



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

## **VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING**

**December 9, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

### Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee  
Reggie Aggarwal  
Jim Cheng  
The Honorable Steve Cummings  
Ben J. Davenport, Jr  
Bill Dotson  
Cliff Fleet  
W. Heywood Fralin  
Joel Griffin  
Kenneth Johnson  
Delegate Terry Kilgore  
John King  
Senator L. Louise Lucas  
Senator Ryan McDougale  
Emily O'Quinn  
Jon Peterson  
Fouad Qreitem  
Thomas Ransom  
Delegate Don Scott  
The Honorable Juan Pablo Segura  
The Honorable Bryan Slater  
Delegate Luke Torian

### Members Absent

Senator Creigh Deeds  
Delegate Michelle Maldonado

Call to Order

Ms. Emily O'Quinn, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call	Mr. Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.
Public Comment	<p>Ms. O'Quinn opened the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Ms. Mayana Rice, representing Appalachian Highlands Housing Partnership, spoke in support of the HOMEWorks Initiative project and urged the Board to consider approval of the project.</p> <p>Delegate Terry Kilgore requested that the Chair allow Senator Todd Pillion to provide public comment out of order. Chair O'Quinn granted the Delegate's request.</p> <p>Senator Todd Pillion spoke in support of the HOMEWorks Initiative project and urged the Board to consider approval of the project.</p> <p>Mr. Steve Jones, representing VFP, Inc., spoke in support of the HOMEWorks initiative project and urged the Board to consider approval of the project.</p> <p>Mr. Adam Hutchison, representing Virginia Highlands Community College, spoke in support of the HOMEWorks initiative project and urged the Board to consider approval of the project.</p> <p>Mr. Keith Perrigan, representing Washington County Public Schools, spoke in support of the HOMEWorks initiative project and urged the Board to consider approval of the project.</p> <p>Ms. Jennifer Nichols, representing the Washington County School Board, spoke in support of the HOMEWorks initiative project and urged the Board to consider approval of the project.</p> <p>Mr. Anderson noted that there were several written public comments that were submitted for public comment. Mr. Anderson proceeded to read each comment out loud.</p> <p>Mr. Afnan Ali wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Mr. Ali noted the importance of AI literacy in education.</p>

Mr. James Burrow, representing GT Edge AI, wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Mr. Ali noted the importance of AI literacy in education.

Ms. Kimberly Frost, representing RFK Solutionz Corporation, wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Ms. Frost noted the importance of AI literacy in education.

Mr. Daniel Mayer, representing GT Edge AI, wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Mr. Mayer noted the importance of AI literacy in education.

Mr. Sharouq Usta-Omar, representing GT Edge AI, wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Mr. Usta-Omar noted the importance of AI literacy in education.

Ms. Nancy Pattillo, representing the Cyber Bytes Foundation, wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Ms. Pattillo noted the importance of AI literacy in education.

Mr. Daniel Shore, representing Strategies for Effective Teamwork LLC, wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Mr. Shore noted the importance of AI literacy in education.

Mr. Jeremy Shughart wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Mr. Shugart noted the importance of AI literacy in education.

Mr. Arnold Webster, representing CRISP LLC, wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Mr. Webster noted the importance of AI literacy in education.

Mr. Adam Whalen, representing Animate Cyber, wrote in favor of the AI Mobile Lab Unit for Workforce and Education project. Mr. Whalen noted the importance of AI literacy in education.

Mr. Anderson read a letter addressed to the Board from the Chair of GO Virginia Region 2, the Vice Chair of GO Virginia Region 2, the Chair of GO Virginia Region 3, and the Chair of GO Virginia Region 7. These representatives of their respective Regional Councils wrote to urge the GO Virginia Board to consider raising the limit that a Council may use on planning activities from the current \$250,000

limit and encouraged the Board to consider doing so on a performance basis.

Mr. Anderson noted that there were no further written comments or people appearing before the Board for live comments. The public comment period was closed.

#### Consent Agenda

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the consent agenda, including the September 9, 2025, meeting minutes and readoption of Board Policy #2, would be voted on as a block.

A motion was made by Mr. Fleet and seconded by Mr. Slater to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed (Y: Agee, Aggarwal, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Dotson, Fleet, Griffin, Johnson, Kilgore, King, McDougle, O'Quinn, Peterson, Ransom, Scott, Segura, Slater, Torian; N: None).

#### Deputy Director's Report

Ms. Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD, provided an overview of the 2025 Regional Economic Growth and Diversification Plans, and noted that the plans are subject to approval by the Board.

A motion to for approval of the Growth and Diversification Plans was made by Mr. Fleet and seconded by Mr. Ransom. The motion passed (Y: Agee, Aggarwal, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Dotson, Fleet, Griffin, Johnson, Kilgore, King, Lucas, McDougle, O'Quinn, Peterson, Qreitem, Ransom, Scott, Segura, Slater, Torian; N: None).

Ms. Sara Dunnigan provided a brief overview of the application review process for GO Virginia grant applications.

Ms. Dunnigan presented the Board with 9 Per Capita and Competitive applications regarding cluster scale-up, startup ecosystems, and workforce development: Project RISE from Region 2, HOMEWorks Initiative from Region 1, Danville Aviation Training Facility from Region 3, Expanding the GO TEC Career Pathways in Region 9 from Region 9, Hampton Roads Mobility Innovation Center from Region 5, Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Vision 2050 from Regions 3 and 2, Industrial Skills Trades Regional Expansion from Region 3, AI Mobile Unit for Workforce and Education from Regions 6 and 9, and Small Business Opportunity Center Expansion from Regions 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Ms. O'Quinn noted that the Board would vote on the proposed projects as a block.

Mr. Davenport requested that the Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Vision 2050 be pulled from the block due to a conflict of interest and wished to abstain.

Mr. Kilgore requested that the HOMEWorks project be pulled from the block for consideration.

After discussion, a motion was made by Speaker Scott and seconded by Mr. Fleet to approve the remaining projects as recommended by staff. The motion passed (Y: Agee, Aggarwal, Cheng, Davenport, Dotson, Fleet, Fralin, Griffin, Johnson, Kilgore, King, Lucas, McDougle, O'Quinn, Peterson, Qreitem, Ransom, Scott, Torian; N: None).

A motion was made by Mr. Fleet and seconded by Mr. Kilgore to approve the Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor Vision 2050 project. The motion passed (Y: Aggarwal, Cheng, Dotson, Fleet, Griffin, Johnson, Kilgore, King, Lucas, McDougle, O'Quinn, Peterson, Qreitem, Ransom, Scott, Torian; N: None; Abstentions: Agee, Davenport, Fralin).

A motion was made by Mr. Kilgore and seconded by Mr. Cheng to approve the HOMEWorks Initiative Project. The motion passed (Y: Agee, Cheng, Davenport, Dotson, Fleet, Fralin, Griffin, Johnson, Kilgore, King, Lucas, McDougle, O'Quinn, Peterson, Qreitem, Ransom, Torian; N: Scott; Abstentions: Aggarwal).

Chair O'Quinn directed staff to conduct an analysis of the procedures for approval of the projects and determine best practices for consistency and communication with the Regional Councils.

#### Governance and Policy Committee Report

Mr. Fleet, Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee, provided updates on the July meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Fleet announced that the next meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee will take place on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10:30, and it will be an in-person meeting.

Regional Councils  
Committee Report

Ms. O'Quinn recognized Mr. John King, Chair of the Regional Councils Committee, to provide a report for the Committee.

Mr. King reported that the Committee met on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and reviewed recent technical amendments to Board Policy #3 and Board Policy #9.

Mr. King noted that the Committee discussed regional planning grant limitations and concluded that they would not recommend increasing the amount of money regions may use for planning purposes.

Mr. King also noted that the Committee discussed best practices for Growth and Diversification Plans.

Mr. King invited any member who wishes to join the Regional Councils Committee to reach out with their interest in volunteering.

Program Performance  
and Evaluation  
Committee Report

Ms. O'Quinn recognized Mr. Jim Cheng, Chair of the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee, to provide a report for the Committee.

Mr. Cheng noted that the Committee is planning a meeting for January.

Mr. Cheng invited any member who wishes to join the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee to reach out with their interest in volunteering.

Information Items

Ms. O'Quinn recognized Ms. Dunnigan to provide an overview of the information items.

Ms. Dunnigan noted that the review of the GO Virginia Annual Report was mistakenly not discussed during the Director's report portion of the meeting. Ms. Dunnigan provided details and statistics regarding the program's performance over the course of 2025.

Ms. Dunnigan provided a brief overview of the administratively approved projects since the September 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT