

**GO Virginia Hampton Roads
Regional Council**

**MEETING NO. 23
October 28, 2021**

Meeting number twenty-three of the GO Virginia Hampton Roads Regional Council (“Regional Council”) was held Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 10:00am. This meeting was held in the Conference Room at the Tech Center Research Park located at 700 Tech Center Pkwy, Newport News, VA.

Members Present:

Shawn Avery	Maria Herbert
Timothy J. Bentley	Cheryl McLeskey
Patrick Coady	Bob McKenna
Marcia Conston	John F. Reinhart
Robert “Bobby” Dyer	Bryan Stephens
Christen Faatz	Thomas G. Tingle
Thomas R. Frantz, Chair	

Members Absent:

Kenneth Alexander	Jerry Miller
R. Bruce Bradley	J.D. Myers, II
John R. Broderick	John Olson
Anne C. H. Conner, Vice Chair	McKinley Price
William B. Downey	Katherine Rowe
Jack L. Ezzell, Jr.	Jeffery Smith
Michael Gentry	Bruce Thompson
Jeff Holland	

Staff Present:

James K. Spore, President & CEO, Reinvent Hampton Roads
Donna S. Morris, Executive Vice President, Reinvent Hampton Roads
Gia M. Freeman, Administrative Assistant, Reinvent Hampton Roads

1. Call to Order, Opening Comments and Roll Call

Chairman Tom Frantz welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He thanked Mr. Jeff Johnson, Director of the Tech Center, for providing space for the Regional Council meeting and invited him to highlight the work completed and currently underway at the Innovation Park. The Innovation Park is located on approximately 100 acres that includes retail and luxury apartments (288 units), in addition to the research facility. The research park facility is roughly 80,000 sq.ft. This space is intended to diversify innovation, industries, and sectors, providing resources necessary to help them develop and grow. All but roughly 1000 sq.ft. of the space is currently occupied. This Center is connected to the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center in Blacksburg.

Mr. Johnson offered to stay on-site following the meeting to answer questions or provide a tour of the building. Mr. Frantz indicated it is perfectly appropriate to hold our meeting at this location, the true center of innovation, as one of the presenters will discuss the I-64 innovation corridor between Hampton Roads and Richmond.

Mr. Tingle asked Mr. Johnson to share examples of the types of businesses served in the innovation center. Medical device production by [ivWatch](#) is based on the first floor of the building, behind the

glass walls, providing visibility. On the third floor there is a data analytics/environmental security company, ITA. ITA is one of the fastest growing companies in this industry. They just received \$100MM. ITA has a training facility on the second floor. Colliers has a location in the building as well as Virginia Tech's outreach office. The co-working space is also growing with GATHER, located downstairs. In the new building, more space will be available for medical device development, autonomous vehicles, and battery technology, all market driven targets.

Mr. Spore recognized Mr. Johnson for his contribution to the EDA Build Back Better Challenge project being pursued by the region. His focus on HBCUs and the minority community is tremendous. Mr. Johnson discussed the wealth gap challenge for under-represented minority and female owned companies. What drives the wealth gap is business interests or securities. The Tech Center meets personally with clients and focus on passion, purpose and problems in a way that connects them to opportunities that will scale their companies. *Place* is always at the top of the list. The Tech Center programs focus on what comes out of the place and how the product can improve the port or any of the other assets we have in our region. Twenty-eight students were in the science and technology accelerator representing twenty states. Of that group 6 HBCUs were represented (50% women). Twenty-seven were in a wide range of maritime innovation technologies (i.e., unmanned systems, offshore wind energy, etc.). The team received assistance from Hampton University and other HBCUs around the country, bringing them to Hampton Roads.

Mr. Frantz informed members and guests in attendance that since COVID restrictions were lifted for meetings, a quorum of Regional Council members must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location. Since several members were participating by phone Mr. Frantz asked Ms. Morris to conduct a roll call to confirm all members of the Regional Council participating. Following the roll call, it was determined that a physical quorum was not present.

Mr. Frantz recognized guests in attendance, including Ms. Diane Kaufman of Senator Kaine's Office and Ms. Sarah Jane Kirkland of CIVIC, Mr. John Martin (presenter) and Dr. Oliver Jones of Hampton University.

2. Approval of August 5, 2021 Regional Council meeting minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum present formal action to approve the August 5th meeting minutes as presented in the agenda packet was deferred.

3. Public Comment – No public comment.

4. Quarterly Progress Reports on GO Virginia Approved Grants– Mr. Frantz invited Ms. Donna Morris to provide an update on projects currently underway. She referenced the update that was sent to everyone via email as a follow-up to the agenda packet that went out in advance. All but three updates have been received. Most of the reports do not need to be provided to the State until October 30th. She referenced the comprehensive list of all 31 grant awards made in Region 5 since the GO Virginia program started. The most recent awards are not required to submit quarterly reports at this time as their contracts are still under negotiation. As of this meeting 10 projects are complete, and all others are currently on track to meet or exceed anticipated outcomes/deliverables. Some grants required adjustments due to issues beyond the control of the subgrantee. Adjustments might include a budget revision or extension of the grant end date. When a project closes, the closeout documents required by the State can take a good deal of time. The State requires “proof of payment” for any reimbursements that come from GO Virginia funds as well as the match approved in the project budget.

Ms. Morris invited members with questions about any of the funded projects as described in the updated TAB B to reach out if more information is needed.

To date Region 5 has received the second highest number of grant awards across the State. Region 2 has been awarded the highest number of grants.

Mr. Frantz asked if we felt we were meeting the goal set to increase more higher paying jobs. Ms. Morris reported that while the majority of the projects funded are meeting (some exceeding) the deliverables outlined in their grant agreements the State expects projects to be monitored well beyond the closeout, as the Return On Investment (ROI) and the number of new higher-paying jobs created may not be confirmed quickly.

5. **GO Virginia Funding and Project Update** – Ms. Morris referenced a memorandum that was sent to the Regional Council following the last GO Virginia State Board meeting in September. The Maritime Entry to Employment Training (MEET) program was deferred by the State Board for the second time. Since this project is connected to the Coastal Virginia Maritime Advancement Program (COVA MAP) that was awarded a GO Virginia grant, the applicant decided to request an adjustment be made to this project instead of re-applying. Their preference would be to extend the COVA MAP grant another twelve months (to February 2023), in addition to amending the budget. The total budget amount would remain the same, but a shift of funds from one budget line where funds were not used (i.e., travel) would allow them to develop an additional course, complementing. Instead of setting up two maritime-related courses they have produced three and the shift of funds would allow them to produce a fourth course, that was planned through the MEET program application. We are working with the applicant and the State staff to see if and how that adjustment can be made.

Mr. Frantz asked the members present if they had any questions or concerns about the adjustments to the COVA MAP application presented by Ms. Morris. If not, he asked those present to provide their consent to proceed with this approach. All present approved moving ahead with this option as described.

Ms. Morris referred to TAB C for the current funding available to Region 5 in each of the funding categories, what has been drawn and the remaining balance. Funds requested (\$ 100,000) to support the application the Regional Council was being asked to consider today have been applied.

The next item requiring formal approval would be the *UxS Corridor Planning Grant* application submitted by Old Dominion University Research Foundation. Ms. Morris recognized the Subject Matter Review Panel and thanked them for their review and the thoughtful recommendations that the applicant promptly addressed in this submission. Following a brief overview of the request, Mr. Frantz requested and received consensus from the members present to have the Regional Council Executive Committee meet and be made aware of their support for this application in time to meet the November 19th Enhanced Capacity Building application deadline.

6. **Status Report on Update of the Economic Growth and Diversification Plan** – Mr. Spore referred to TAB E of the agenda packet, indicating the State extended the deadline to have the EG&D Plan update complete by the end of the year. A contract is in place with Old Dominion University to help with the update. They played a key role in developing the first plan and update done in 2019. A Task Force was put in place to work with them to increase involvement and ownership of the plan itself. He noted that Regional Council member Mr. Shawn Avery is completing the workforce analysis and

Mr. Keith Cannady (HRPDC) is doing the site-related work.

Two important presentations were provided that relate directly to the EG&D Plan and how they can lead to funding support from the GO Virginia program. Below provides an overview of the presenters.

Mr. Mitch Horowitz is the Principle and Managing Director of Teconomy Partners LLC. Mr. Spore recognized Mr. Horowitz for the assistance he provided the region on the EDA Build Back Better grant application recently submitted. His presentation to the Regional Council entitled *Update on Entrepreneurial Trends and A Pathway for Maritime Innovation in Hampton Roads* is attached for reference.

Mr. John Martin is CEO and Managing Partner of SIR and President/CEO of the newly formed RVA 757 Connects. He provided an impactful report on the key findings of the mega-region labor force analysis- which he will be presenting at the “Convergence 2021” joint conference hosted by the Richmond and Hampton Roads Chambers of Commerce entitled *Two Regions. Unlimited Opportunities*. He also presented an exciting and potentially transformational concept of the RVA-757 Connects initiative to become a Global Internet Hub. Mr. Martin’s presentation is accessible using the link below:

https://seiresearch-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/john_martin_sirhq_com/EUbcAXMTpSZLqb_GX6p6U7sBr34RPuqUS-Jr9V3eowcSww?e=XYFRSl

7. **Schedule for 2022** – Mr. Spore referred to TAB F in the agenda packet with the proposed meeting schedule. He announced the next meeting is set for February 3, 2022.
8. **Other Business** – Between now and the end of 2021, a special called meeting of the Regional Council Executive Committee will be attempted to have a physically present quorum to act on the Updated Economic Growth and Diversification Plan.
9. **Adjourn** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. Morris

Donna S. Morris
Secretary to the Regional Council

APPROVED



Thomas R. Frantz
Chair of the Regional Council