

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION**

August 10, 2020
GWRC Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Cathy Binder, **County of King George**; Jason Graham & Matt Kelly, **City of Fredericksburg**; Jeff Black & Nancy Long (In at 5:41 p.m.), **Caroline County**; Annie Cupka, **King George County**; Tim McLaughlin & Chris Yakabouski, **Spotsylvania County** & Meg Bohmke & Tom Coen, **Stafford County**

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Agnello, Spotsylvania County; Jason Towery, Stafford County; Jamie Jackson, FRED; & Joe Stainsby, PRTC

STAFF: Linda Millsaps; Leigh Anderson, Jordan Chandler, Michele Dooling, Kate Gibson, Adam Hager, Matthew Lehane, Jennifer Morgan & Leah Vigil

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Binder called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with a quorum present; which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Binder read the Declaration in regard to the August 10th meeting being held in a virtual and remote setting.

*** Due to the nature of the Declaration of a State of Emergency due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pursuant to Code 2.2-3708.2, this meeting is to be held by electronic communications, via the web platform GoToMeeting. The catastrophic nature of this declared emergency makes it impossible and unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and the purpose of this meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body.*

APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING AGENDA - Meeting August 10, 2020

Upon motion made by Ms. Bohmke & seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all concurring, the August 10th GWRC meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Millsaps advised GWRC is in receipt of correspondence from DEQ and this information will be forwarded to all commission members for their review. Dr. Millsaps also relayed that she has been served in a lawsuit for a registered van pool driver for an insurance claim. Dr. Millsaps stated GWRC will be represented by Division of Risk Management for the State and the pending lawsuit claim has been shared with both GWRC's attorney and GWRC's chair. Dr. Millsaps stated GWRC will be kept apprised of the lawsuit results.

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Resolution 21-01: Approving the George Washington Regional Commission Round 4 Smart Scale Project Applications (Action Item) – Adam Hager

Mr. Hager advised the Round 4 Smart Scale project applications were submitted at the July meeting for member review. There were 5 applications presented in July and GWRC was advised that only 4 could move forward. One of the projects unanimously endorsed was the project in King George County. The other 4 projects were project applications from Stafford County. Mr. Hager relayed that Stafford County has reviewed their 4 project applications and have ultimately removed 1 of the 4 for further consideration at this time. Mr. Hager stated Resolution 21-01 includes the final 4 project applications that will be submitted by GWRC for consideration in Round 4 of the current Smart Scale process.

Upon motion by Ms. Bohmke and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all commission members concurring, Resolution 21-01 was adopted by George Washington Regional Commission at the August 10th meeting. (This Resolution was approved with a 9-0 vote count as Ms. Long had not joined the meeting when Resolution 21-01 was presented).

b.) Transportation Opportunities for Economic Growth Report – Jennifer Morgan & Jordan Chandler - GWRC

A presentation on potential and future transportation opportunities for regional economic growth development was presented by Ms. Jennifer Morgan with GO Virginia and Ms. Jordan Chandler, FAMPO Transportation Planner.

There was discussion from commission members in regard to incorporating a better approach to FRED and other transit opportunities. Mr. Graham stated that a lot of the existing projects being considered regionally include road widening projects. Mr. Graham stated these projects do not work in reducing congestion in a region. Mr. McLaughlin stated that with more companies realizing that work can be effectively done from home as a result of the forced new trends from COVID-19 that how the federal government and other entities will choose to operate in the future may be more of the same that is currently underway so he does not agree that more focus should be placed on additional transit options. Mr. Kelly concurred with Mr. Graham's comments in that FRED and other transit options need to be included and taken to another level in moving forward.

i. Resolution 21-03: Endorsing the George Washington Region Transportation Opportunities for Economic Growth Report (Action Item)

Upon motion by Mr. Coen and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all concurring with the exception of Mr. Graham who voted no, Resolution 21-03 was adopted by the George Washington Regional Commission with a 9-1 vote count at the August 10th meeting. Mr. Graham stated he was not opposed to the presentation and looked forward to exploring new and additional regional economic development opportunities but just wanted to see more focus on FRED and other transit opportunities. (Ms. Long was in attendance to the August 10th meeting for vote on Resolution 21-03).

c.) **FY2021 Loss of Recordation and Grantor's Tax** – Ms. Meg Bohmke

Ms. Bohmke advised that at the conclusion of this year's General Assembly session, the approval of the FY2021 Recordation and Grantor's tax to counties within the region was approved and the vote was already taken and in place without time for localities to reply. Ms. Bohmke advised the counties within the MPO region lost \$1.9m of tax revenues. Ms. Bohmke stated this revenue loss will have a tremendous impact on the region being able to fund locality transportation projects. Ms. Bohmke stated VACO (Virginia Association of Counties) expressed concern over this action state-wide as well. Ms. Bohmke asked Mr. Kelly if the City organizations had expressed concern. Mr. Kelly advised that to his knowledge, the City of Fredericksburg has not expressed its concerns and did not think the state-wide City organization had done so either. However, Mr. Kelly expressed appreciation to Ms. Bohmke in bringing this matter to the attention of GWRC and that it would be a discussion/agenda item at the upcoming City Council meeting. Ms. Bohmke asked for endorsement from GWRC to submit a resolution expressing concern over the action taken and request consideration for the Grantor's Tax revenues to be re-instated to the localities.

i. **Resolution 21-04: Endorsing a Legislative Initiative Requesting Amendments to the Distribution of State Recordation Tax Revenues to Localities (Action Item)**

Upon motion by Mr. McLaughlin and seconded by Mr. Black with all members concurring, Resolution 21-04 was adopted by the George Washington Regional Commission at the August 10th meeting with a 10-0 vote of support.

ADJOURN GWRC MEETING – The August 10th George Washington Regional Commission meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m. The next scheduled GWRC meeting will be held on August 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Dr. Linda Millsaps, Executive Director
(Draft Minutes prepared by JoAnna Roberson)