



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

COLLABORATION  
INSPIRATION  
SUCCESS

## Regional Roundup

A Memo From the Executive Committee to the GOVA Region 2 Council

June 14, 2023



Economic developers from small and rural communities in Region 2 met in Roanoke on May 8, 2023 to connect with one another and discuss challenges and opportunities. This initial in-person gathering was an opportunity to:

1. Identify projects that multiple localities are interested in pursuing (localities may be non-contiguous)
2. Share beneficial case studies of creative partnership for projects in rural communities in Region 2 and beyond
3. Learn how and when to engage GO Virginia

Access to childcare, the future of work, sites and buildings, entrepreneurship, and talent/workforce pipelines were all identified as common priorities.

# GO Virginia State Board Approves One Region 2 Project

RICHMOND—On June 13, 2023, the GO Virginia State Board announced its approval of one new Region 2 project aimed at growing the regional economy.

## Board Approved Project:

### Falling Branch Corporate Park Phase II Regional Site Development (Montgomery County)

The Falling Branch Corporate Park Phase II Regional Site Development project will build upon a regional 35-acre site, raising it from a Virginia Economic Development Partnership Tier 4 to a Tier 5. The project will entail grading one 20-acre graded pad; installing water, sewer, natural gas, and stormwater; extending electricity; and constructing a road leading to the site. Collaborators on the project include Montgomery County, the Town of Christiansburg, the Montgomery Economic Development Authority, and Onward NRV, who will assist with marketing the site. The priority business targets for this project include advanced manufacturing, transportation and autonomy, life sciences, data centers, and high growth software development companies. The GO Virginia board approved a total of \$324,000 in state funds for the project, which is leveraging \$4,585,359 in non-state sources.

“Raising Falling Branch Corporate Park Phase II to a Tier 5 would greatly enhance the site’s marketability and help to address the low number of Tier 5 sites across Region 2,” said Brian Hamilton, the economic development director for Montgomery County. “Our goal is to work with companies, mainly existing industry, and have them grow in the community. Existing industry is the heart of Montgomery County.”

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## GO Virginia State Board Defers Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative Application

At the June 13, 2023 meeting, the GO Virginia state board voted to defer a decision on Region 2’s Talent Pathway Initiative until their September meeting. It was the recommendation of state staff and application reviewers to defer Region 2’s TPI application, due to the inclusion of a “non-traded industry cluster.” This is in reference to the inclusion of healthcare in Region 2’s Life Science & Healthcare industry cluster. Region 3’s Talent Pathways Initiative, which focuses solely on the healthcare industry, was deferred at the same time.

A letter from Region 2 Chair Dr. William E Amos in support of the Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative was read at the beginning of the June 13th meeting.

This was a disappointing decision, after substantial back and forth between the state review committee and Region 2 staff. Region 2 staff awaits further guidance from the state on how to refine and resubmit.

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# GO Virginia Region 2 In The News

GOVA Region 2 council welcomes six new members (VT Center for Economic and Community Engagement Blog)

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## Connect With Executive Committee Members

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