



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
VIRGINIA TECH

Download app to view
detailed Agenda.



SMALL TOWNS CONFERENCE

2025

June 5-6, 2025
Longwood University, Farmville

AGENDA

Thursday, June 5

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:00 AM | Registration / Breakfast |
| 9:00 - 9:20 AM | Welcome VML President Steve Trivett – Mayor, Town of Ashland Delegate Thomas C. Wright – Virginia House of Delegates Brian Vincent – Mayor, Town of Farmville |
| 9:20 - 9:30 AM | NLC's Small Cities Program Bryan Griffith – Director of Member Services & Engagement, NLC |
| 9:30 - 10:15 AM | Town Stories Rob Bullington, Director of Communications, VML |
| 10:15 – 10:30 AM | Break |
| 10:30 – 11:15 AM | Overview of Housing Resources Available to Small Towns Chris Thompson – Director of Strategic Housing, Virginia Housing |
| 11:15 AM - Noon | Disaster Preparedness Andy John – Deputy State Coordinator-Field Operations Bureau, VDEM |
| Noon - 12:45 PM | Lunch |
| 12:45 – 1:00 PM | Sneak Preview: VIP Fixed Term Portfolios Bob Lauterberg – Managing Director, VML/VACo Finance |
| 1:00 - 1:45 PM | Making the Most of Economic Development Opportunities Lincoln Saunders – Sr. Director-Local Public Affairs, Capital Results |
| 1:45 - 2:00 PM | Break |
| 2:00 - 2:30 PM | Helpful Hints for Working with VDOT on Local Projects Paul Trapp – Director of Infrastructure Services, Timmons Group |
| 2:30 - 3:15 PM | 2025 Temperature Check: Economic Conditions, Migration Patterns, Housing Markets Ryan Price, AICP – Chief Economist, Virginia Realtors |
| 3:15 - 4:00 PM | Cybersecurity and Mitigating Risk Marcus Hensel – Managing Director, Virginia Risk Sharing Association |
| 5:00 - 6:30 PM | Reception Catbird Terrace at the Hotel Weyanoke |

Continues on reverse side >

Friday, June 6

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:00 AM | Breakfast |
| 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM | Behind the Dais: How Local Leaders Decide Laura Hampton – Doctor of Business Administration in Leadership |
| 9:30 - 10:00 AM | TED TALKS: Update from 2024 Small Towns Conference: Mount Rogers Regional Partnership Joe Hines – Principal of Economic Development, Timmons Group Doing Big Things for Small Towns Greg Kelly, Business Services Manager and Corporate Counsel – McGill Associates So You Want to Change Your Charter Stephanie Davis – Collegiate Associate Professor and Program Director, Virginia Tech Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management Program |
| 10:00 - 10:15 AM | Break |
| 10:15 - 10:45 AM | LED Street Light Conversions for Small Towns Leslie Downey – Outdoor Lighting Program Manager, Dominion Energy David Elliott – Electric Distribution Program Manager, Dominion Energy |
| 10:45 - 11:15 AM | Housing & Redevelopment in Traditional Downtowns Mike Lockaby – Member, Spilman, Thomas & Battle |
| 11:15 AM - Noon | Water/Wastewater Considerations for Towns – Panel Discussion John Fidler – Principal, Virginia American Water Joel Storrow – Senior Principal & Past President, McGill Associates Phil Martin – Director, Augusta Water |

Event Sponsors



Year-Round Sponsors

