



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR  
**GROWTH &  
OPPORTUNITY**  
IN EACH REGION

*GO Virginia Region 2*

## **GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 21, 2020, 3:00p.m.- 4:30p.m, Zoom Webinar.**

Executive Committee members in attendance: Ab Boxley, Sandy Davis, Ray Smoot.

Executive Committee members not in attendance: Beverley Dalton

Council members in attendance: Marla Akridge, Eddie Amos, Don Halliwill

Staff in attendance: John Provo, Scott Tate, Rachel Jones.

Public in attendance: Wayne Strickland, Victoria Hanson, Kathy Hodges, Jill Loope, Ben Bowman, Aisha Johnson.

The meeting convened at 3:05p.m. and adjourned at 4:10p.m.

Chairman Smoot called the meeting to order with an electronic meeting statement. Provided that the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.

### ***GO Virginia State Program Changes***

Mr. Provo began with an overview of GO Virginia state program changes, including the creation of a new resilience and recovery program, to assist with both the economic and health crisis. The program also offers funds for larger, multi-regional initiatives. Mr. Provo stated that with this program, match requirements are reduced, with the local match requirement waived. Mr. Provo provided a list of encouraged activities from the State Board. The State Board has also reduced overall match and waived the local match requirement through October 18, 2020 on regular per-capita funds.



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### ***New Project Review***

#### ***Workforce Training and Regional Capacity for Rapid High-Throughput COVID-19 Testing***

Mr. Tate provided an overview of the new project proposal *Workforce Training and Regional Capacity for Rapid High-Throughput COVID-19 Testing* submitted by Virginia Tech's Office of Vice President for Health Sciences and Technology. This project focused on rapid COVID-19 testing. The project budget will support an initial 90-day start-up phase for two testing sites located in Blacksburg and Roanoke. Mr. Tate then discussed proposed project timeline with the Committee. The State staff had positive feedback on the proposal.

The Office of Vice President for Health Sciences and Technology request totaled \$100,000 of GO Virginia Region 2 funds.

Chairman Smoot asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Boxley motioned to approve the project, and Ms. Davis seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

#### ***Pivot and RAMP Up Program***

Mr. Tate provided an overview of a letter of intent from the Regional Accelerator and Mentoring Program (RAMP), with a new application that will be presented to the Council during the next Region 2 Council meeting that will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The project proposal, *Pivot and RAMP Up Program*, will surround focus on the continuation of RAMP's efforts as well as pivot the program in order to maintain its momentum to support the entrepreneurial community during the response and recovery of our region post Covid-19.

The Roanoke Blacksburg Technology Council is seeking \$97,200 in GO Virginia grant funding to support this three-part pivot running through June 2021.

Chairman Smoot asked if there were any questions. There were none.



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### ***Region 2 COVID Impact Survey and Outreach***

Mr. Provo shared preliminary results on a COVID-19 impact survey conducted by council staff. The survey has around 70 responses so far. The survey was designed to collect crucial information from organizations supporting businesses in order to determine how these businesses are adjusting and responding to the current economic and health crisis as well as pinpoint their immediate needs to maintain normal operation.

### ***Region 2 Support Organization Budget***

Mr. Provo introduced the Executive Committee to issues around Region 2's budget model. As more projects have come under contract through implementation and evaluation, administrative costs have risen against a fixed operating budget. Facing similar experiences, most support organizations have moved a portion of costs to the grantees. Staff is waiting on budget guidance from state staff for the new fiscal year budgets. Mr. Provo will bring a new budget proposal to the next meeting of the full council.

### ***Broadband Policy Report***

Mr. Provo provided an overview of guidelines recently adopted from the State Board relating to recommended regional broadband proposals. Included in the report are guidelines regarding middle mile delivery as well as policies pertaining to specific limitations for broadband planning funds.

Mr. Provo then provided an update regarding Region 2's Broadband Task Force. The region has identified one or more projects that follow the State's recommendations.

Council member, Eddie Amos, who also serves on the region's Broadband Task Force, provided an update to the committee. The task force is continuing to meet and working to provide a proposal for the council's review in the near future.



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### ***Project Reporting and Evaluation***

Project reporting updates were provided in the council packet and the full report is available for review on the support staff's website listed [here](#).

### ***Council Vacancies***

Chairman Smoot provided the committee with an update regarding council vacancies. There are currently two vacancies in the Lynchburg region, one vacancy in the New River Valley, and two vacancies in the Roanoke Valley/Alleghany Highlands. The Chairman encouraged members from those regions to bring forward an individual to fill those vacancies.

There being no further business to come before the committee, adjournment occurred at 4:10p.m.



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