

Road Town PARTNERSHIP

Government, Businesses and the Community Working Together for a Better Road Town.

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Introduction

The Virgin Islands is a global brand. It has an enviable and hard-earned reputation as a global finance centre of excellence. It is a world class boutique tourist destination. It has a rich and diverse environmental legacy that it is determined to protect and sustain. It enjoys an income per capita that rivals that of many developed metropolitan countries. However, Road Town, its capital, centre of commerce and surrounding area, does not reflect the brand, reputation, businesses or people of the Virgin Islands. Whether you live here or are a visitor, it is quickly apparent that it is unkempt and unbefitting the Territory.

The Road Town Partnership (RTP) proposal has been developed to ensure that Road Town befits the Territory, its businesses, its residents and its visitors today and tomorrow and that that Road Town is a vibrant and thriving representation of the Territory's brand and aspiration.

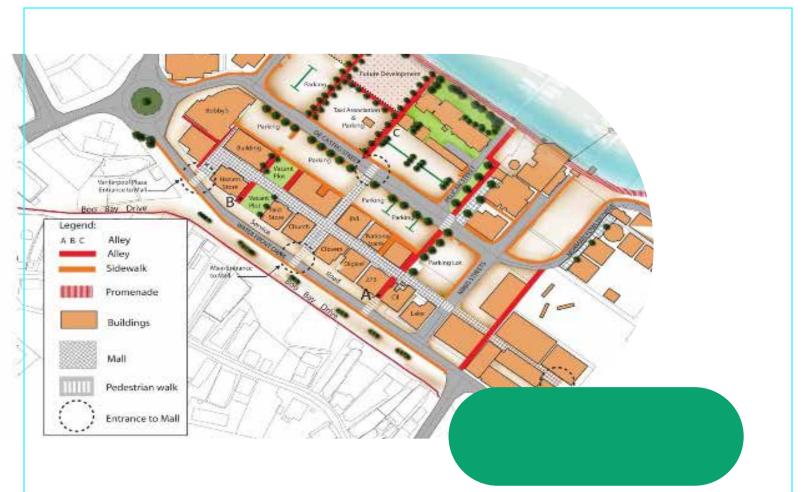
The Government of the Virgin Islands (GoVI) recognises that this is not the first time that Road Town has been the focus of attention and that, regardless of government or party, previous work has too frequently failed to bear fruit. It also recognises that the solution, and progress, cannot be delivered by government alone; that Road Town exists for the Territory, its residents, its businesses and its visitors; and that success can only be achieved by a vibrant, substantive and agile Public-Private Partnership (PPP) involving the government and Road Town's business community, residents and those with an interest in the Virgin Islands.



1. What is the Road Town Partnership (RTP)?

The RTP will be a legally constituted PPP. It will be a true partnership with decision making, rights, responsibilities, risk and benefits shared by the partners – the government, residents and businesses in Road Town (the focus) and across the Territory given Road Town's role and status as the capital. Working together, the parties will develop the vision and plan for Road Town and identify the capability and resources to transform and maintain its infrastructure, appearance, ambiance, and user-friendliness. The RTP will have an independent Board consisting of eleven (11) members from the government, the business community and residents. It will be co-chaired by a private sector representative and the Junior Minister for Tourism and Culture as the government's lead. It will be charged to ensure that the business community and residents are engaged, consulted and heard. It will recognise that there will be disparate views and that difficult decisions will be required, decisions that benefit Road Town, its businesses its residents, its visitors and the wider Territory.

¹The RTP will consider the possibility of private sector sponsorship to cover maintenance, noting that sponsorship will be recognized benefitting the sponsor.



2. What are the benefits?

The RTP will develop a Road Town Development Plan (RTDP) to realise a vibrant and welcoming Road Town that befits the Territory, its businesses and their customers, its residents and its visitors today and tomorrow. The plan will draw on previous work, but will also be developed and agreed with stakeholder input to realise a Road Town that is more sustainable and e-minded, more climate resilient, more pedestrian (and visitor) friendly, understands motorists needs better (flow and parking), is digitally inclusive, is tech and innovation friendly, is more aesthetically pleasing, is cleaner and safer, and is more attractive for businesses and inward investment: a Road Town that residents, businesses and their customers, and visitors enjoy. A Road Town that thrives and prospers (communities and businesses). A Road Town that exemplifies a resilient and sustainable capital. A Road Town that befits the Territory.

Benefits will be direct (more business and recognition) and indirect (opportunities to fulfil Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) responsibilities that benefit employees, customers, and the wider community).



²A more sustainable and climate-resilient Road Town will be better placed to manage the direct and indirect impacts and cost of climate change (e.g. Extreme weather events).

3. The Road Town Development Plan

The RTP Board will be responsible for developing the RTDP, noting that this will require it to:

- 1. Engage businesses and residents across Road Town to solicit their ideas and support.
- Work closely with all appropriate public sector entities, in particular Town and Country Planning (TCP) and have their input before it can be presented to government, through the appropriate Government Ministry for its formal approval.
- 3. Utilise the Recovery and Development Agency (RDA), given its role, responsibilities and capability, to cost the RTDP, its constituent parts and identify how they may be best delivered and who (public or private sector) is best placed to lead their delivery noting that projects identified as low hanging fruit are acted upon quickly and aspiration to ensure a continuous flow of work (programs) over the next 5 years to realise the vision and benefits inherent to the RTDP.
- 4. Ensure that its work complies with The Planning Act.
- 5. Work as diligently as conditions permit, notwithstanding that work will be completed out of committee, the Board will meet at least monthly.

4. What area of Road Town will be covered by the RTDP?

The RTDP will consider the commercial and civic areas of Road Town from the Prospect Reef Roundabout to the Purcell Roundabout. The exact boundaries will be further defined during the early deliberations of the Board.

5. What is the RTDP's planning horizon?

The RTDP will align with the National Sustainable Development Plan 2036 (NSDP36) and the National Physical Development Plan 2040 (NPDP40). As such, its planning horizon will be out to 2040.

6. What will the RTDP consider?

Nothing is off the table. The RTP can consider all ideas that can contribute to the vision – a Road Town that befits the Territory, its businesses, its residents and its visitors today and tomorrow. The key is that the RTDP brings the approved ideas together in a costed plan that incorporates sequencing of implementation, identification of individual and collective benefits, sets out how they should be delivered and maintained, and drives and sustains transformation.



7. What can the private sector contribute RTP?

- Capability to enable, working in partnership with the relevant public sector entities, contribution to the development of a Road Town Development Plan (RTDP), noting that this will require substantive engagement across the business community and with residents.
- Resources (cash or kind), noting the intent for public/private sector burden sharing and government's commitment of \$5 million over the initial five years, to realise RTDP's approved outcomes, and the expertise required for the partnership to be substantive, thrive and be sustainable.

³e.g. Law, finance, accounting, planning, and construction.

8. How can a business contribute to or benefit from the RTDP?

Some elements of the RTDP will naturally fall to the public sector, others to the private sector and some will be open to discussion. Where the 'natural' lead is the private sector (likely given the anticipated direct and / or indirect benefits to the private sector), the RDA will release an appropriate RFP. This will also apply to programs that offer a financial return to the investor and that are more suited to a private sector rather than public sector lead. How businesses can be 'recognised' will be identified / proposed by the RTP Board within thirty (30) days of its constitution.

9. What will the GoVI contribute to RTP?

GoVI will contribute the following:

- 1. An initial investment of \$1.0 million has been committed to the RDA Trust Fund for 2025 and the intent to invest a further \$1.0 million in 2026.
- 2. The cross-party political will and determination to support the development plan approved and presented to it by the RTP Board noting that this will have included engagement with and approval by the Planning Authority, and appropriate Business Cases for consideration by the RDA's Board.
- Unfettered access to the capability and resources of all government agencies with a role in the development and maintenance of Road Town. This includes any previous Road Town development plans.
- 4. A centralised, agile and lean governance structure and authority that incorporates the functions currently carried out by the Wickhams Cay Development Authority (WCDA), the Office of the City Manager and any other existing governance structure and mechanism.
- Priority for government / public sector input, approvals, permits, licenses and permission requested by the RTP Board.



⁴ This approach recognises that in such instances government's focus is enabling rather than doing. Examples might include paid parking, the development of business / retail space (e.g. Palm Grove), and / or the appropriate revitalisation / repurposing of spaces currently owned and operated by the public sector (including WCDA).

10. The RTP Board

Government

The government's representatives on the Board will be senior officials and agencies with responsibilities in Road Town. As such, the following Government representatives will serve on the Board. Nominated representatives (members) will be formally empowered to take actions approved by the Board within their purview. They are also charged to:



Represent the government's vision, policies and programme.

Ensure that the Board's work and proposals conform to Government policies, regulations and legislation or, if appropriate, provide advice on the feasibility and practicality of amending policy, legislation or regulations to accommodate the outcomes being considered by the Board. Additionally, any Government department or agency required to support the activities of the Board will be required to attend Board meetings as requested by the Board.

Obtain or provide public sector approvals and resources to execute the Board's endorsed programmes and activities.

The proposed public sector Board Members are:

Ser (a)	Member/Appointment (b)	Full (c)	Advisory ⁵ (d)	Notes (e)
1	Junior Minister for Tourism and Culture	Х		Co-Chair
2	PS, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development	Х		Administering Ministry
3	PS, Premier's Office	х		Executing Ministry
4	Chief Adviser, Office of Premier	Х		Representative, Project Sponsor

⁵ Advisory Members will participate in board meetings and have access to all board materials, but they do not have the right to vote on decisions. They are included to provide expertise or insights on specific topics.

Ser (a)	Member/Appointment (b)	Full (c)	Advisory ⁵ (d)	Notes (e)
5	Chairman, Recovery and Development Agency	х		Executing Agency
6	Chair, BVI Tourist Board	х		Tourism Industry
7	PS, Ministry of Communications and Works		Х	
8	PS, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports		Х	
9	PS, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change		Х	
10	Director of Public Works		Х	
11	Chief Town Planner		х	
12	CEO, Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency		Х	
13	City Manager / Wickhams Cay Development Authority		х	
14	Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health and Social Development		Х	
15	Director, Department of Waste Management		Х	
16	Chief Fire Officer, VI Fire and Rescue Services		Х	
17	Commissioner of Police, Royal Virgin Islands Police Ford	ce	Х	
18	Director, BVI Ports Authority		Х	
19	Director of National Parks Trust		х	

The public sector co-chair may co-opt representation from any government department or agency required to support the activities of the Board noting that any co-opted member would attend as an Advisory Member.

⁵Advisory Members will participate in board meetings and have access to all board materials, but they do not have the right to vote on decisions. They are included to provide expertise or insights on specific topics.

Private Sector

The proposed private sector Board Members are:

Ser (a)	Member/Appointment ⁶ (b)	Full (c)	Advisory ⁵ (d)	Notes (e)
1	Co-Chair	х		Business Owner
2	Finance Chair	Х		Financial/Professional Services Representative
3	Retail Sector	Х		Retail Business Owner
4	Professional / Banking Services ⁷	Х	В	Banking Association or Financial Services, depending on the Finance Chair
5	BVIYTHA / Hospitality ⁸	Х	١	/achting and/or Hotel Sector, depending on Board or Advisory Representation
6	Health Businesses		Х	Association or major business
7	Civil Society ⁹		Х	Community leader from Road Town
8	BVICoC ¹⁰		Х	Interest of businesses, especially MSMEs
9	Marine Association of the BVI		Х	Marinas and marine businesses

The private sector representatives will be responsible for interfacing with the members of their sector and sub-sectors to collect and provide input of the requirements and ideas for their sector(s).

RTP Committee Support

The Board will have a dedicated focal point within the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development as the administering Ministry of Government. The Focal Point will be responsible for providing support for the Board. The Administering Ministry's Focal Point will be supported by a focal point in the RDA which has responsibility for managing the various projects under the RTP. There will also be focal points within the various Ministries and Departments with responsibility for Road Town.

⁶ Where appropriate, the member should be found from the sector's existing 'Association' (e.g. Banking Association). If this is not the case, the sector should be involved in the identification of its representative on the RTP Board.

⁷ Members to cover breadth of professional services / professional service providers in Road Town.

⁸ The BVIYTHA will, given the marinas operating within the RTP's geographical footprint and notwithstanding that it is an Associate Member, seek input from the Marine Association of the BVI.

⁹ Could be the VIRDA's Civil Society Board Member.

¹⁰ Given sector representation, the BVICoC is included as an Advisory Member to provide a holistic view.

11. Timeline / When will the work be undertaken?

The Board will publish the 'timeline' for the RTDP's development and implementation noting the shared aspiration for work to start now and to be taken forward on a timely basis. There will be low hanging fruit (quick wins) that can be identified and implemented early in 2025. These must be realised to generate momentum and the value of the RTP and the RTDP.

The initial milestones for the RTP, noting the shared determination for quick wins to be realised by the end of 4Q2025 and the need for the RTP to win public confidence, including substantive consultation with businesses and the public, are:

- 1. RTP established and Board convened by 15 May 2025.
- 2. RTP Board's First Impression Report (FIR) published by end of Q2/25. This, noting that works can be initiated in this period, will include quick wins and its view of the key RTDP work strands.
- 3. RTP Board publishes, noting that work on quick wins will be ongoing, draft RTDP by end Q3/25.

4. RTDP (plan of plans), noting that in addition to work on quick wins, work on approved near / medium term plans could be initiated in the timeframe, costed and approved by end Q3/25. Importantly, the RTDP will also sequence the programs it covers to facilitate their efficient delivery (understanding their impact on day-to-day life in Road Town) and to ensure that benefits are realised

Of note, this timeline does not preclude priority projects being identified, approved and initiated with appropriate RFPs being published as necessary at any time.

In addition, while the timeline will be refined by the RTP Board, it will acknowledge that long-term and large-scale / complex projects that require extensive and complex planning will likely be conducted over a period of five or more years, and that additional projects will be identified as the RTDP is delivered and that the RTDP is therefore a living document.

> Concepts for Consideration



Waterfront Dr. Aerial Perspective















Improved Pedestrian Access at Roundabout



12. Can the public participate?

Yes!

The public are a critical stakeholder in the RTP and Road Town's future. There will be numerous opportunities for the public to participate. These will include:

Input

Providing input on what should be addressed by the RTP. Public consultations will be held as part of the process to develop and finalise the RTDP.

Donations to the RDA

If an individual wishes to donate, they can. A minimum of \$1,000 is required. Currently, each Donation must be accompanied by a Deed of Contribution Document (DOC). The Deed of Contribution Document is available at the RDA Office or its website. We invite the donor to come into the RDA Office with his/her contribution which will be specifically for the delivery of the RTDP. Donations can be for specific projects, activities, or tasks. All donors and the projects to which their donations will be applied will be recognised in RTP communication and on its website. Individuals can find out how to donate on the RTP website.

Volunteering

The RTP will signpost opportunities for the public to volunteer to support their work / a project's delivery.

13. Where can the public get more information?

Information can be obtained from the website for the RTP at www.roadtownpartnership.com.

There you will find more information on the RTP, the ideas that are being considered, the RTDP as it is developed, and the RTP Roadmap which will allow anyone to track progress of projects and activities.

Board Agencies

Office of the Premier Sponsor and Board Member

Junior Minister of Tourism Government Co-Chair

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development Board Member

> Premier's Office Board Member

Recovery and Development Agency Board Member and Implementing Agency

> Marias by the Sea Private Sector C-Chair

> > **Appleby** Finance Chair

Vanterpool Pharmacy Board Member

BVI Yachting, Tourism and Hotel Association Board Member

> BVI Tourist Board Board Member

BVI Banking Association Board Member

Advisory Agencies

Premier's Office

Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Ministry of Communications and Works

Ministry of Health and Social Development

Public Works Department

Town and Country Planning Department

Office of the City Manager

Wickhams Cay Development Authority

Recovery and Development Agency

Department of Waste Management

Virgin Island Fire and Rescue Services

Royal Virgin Islands Police Force

BVI Ports Authority

National Parks Trust

BVI Chamber of Commerce

Marine Association of the BVI

Mr. Raul "Jougo" Sprauve Civil Society Representative



