WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT

PARK & RIDE FACILITIES

West Piedmont Planning District
Park & Ride Facilities

Park and Ride Lots are primarily used for ride-share parking (car and vanpooling) for commuters who travel to other areas. As noted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), "the facilities are part of an initiative to make it easier for commuters and others to share transportation and reduce the numbers of vehicles using Virginia's highways." VDOT keeps an inventory of approximately 340 Park and Ride Lots, statewide, according to the VDOT Central Office. Of those lots, VDOT owns and maintains approximately 115. Other entities such as local governments, private owners, colleges, local transit companies, and others own and maintain approximately 120 additional lots. According to the 2003 VDOT inventory, the remaining 106 lots are "unofficial" Park and Ride locations that commuters use regularly, but have never been "officially" established as Park and Ride facilities.

In order to ensure that the Park and Ride lot information is as detailed and complete as possible, VDOT is currently in the process of updating the statewide inventory which will include both official and unofficial lots. This will also incorporate any lot locations that are not currently listed in the inventory, as well as adding further information obtained regarding existing lots that are currently listed. The update is expected to be complete by the end of December 2009, according to the VDOT Central Office.

An interactive map that shows where commuters can locate Park and Ride lots can be utilized on VDOT's website. The link to the interactive map may be found at http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/prOTIM.asp. Commuters can click on a Park and Ride location on the map and information regarding the facility will be displayed. The lot information includes the name, address or intersection, route number, transit (bus or rail) connectivity, number of spaces, and other general conditions for the location. In September 2008, latitude and longitude data were added to the interactive map.

Park and Ride Lots are classified into two categories by VDOT: Official (Formal) lots that are owned or leased by VDOT; and Unofficial (Informal) lots that VDOT recognizes as being used for commuter parking, but are not formally designated as park-and-ride lots. With this in mind, the regional facilities were designated as well as possible future informal lots due to the location of these potential sites in proximity to primary roads and population density within the district. In addition, it should be acknowledged that there are private lots and, in some cases, Park and Ride facilities are part of a larger parking lot (such as a portion of the parking lot of a shopping mall). Most of the facilities in the region are private lots that are often used by commuters.

In the region, there are a total of thirty-four (34) formal and informal lots including six (6) potential informal lots and five (5) potential formal lots. Of the thirty-four, three (3) are formal lots and twenty (20) are informal lots. Two of the lots in Danville each connect with transit and rail systems: the Mass Transit Hub/Greyhound site located at 515 Spring Street and The Crossing at the Dan site where AMTRAK picks up at 629 Craghead Street. The following table and maps indicate the Park and Ride facilities in the West Piedmont Planning District:

Park & Ride Location Information

	Location	Type	Condition	No. of Spaces	Lighting
Franklin County					
F1 – Rocky Mount	Intersection of Route 40/US Hwy 220 Bypass Exit Ramp, Rocky Mount	Official/Formal	Paved/Gravel	60 (30 paved/ 30 gravel)	Yes
F2 – Boones Mill	Boones Mill Baptist Church, US Hwy 220 and Route 1605, Boones Mill	Informal	Paved	Approx. 15-20	Yes
F3 – VDOT Burnt Chimney	Near intersection of Routes 116 and 122, Burnt Chimney	Informal	Gravel	10-15	Yes
F4 – Burnt Chimney Elementary	Near intersection of Routes 122 and 670, Burnt Chimney	Informal	Paved	10-12	Yes
F5 – Westlake Towne Center	Route 122, Westlake/Smith Mountain Lake area	Informal	Paved	Approx. 30	Yes
F6 – Rocky Mount Plaza	Route 40 Business (Pell Avenue), Rocky Mount	Informal	Paved	20-30	Yes
F7 – Glade Hill Area	Near intersection of Routes 40 East and 718 (Colonial Tpk), Glade Hill	Informal	Paved	10-15	Yes
F8 – Ferrum College Campus	Routes 40 and 602 (Ferrum Mountain Rd), Ferrum	Informal	Paved	Approx. 30-50	Yes
F9 – Crossroads	Intersection of Routes 40 and 788 (Dry Hill Rd), Crossroads area	Informal	Gravel	10	No
F10 – Ferrum Village	Along Routes 40 and 623, Ferrum	Potential Informal	Paved/Gravel	U	No
F11 – Plateau Plaza	US Hwy 220/Route 697 (Wirtz Rd) Intersection, Wirtz	Potential Informal	Gravel	10-12	Yes
F12 – Orient Bay Development Area	US Hwy 220 (across from Plateau Plaza), Wirtz	Potential Informal	N/A	TBD	N/A
F13 – Southlake Towne Center Area	Near intersection of Routes 40 and 945 (Kemp Ford Rd), Union Hall area	Potential Informal	N/A	TBD	N/A
Henry County					
H1 – Bassett Forks	US Hwy 220-Food Lion Lot, Bassett	Informal	Paved	Approx. 20	Yes
H2 – Laurel Park Plaza	US Hwy 58 and Route 1604 (Lakewood Tr), Laurel Park	Informal	Paved	Approx. 25	Yes
H3 – Ridgeway	US Hwy 220 and Route 1360, Ridgeway	Informal	Gravel	10-12	U
H4 – Horsepasture	US Hwy 58 and Route 692 (Horsepasture-Price Rd), Horsepasture	Informal	Gravel	Approx. 5	No
H5 – Future I-73 Location	Near intersection of US Hwy 220/Route 87	Potential Formal	N/A	TBD	N/A
Patrick County					
Pa1 – M & M Store	US Hwy 58 near intersection with Route 626 (Abram Penn Hwy), Patrick Springs	Informal	Paved	5–8	Yes
Pa2 – Walmart	US Hwy 58, Stuart	Informal	Paved	Approx. 25	Yes
Pa3 – Old Depot	Route 681 (Commerce St), Stuart	Informal	Paved	Approx. 20	Yes
Pa4 – Village Shopping Center	Route 8 (Patrick Ave), Stuart	Informal	Paved	Approx. 25	Yes
Pa5 – Howell's Grocery	Near intersection of US Hwy 58 and Route 57 (across from Howell's Grocery on Rt 57), Woolwine	Informal	Gravel	Approx. 15	Yes
Pa6 – Woolwine	Intersection of Routes 8 and 57, Woolwine	Informal	Paved	Approx. 5	No
Pittsylvania County					
Pi1 – Hurt Interchange	Near interchange of US Hwy 29 Bypass and US Hwy 29 Business, Hurt	Potential Formal	N/A	TBD	N/A
Pi2 – Staunton Plaza	Intersection of US Hwy 29 Business and Route 924 (Pocket Rd), Hurt	Potential Informal	Paved	Approx. 20	Yes
Pi3 – Gretna Interchange	Near intersection of US Hwy 29 Bypass and Route 40, Gretna	Potential Formal	N/A	TBD	N/A
Pi4 – The Junction at Gretna II	Intersection of US Hwy 29 Business and Route 40 (Vaden Dr), Gretna	Potential Informal	Paved	Approx. 20	Yes
Pi5 – Tightsqueeze	US Hwy 29 and Route 703 intersection at Tightsqueeze Shopping Center, Chatham	Potential Formal	Paved	Approx. 25	Yes
Danville City					
D1 – Danville Transit Hub/ Greyhound Terminal	515 Spring St (corner of Spring and Union Streets), Danville	Official/Formal	Paved	37	Yes
D2 – AMTRAK Station	AMTRAK/Crossing at the Dan, 629 Craghead St, Danville	Official/Formal	Paved	30	Yes
D3 – Nor-Dan Shopping Center	211 Nor-Dan Dr, Danville	Informal	Paved	20-25	Yes
D4 – Cain Creek Shopping Center	1461 South Boston Rd, Danville	Informal	Paved	8-10	Yes
D5 – Future I-785 Lot	Near intersection of US Hwy 29 Bus & US Hwy 58/29 Bypass (Future I-785)	Potential Formal	N/A	TBD	N/A

N/A = Not Available; TBD = To Be Determined; U = Unknown

General Conditions

As noted in the previous table, general conditions include amenities such as lighting and pavement conditions. Of the existing locations, twenty-two (22) lots or 73.3 percent are paved and eight (8) lots or 26.7 percent have gravel. In addition, the majority (23 lots or 85.2 percent) has lighting while only 4 lots (14.8 percent) do not. Most of the lots lack public phones, benches, shelters, information signs, etc. The informal lots associated with convenience stores, restaurants, or retail outlets generally have the best accommodations (lighting, phone, public restrooms), but these are provided by the retail buildings themselves and are not special to the lots.

Recommendations

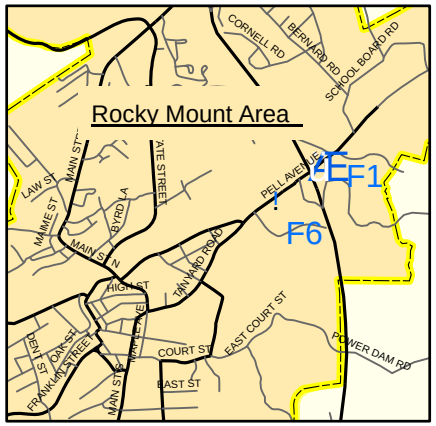
For safety and convenience of use of the lots by the public, the following recommendations are listed:

1. Signage is an important aspect, using approximately four (4) posted indication signs and one (1) at the actual Park and Ride location.
2. Paved lots with marked spaces (for insurance purposes) would allow for ease of snow removal. Gravel would be scraped away when snow plows are used.
3. Sufficient lighting, where feasible, for security purposes would be valuable. If possible, even solar lighting would be beneficial.
4. More “Official ” lots need to be established, particularly in the following areas:

    - Boones Mill area of Franklin County;
    - Along US Highway 29 in the Chatham, Gretna, and Hurt areas of Pittsylvania County;
    - Near the intersection of US Highway 220 and State Route 87 in the Ridgeway area of Henry County in close proximity to the future I-73 location;
    - Near the intersection of US Highway 29 Business and US Highway 29/58 Bypass in Danville near the Virginia/North Carolina line.

Increased use of Park and Ride Lots would provide for less highway congestion, possibly reducing the number of accidents and the amount of pollution emitted into the atmosphere. A boost in the number of Park and Ride locations available may encourage more use of the facilities and would be environmentally beneficial and possibly save lives.

Franklin County
Park & Ride Locations



Park & Ride Locations

- Formal/Official
- Informal
- Potential Informal

F1 - Rocky Mount Official Park & Ride
F2 - Boones Mill
F3 - VDOT Burnt Chimney
F4 - Burnt Chimney Elementary
F5 - Westlake Towne Center
F6 - Rocky Mount Plaza
F7 - Glade Hill
F8 - Ferrum College Campus
F9 - Crossroads
Potential Future Informal:
F10 - Ferrum Village
F11 - Plateau Bay Development
F12 - Orient Bay Development
F13 - Southlake Towne Center

Town of Rocky Mount

Source: Franklin County Planning Department.

Prepared by West Piedmont Planning District Commission, May 2009, Revised August 2009.

0 5 10 Miles

F1 - Rocky Mount
Official Park & Ride Lot
Route 40 West
Route 40 East
Additional Graveled
Parking Area
Exit Ramp
US Hwy 220 North
US Hwy 220 South
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Prepared by West Piedmont Planning District Commission.

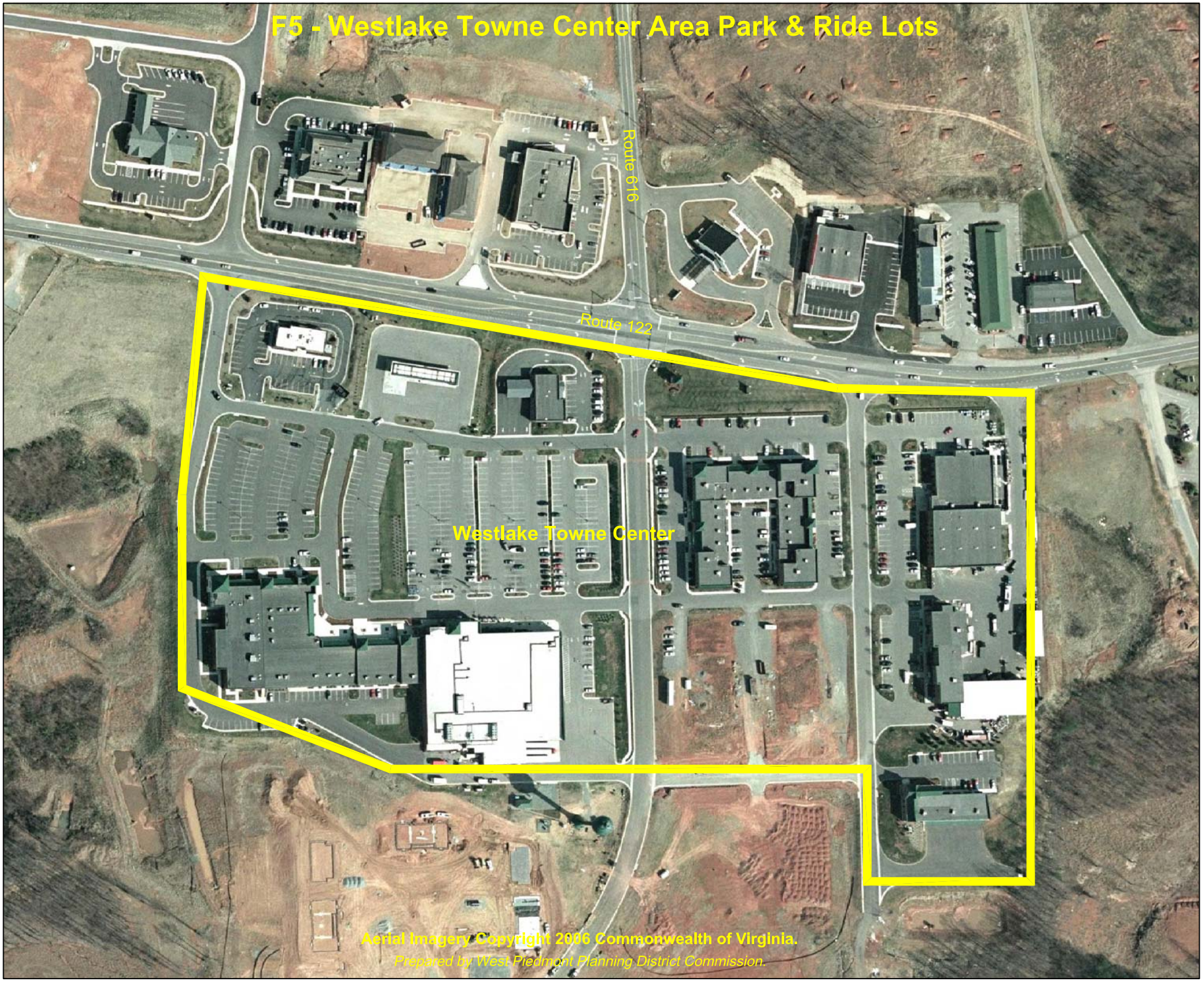
F2 - Boones Mill Baptist Church Park & Ride Lot

Aerial Imagery Copyright 2006 Commonwealth of Virginia.

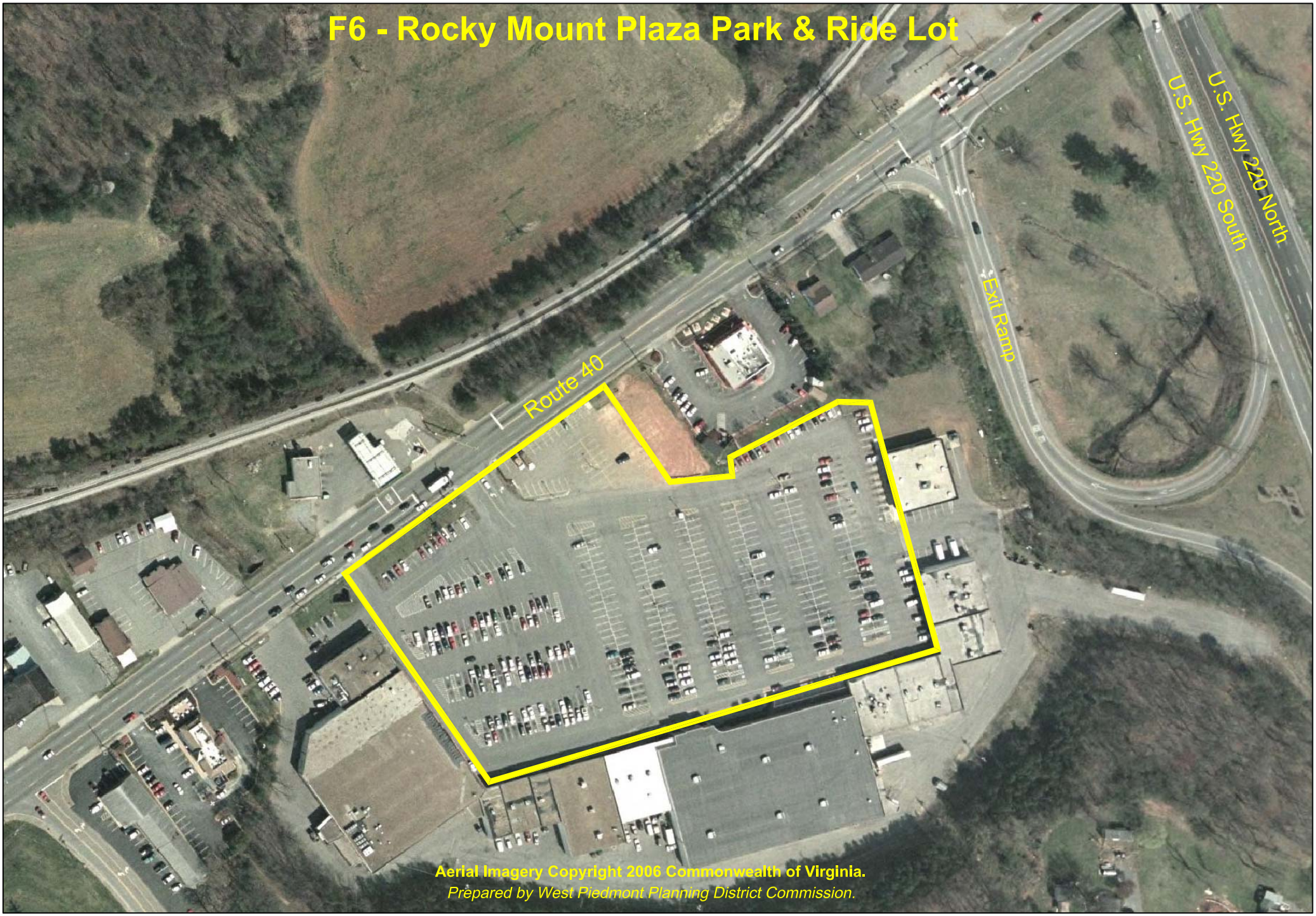
Prepared by West Piedmont Planning District Commission.

F3 - VDOT Burnt Chimney Park & Ride Lot
Route 146
Route 122
Aerial Imagery Copyright 2006 Commonwealth of Virginia.
Prepared by West Piedmont Planning District Commission

F4 - Burnt Chimney Elementary Park & Ride Lot
Route 122
Route 670
Burnt Chimney Elementary School
Aerial Imagery Copyright 2006 Commonwealth of Virginia.
Prepared by West Piedmont Planning District Commission.


F5 - Westlake Towne Center Area Park & Ride Lots
Route 616
Route 122
Westlake Towne Center
Aerial Imagery Copyright 2006 Commonwealth of Virginia.
Prepared by West Piedmont Planning District Commission.

F6 - Rocky Mount Plaza Park & Ride Lot



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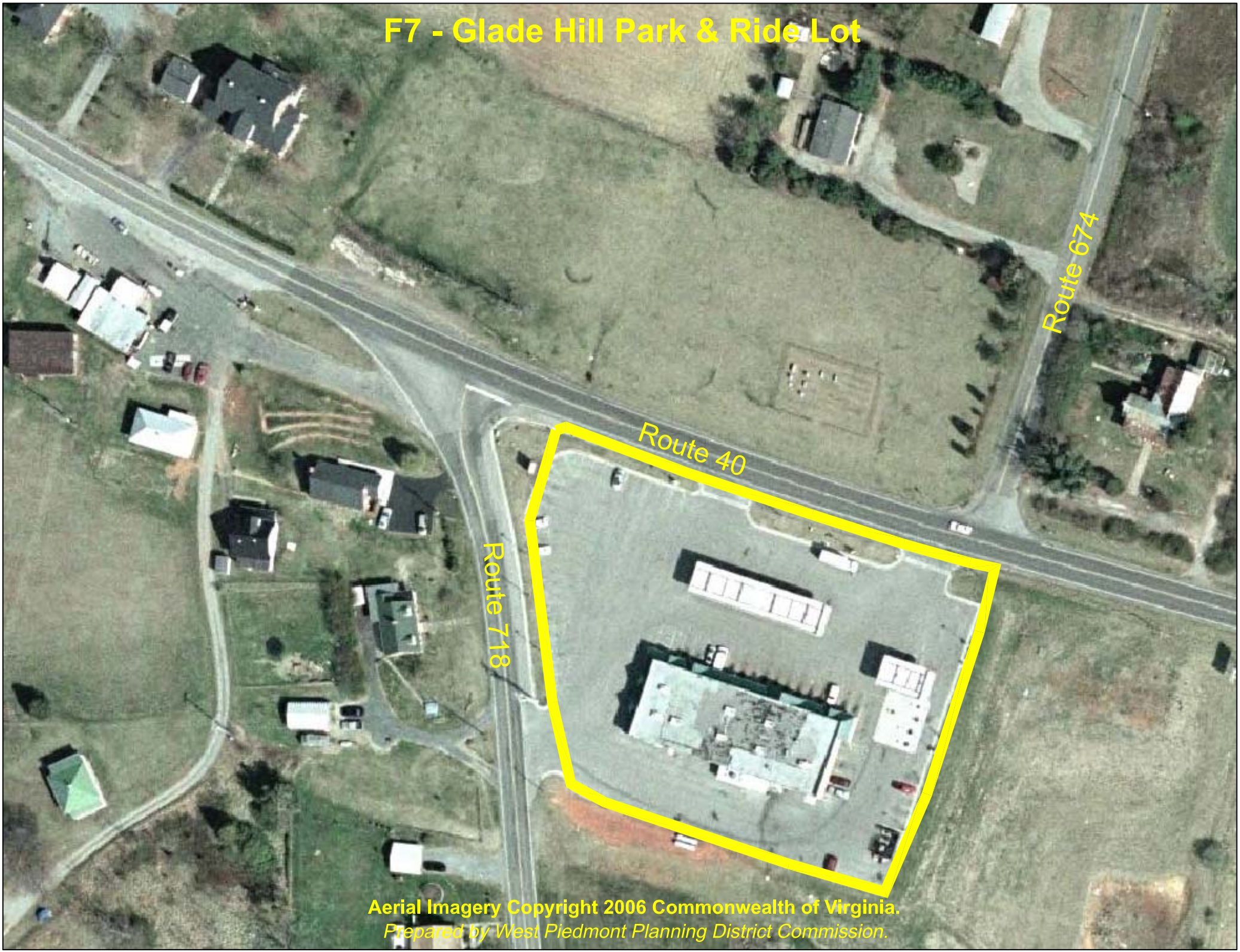
F7 - Glade Hill Park & Ride Lot



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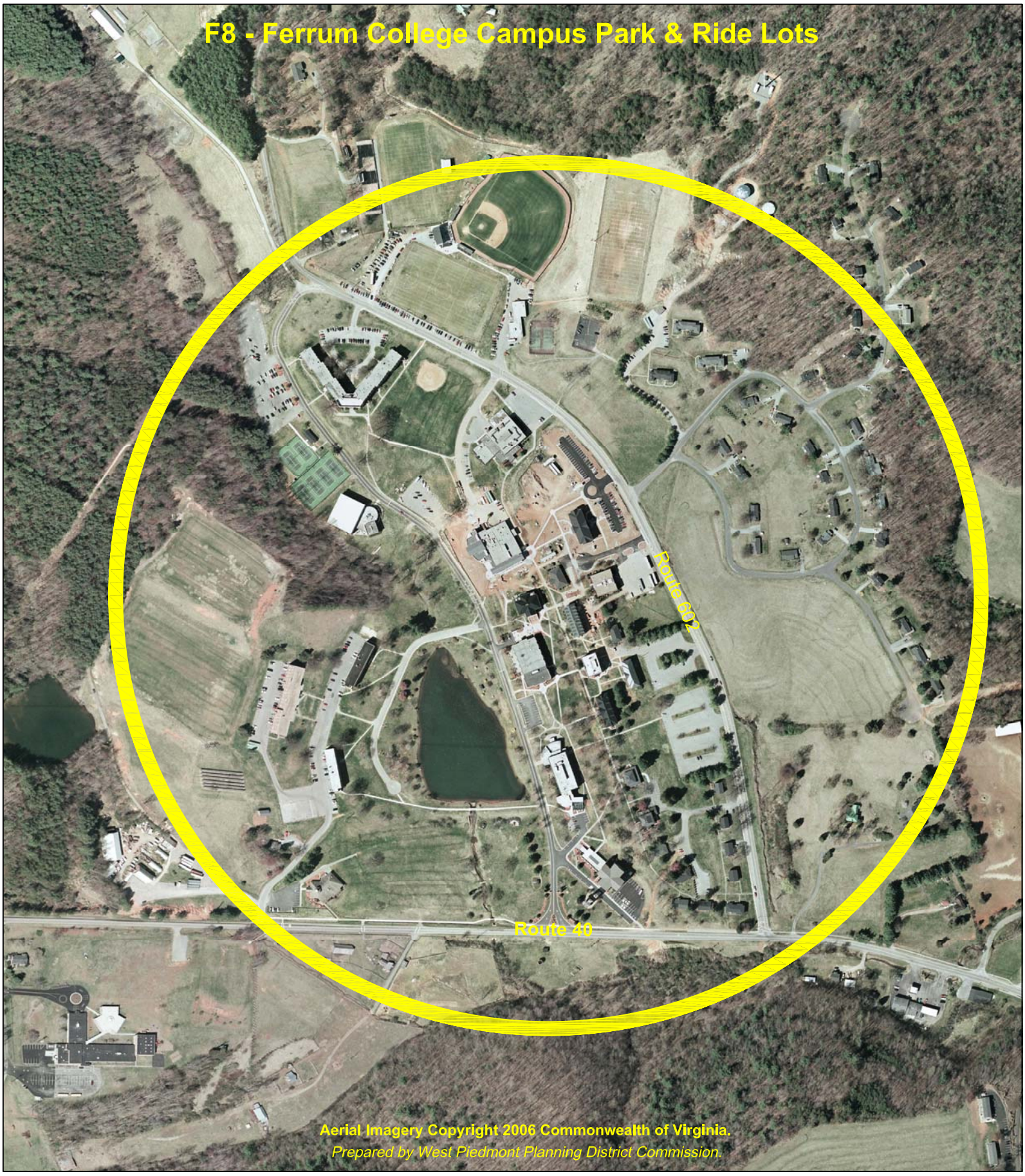
F8 - Ferrum College Campus Park & Ride Lots



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F9 - Crossroads Area P & R Lot

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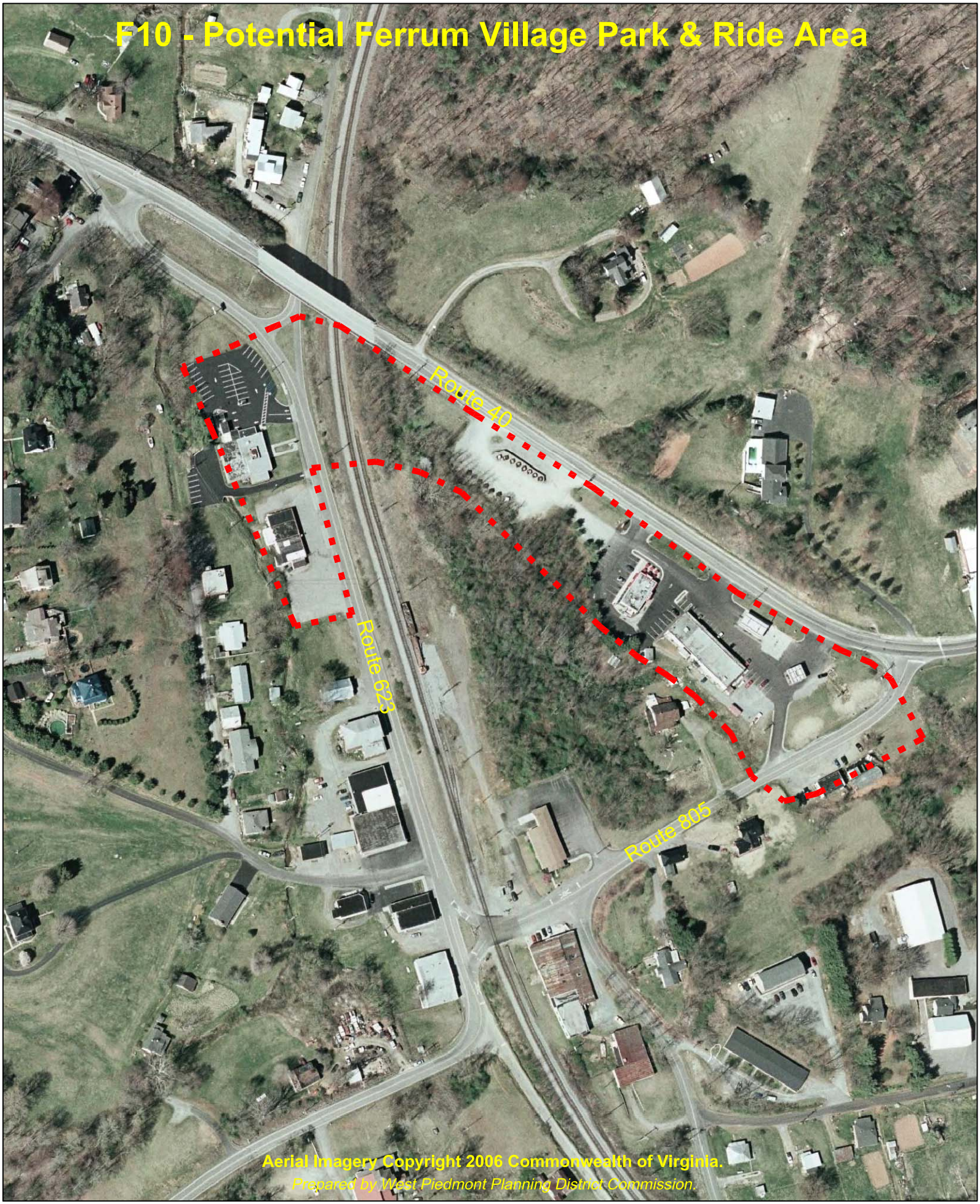
F10 - Potential Ferrum Village Park & Ride Area



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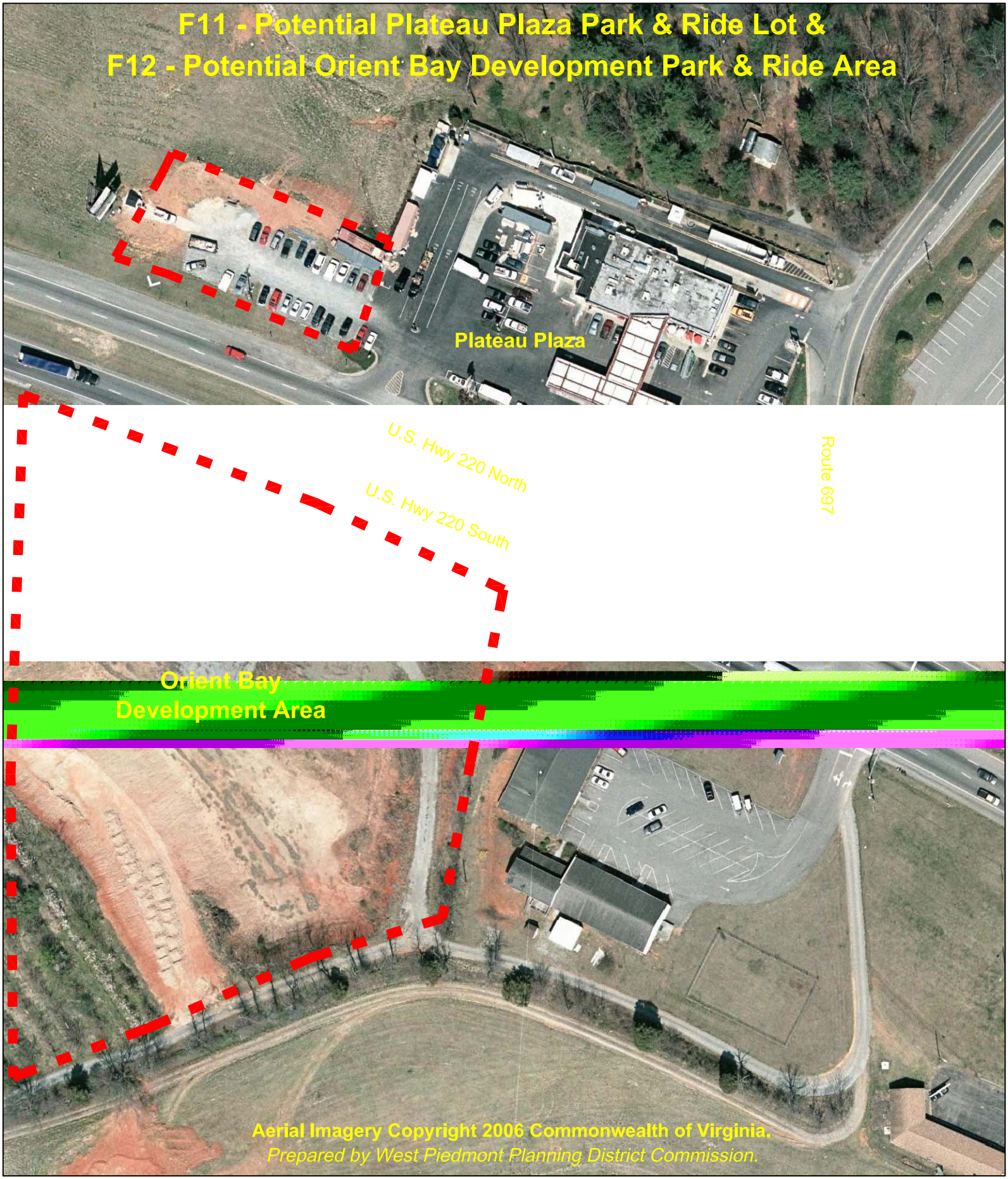
F11 - Potential Plateau Plaza Park & Ride Lot &
F12 - Potential Orient Bay Development Park & Ride Area
Plateau Plaza
U.S. Hwy 220 North
U.S. Hwy 220 South
Route 697
Orient Bay
Development Area
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