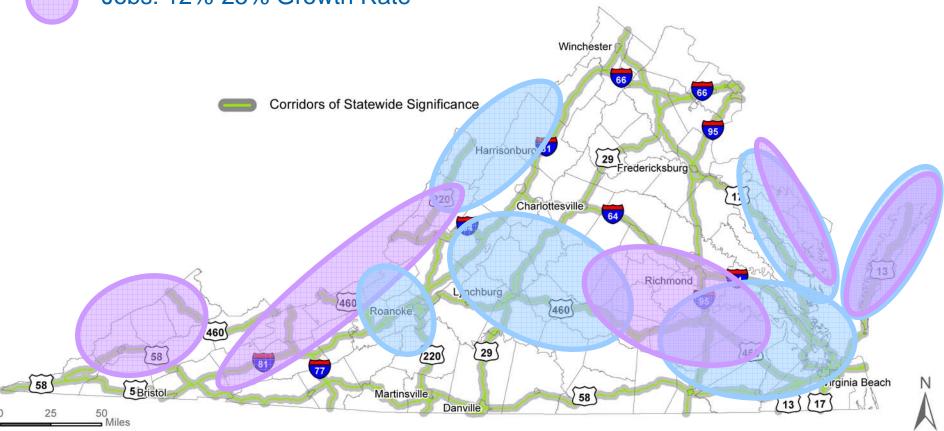


Future Emerging Areas



Households: 12%-25% Growth Rate





Questions To Consider

Fast-growing areas

- How is our supply of multi-modal transportation?
- Are we encouraging more density & proximity?

Emerging areas

- How can we preserve roadway capacity and expand transit?
- How can we focus growth in high-accessibility locations and improve accessibility in desired growth areas?

Future emerging areas

- What can we do to preserve future roadway capacity?
- How can we expand multi-modal options?
- How can we bring jobs and households closer together?

Distribution centers

- How can we support desired growth and enhance quality of life?
- What strategies apply to urban centers? What applies to rural communities?