



TOBACCO HERITAGE TRAIL GAINS MOMENTUM

UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND ECONOMIC BOOST

SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
November 13, 2007

SOUTH HILL, VIRGINIA

Roanoke River Rails to Trails, Inc., whose acquisition of miles of Norfolk Southern abandoned railway will create the one hundred mile-long Tobacco Heritage Trail, a network of trails and connecting routes in Southern Virginia, is conducting three informational community meetings, to be held this month in Alberta, Boydton, and South Boston, November 27th, 28th, and 29th, respectively. All meetings will be held from 7 o'clock until 9 o'clock in the evening. The informational gatherings will feature presentations regarding location of trails, plans for design and amenities, and cultural characteristics, which embody the heritage of Southern Virginia.

Additionally, the Tobacco Heritage Trail project continues to gain speed, with the recent funding awards from the Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission and The Rails-To-Trails Conservancy (RTC). The Tobacco Heritage Trail will add steam to the regional economic initiative, which will link six counties within Southern Virginia, and will stimulate a tourism-based economy. The proposed trail system will also connect existing trails from Brodnax to LaCrosse, and those within Staunton River State Park.

Present at the community meetings will be the team of design and planning consultants, regional governmental officials, members of the National Park Service, and organizational trails leaders.

The community meetings are each scheduled from 7-9 o'clock in the evening:

November 27: Southside Virginia Community College, Christanna Campus;
John J. Cavan Workforce Development Center, Room 127, Alberta.

November 28: Boydton Elementary School Cafeteria; 175 Mayfield Drive, Boydton.

November 29: The Prizery; 700 Bruce Street, South Boston.

For further information, see web site: tobaccoheritagetrail.com, or call: 434.296.2108.