3.2 LAND USE, SOCIOECONOMIC, AND FARMLAND

This section summarizes the existing and forecasted land use, residential areas, public facilities, farmlands and forested lands use, socioeconomic setting, environmental justice, and land use policies in the study area. A complete description is found in the Land Use, Socioeconomic and Farmlands Technical Report. The study area encompasses the City of Salem; however, all alternatives considered are located outside the city. Consequently, limited information regarding Salem is provided.

3.2.1 Existing Land Use

Land use information was compiled from aerial photographs. General descriptions of the development in the area are based on field visits conducted during 1997 and early 1998. The study area exhibits a varied topography and is predominately rural in character. The City of Roanoke and the City of Salem are at the corridor’s northern end and the City of Martinsville is near the southern end. Five incorporated towns and numerous rural unincorporated places are located within the study area. The corridor’s western area is dominated by mountainous terrain, with major land uses including dairy farms and small manufacturing establishments. The corridor’s eastern side is characterized by rolling hills with croplands and rural/small town development. Major features within the study area include portions of the Jefferson National Forest, the Appalachian Trail, Mill Mountain, Cahas Mountain, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Blackwater River, the Pigg River, the Smith River, Grassy Hill, Fork Mountain, and Chestnut Mountain. Major land use features near (but outside) the study area are Smith Mountain Lake to the east and Philpott Reservoir to the west. A description of the land uses and unique features is provided. Figure 3.2-1 shows existing land use. Table 3.2-1 provides the area in acres and hectares for each existing land use type in the study area.

3.2.1.1 Roanoke City, Salem City, Vinton, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, and Bedford County

Roanoke City, Salem City, Vinton, and Roanoke County possess the most intensely developed land uses, the highest populations, and the greatest level of urban services/facilities. The I-581 and U.S. Route 220 Corridor runs south through the City of Roanoke’s older neighborhoods, commercial, and industrial core. This part of the study corridor includes the largest regional shopping center (Valley View Mall), the Roanoke Regional Airport, the Norfolk Southern Railroad Regional offices and yards, the Roanoke Civic Center, and historic downtown Roanoke. Roanoke County is slightly less developed than Roanoke City. Residential development dominates areas surrounding Roanoke City and Salem. Rural development dominates areas along the west and south county borders.

The urbanizing portions of Botetourt County are located south of I-81 - in the vicinity of U.S. Route 220 Alternate, U.S. Route 11, and U.S. Route 460. The county’s largest concentration of commercial and office land uses are located in the vicinity of the Exit 150 interchange on I-81. Highway commercial businesses dominate this area. The southwest portion of Botetourt County includes portions of the industrial base located in the U.S. Route 11 and I-81 corridor between the Roanoke County line and the Town of Troutville. Other industrial land use concentrations are located in the area of Blue Ridge and in the portions of the county closest to the intersection of U.S. Route 220 Alternate and U.S. Route 221/U.S. Route 460.

Bedford County portions of the study area are generally rural, with scattered development along Route 24. Land uses along Route 24 in the vicinity of the study area are primarily highway commercial, with low-density residential uses located on the surrounding area roads. Land coverage is dominated by forested lands.
### Table 3.2-1

EXISTING STUDY AREA ACREAGE BY LAND USE CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Category</th>
<th>Commercial and Industrial</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Open Space, Pastureland, Agriculture, and Wetlands</th>
<th>Parks</th>
<th>Public Facilities</th>
<th>Residential</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roanoke City</td>
<td>6,807</td>
<td>2,755</td>
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<td>1,322</td>
<td>1,849</td>
<td>748</td>
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<td>1,466</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>343</td>
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<td>Town of Vinton</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Roanoke County</td>
<td>3,155</td>
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<td>44,612</td>
<td>18,054</td>
<td>14,160</td>
<td>5,731</td>
<td>3,237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bedford County</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>21,819</td>
<td>8,830</td>
<td>10,188</td>
<td>4,123</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botetourt County</td>
<td>1,261</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>25,963</td>
<td>10,507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Boones Mill</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>581</td>
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<td>964</td>
<td>390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin County</td>
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<td>60,104</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Martinsville</td>
<td>1,104</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>1,214</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Ridgeway</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>182</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4,144</td>
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<td>48,968</td>
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<td>9,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>8,515</td>
<td>371,067</td>
<td>150,171</td>
<td>130,092</td>
<td>52,648</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on aerial photography
3.2.1.2 Franklin County, Boones Mill and Rocky Mount

The primary land uses within Franklin County include forestland, farmlands, and pastureland or vacant lands. The Blackwater River valley is one of the more open areas in western Franklin County. U.S. Route 220 between Boones Mill and the Rocky Mount town limit is lined with residential and commercial developments. Commercial development increases at the merger of U.S. Route 220 Business and U.S. Route 220 (Rocky Mount Bypass) at the north end of Rocky Mount. The majority of the town’s retail fronts U.S. Route 220.

The Town of Boones Mill is located between Roanoke and Rocky Mount, and is bisected by U.S. Route 220 at Route 739. Growth traditionally has come from new residents moving from the more urban areas of Roanoke City and Roanoke County. Highway commercial development is focused in the first several blocks along U.S. Route 220. Residential development is located on the hills behind the commercial development.

In Rocky Mount, industrial development is concentrated north of the downtown area and in two industrial parks that straddle the northern part of U.S. Route 220 Business. Heavy manufacturing (including lumberyards, mills and textile plants) are located at the southern edge of the town. Residential development occurs on the western side of town with areas of “light residential” in the northwest and south of the railroad tracks. The downtown area is comprised of two general areas - (1) moderate-density commercial uses and strip commercial uses along U.S. Route 220 Business and (2) strip commercial mixed with public facilities along Route 40 west. Rocky Mount Shopping Center is located adjacent to the U.S. Route 220 on-ramp from Route 40.

3.2.1.3 Henry County, Martinsville, and Ridgeway

Scattered rural residential development occurs in Henry County along state roads such as U.S. Route 220. Henry County is more developed than Franklin County and has long-standing tobacco and furniture industries. Development is primarily centered at the crossroads of U.S. Route 220 with Route 57 and U.S. Route 58, and has grown along the Smith River. Industrial development concentrations are located in the Route 57 corridor (Basset Forks to Basset). Two industrial parks north of Martinsville are located along Kings Mountain Road. Other industrial areas include the U.S. Route 58 Business corridor in Martinsville and the U.S. Route 220 corridor from Martinsville to the Town of Ridgeway. Forest lands and agricultural lands continue to comprise the largest land cover in Henry County.

3.2.2 Residential Developments

Much of the study area’s rural nature does not support formal neighborhoods; however, the urban areas of Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Martinsville do have distinct housing developments. Henry County has identified growth areas. Figures 3.2-2 and 3.2-3 illustrate the location of neighborhoods in the study area. The residential developments listed below may be affected by proposed I-73 alternatives.

- Roanoke City: Thirlane, Williamson Road Action Forum, Washington Park, Gainsboro, Southeast neighborhood, Old Southwest neighborhood, Raleigh Court, South Roanoke, Downtown, and Riverland.
- Roanoke County: The Hollins area, Glenvar, Windsor Hills, Back Creek, Cave Spring, Clearbrook, and Mount Pleasant.
- Bedford County: Cascade Forest and Big Bear Run.
- Botetourt County: The unincorporated place of Blue Ridge.
- Franklin County: No specific neighborhoods or neighborhood associations were identified.
- Henry County: No specific neighborhoods or neighborhood associations were identified.
- Martinsville: The Northside neighborhood, Uptown area, the Westside neighborhood, Chatham Heights, Southside, and Forest Park/Druid Hills.
FIGURE 3.2-3
SOUTH AREA NEIGHBORHOODS

Legend
- NORTHSIDE
- WESTSIDE
- UPTOWN
- CHATHAM HEIGHTS
- SOUTHIDE
- FOREST PARK
- DRUID HILLS

Source: Vantage Comprehensive Plan 1996 Update, City of Martinsville.

I-73 Location Study
3.2.3 Future Land Use

The comprehensive plans for each jurisdiction define visions of future growth. A common theme to these plans emphasizes each jurisdiction’s desire for rural areas to maintain their rural qualities and for urban areas to remain urban. Future growth goals and objectives, as defined in the plan of each jurisdiction, are summarized in following sections. The study area includes the City of Salem; however, all alternatives considered are located outside the city. Consequently, no detailed description of Salem future land use is provided.

Figure 3.2-4 shows future land use. Table 3.2-2 provides the area in acres and hectares for each future land use type in the study area.

3.2.3.1 Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, and Bedford County

Roanoke City’s plan focuses on the redevelopment of downtown and the maintenance and enhancement of city neighborhoods. Maintaining and improving gateways to the downtown along major transportation routes is a key objective.

Roanoke County seeks to stabilize growth in currently developed portions of the study area. Specifically, Windsor Hills and Cave Spring are designated for stabilization, while Glenvar, Mount Pleasant, Clearbrook, Back Creek, and Bent Mountain are designated for limited growth. An urban development boundary is defined, which follows the Blue Ridge Parkway and the northern edge of the Mount Pleasant planning area. Development areas are defined, however, at the intersection of U.S. Route 221 and Route 419, the Tanglewood Mall area, and east of Vinton. Each of the planning areas adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway has established viewseshed protection.

Botetourt County’s future land uses recognize the commercial core and the existing traffic problems at the I-81/U.S. Route 220 Alternate interchange (Exit 150). The Exit 150 area is projected as the county’s primary location for commercial/office uses. The plan states that this area will continue as a commercial hub over the next five years. Water and sewer facilities exist in the area for such development to occur, however, the County should consider the impact of increased commercial development on the environment, existing traffic patterns and adjacent uses (Botetourt County Plan, November 1998.).

Bedford County identifies where new medium to high-density developments should be clustered. The plan identifies rural service centers where services (rescue squads, post offices, and schools) for rural areas will be centered. Commercial centers, industrial parks, and public facilities will be placed in the growth areas. No rural service centers are identified within the study area, so the area will continue as agriculture or forested lands. Policies protect farmland and forests and enforce sediment and erosion control regulations, promoting best management practices (BMP) for timber removal and reforestation of harvested areas.

3.2.3.2 Franklin County, Boones Mill, and Rocky Mount

Franklin County designates Town and Community Centers, Rural Village Centers, and Commercial Highway Corridors. Farmlands and forested lands are to be preserved. The majority of the study area is within the farm and forest designations. Incorporated towns and unincorporated area centers are the focus for commercial and social activity. Rural village centers provide basic services and amenities.

The plan identifies two future locations for proposed I-73, noted as a priority for planning efforts associated with the I-73 Location Study. Future interstate highway interchanges are identified. Franklin County will consider the impact of interchanges on existing land uses and potential development patterns. Farmlands and forested lands are valued for their conservation and economic roles. The future land use plan sets forth preservation objectives and, for farmland, compatible land use criteria to avoid nuisance complaints by new development.
### TABLE 3.2-2
FUTURE STUDY AREA ACREAGE BY LAND USE CATEGORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Category</th>
<th>Commercial and Industrial</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Open Space, Pastureland, Agriculture, and Wetlands</th>
<th>Parks</th>
<th>Public Facilities</th>
<th>Residential</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>Hectares</td>
<td>Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Area</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roanoke City</td>
<td>7,321</td>
<td>2,963</td>
<td>1,834</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>1,636</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>1,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Salem</td>
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<td>989</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>1,332</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>147</td>
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<td>Town of Vinton</td>
<td>310</td>
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<td>169</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>27,516</td>
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<td>8,942</td>
<td>3,619</td>
<td>3,237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bedford County</td>
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<td>4,005</td>
<td>4,321</td>
<td>1,749</td>
<td>2,023</td>
<td>819</td>
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<td>Botetourt County</td>
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<td>7,101</td>
<td>2,874</td>
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<td><strong>Central Area</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>City of Martinsville</td>
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<td>1,202</td>
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<td>123</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Ridgeway</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>14,501</td>
<td>5,869</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>108,981</td>
<td>93,311</td>
<td>37,764</td>
<td>6,338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Local comprehensive plans.
The county’s remaining areas include several types of residential development from low- to medium-density, certain commercial and industrial uses, public and semi-public uses, and environmentally sensitive resources. The plan calls for delineation of critical and environmentally sensitive resources to facilitate their protection.

3.2.3.3 Henry County, Martinsville, and Ridgeway

Henry County categorizes all areas in the county into one of two areas: growth or rural areas. Growth areas are established to accommodate growth with public infrastructure while maintaining protection of environmentally sensitive areas. Growth areas in Henry County include many areas that are already developed, and where redevelopment and infill are encouraged by the plan.

The City of Martinsville’s plan consists of specific policy objectives and a future land use map. One focus of the plan is upgrading the major arterials throughout Martinsville to commerce or scenic parkways. U.S. Route 220, U.S. Route 58, Route 108, Clearview Drive, and Commonwealth Boulevard are designated as commerce parkways. The major city streets through residential sections and the uptown district are designated as scenic parkways. The northern part of Martinsville adjacent to Clearview Drive is planned for development as a commerce park, and some areas on the north/west side of Chatham Road (Route 57) are planned for future residential development. Most of the land available for new residential development is in areas of moderate and steep terrain, so the plan calls for stricter zoning to control the environmental impacts of this potential development.

3.2.4 Public Facilities

Emergency services, fire/police protection, schools/libraries, and sewer/water/sanitary services are dispersed, and located in rural crossroads (see Figures 3.2-5a through 3.2-5e). Several services are located on or adjacent to U.S. Route 220.

3.2.4.1 Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Bedford County, and Botetourt County

Roanoke City

Of Roanoke City and County’s eight medical facilities, three are within a mile of U.S. Route 220 and located in Roanoke City. The medical facilities in Roanoke City, Roanoke County and Salem also serve the citizens of Bedford and Botetourt counties within the study area. Roanoke City has one fire station within a mile east of U.S. Route 220. Roanoke City has a police station and a dispatch station located in downtown Roanoke north of the study area.

In Roanoke City, 14 schools are located within a few miles of U.S. Route 220. The University of Virginia School of Medicine is just east of U.S. Route 220 in the downtown. The Virginia Western Community College is close to the U.S. Route 220 right-of-way. Four of six city libraries are in the study area.

The Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, which serves Roanoke City, Roanoke County and the Town of Vinton, operates a landfill and a regional transfer station in Roanoke County. One regional sewage treatment plant serves Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem, Vinton, and Botetourt County. The Roanoke Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is located 1.5 miles (2.41 kilometers) east of the Elm Street/I-581 Interchange on Bennington Avenue. The Crystal Springs Water Treatment Plant, serving Roanoke City, is in the study area.
Legend

- SCHOOL
- LIBRARY
- FIRE STATION
- POLICE/SHERIFF
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

1.5 0 1.5 Kilometers
1 0 1 Miles

Source: City of Roanoke Comprehensive Plan Undated.
Franklin County Comprehensive Plan 1995.

FIGURE 3.2-5d
PUBLIC FACILITIES
SOUTHERN FRANKLIN COUNTY
(SHEET 4 OF 5)
FIGURE 3.2-5e
PUBLIC FACILITIES
HENRY COUNTY
(SHEET 5 OF 5)

Source: City of Roanoke Comprehensive Plan Undated.
Franklin County Comprehensive Plan 1995.

Legend

Source: City of Roanoke Comprehensive Plan Undated.
Franklin County Comprehensive Plan 1995.

I-73 Location Study
Roanoke County

Roanoke County has 11 Fire Department Stations. The county has two fire stations within a few miles of U.S. Route 220, one in Cave Springs and one in Mount Pleasant. The Roanoke County Police Department has two offices allowing for a response time of five minutes or less. The main office is north of Roanoke City and the satellite office is at the Tanglewood Mall. The Town of Vinton operates its own police department with 17 full-time police officers.

There are 10 Roanoke County schools that are immediately east and west of U.S. Route 220. The Roanoke County Main Library and its branches in Blue Ridge, Bent Mountain, Glenvar, Mount Pleasant and Vinton are located in the study area.

Most of Roanoke County is served by the Roanoke County Water Treatment Facility located west of Salem. Vinton operates another plant and uses the Falling Creek Aquifer to provide water for its residents and those of eastern Roanoke County.

Botetourt County

Two of the County’s four volunteer rescue squads service the study area. Three of the seven volunteer fire departments are in the study area. The Botetourt County Sheriff’s Department, the Buchanan Police Department, and the State Police serve Botetourt County. Headquartered in Fincastle off U.S. Route 220, the county sheriff’s department serves the county and incorporated towns of Troutville and Fincastle.

There are five Botetort County schools the study area. The Blue Ridge branch library is located on U.S. Route 460 in Botetourt County just east of the Roanoke County line.

The county owns a sanitary landfill, which is located in the southwestern portion of the county off of Route 779. Public sewerage is provided in the incorporated areas of the county as well as in the Troutville, Daleville and Cloverdale areas. Through a contract with Roanoke City, sewage from the county inceptor plants is treated at the Roanoke Regional Water Pollution Control Plant. Public water from underground wells is provided for the approximately 62 private and public water systems in Botetourt County.

Bedford County

There are two volunteer rescue squads in the county, which are in the study area. Two of the 11 volunteer fire departments are located in the study area and law enforcement is provided by the sheriff’s department and supported by the state police.

Two of the county’s 18 schools are in the study area. Bedford County and Bedford City are served by a regional library system. The Stewartsville branch library is in the study area.

Bedford County provides solid waste containers, instead of curbside service, at 25 localized container sites, two of which are located in the study area. In Bedford County there are two public sewage treatment facilities. The City of Bedford operates the only large capacity sewage treatment facility. Water in Bedford County is supplied by the Public Services Authority, private systems, subdivision systems, and individual wells. There are five subdivisions with water systems in the study area.

3.2.4.2 Franklin County, Boones Mill and Rocky Mount

There is one main hospital in Franklin County, located in downtown Rocky Mount. Also located in Rocky Mount are two smaller clinics. The Boones Mill Medical Center is a small clinic located on U.S. Route 220 south of Boones Mill. Other small clinics in the study area include one in Burnt Chimney and one in Glade Hill. Nine of the 12 Emergency Medical Service districts that serve Franklin County are a few miles from U.S. Route 220.
Eight of the 13 fire companies serving Franklin County are located on or near U.S. Route 220. There are four police stations in Franklin County; the Rocky Mount Police Department, the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, the Town of Boones Mill Police Department and the Ferrum College Campus Police Department.

Franklin County has three grade schools and Ferrum College are within the study area. In Franklin County, there is one public and one private library. The Franklin County Public Library is located in Rocky Mount and Ferrum College is home to the Stanley Library.

There is one active landfill located south of Rocky Mount in the study area. Curbside trash service is not provided, rather, a green box network is provided where citizens may bring their solid waste and recyclable items. There are 74 collection centers, including public buildings, 51 of which are in the study area. The county does not provide water and sewer services. Rocky Mount, Boones Mill and Ferrum have separate water treatment and sewer treatment facilities.

3.2.4.3 Henry County, Martinsville and Ridgeway

The main hospital serving Henry County is in Martinsville. Also the Health Department and a walk-in clinic provide care. Of the six volunteer rescue squads, five are located in the study area. Six of eight fire stations in Henry County are in the study area. The Sheriff’s Office includes an elected sheriff and 87 employees. The City of Martinsville has its own Police Department.

There are 21 schools in Henry County with an enrollment of 9,052 students. There are six public schools in Martinsville and one community college. The Blue Ridge Regional Library in Martinsville serves both the city and county. Three branch libraries are located in the study area. The local college library and Planning District Library are in Martinsville.

Solid waste goes to the Martinsville City landfill, located northeast of the city off Clearview Drive. Henry County has 14 green box containers in the study area. The Henry County Public Service Authority provides water and sewer service. There are two water filtration plants in the county. The city of Martinsville owns and manages its water plant located in the northern portion of the city.

3.2.5 Farmlands and Forested Lands

Farming and forestry have been and continue to be some of the largest land uses and the products from those activities remain important components of the economy for much of the study area. The majority of land in the study area in southern Roanoke, western Bedford, southern Botetourt and Franklin and Henry counties is in either farmland or woodland uses (see Figures 3.2-6a through 3.2-6e). These are discussed in this section.

(This area left blank intentionally)