



RESOLUTION #2409

SUBJECT: Finding Need to Conduct the May 7, 2020 Meeting Electronically

WHEREAS: On March 12, 2020, the Governor of Virginia declared a state of emergency in Virginia in response to the spread of novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, a communicable disease of public health threat as so declared by the State Health Commissioner on February 7, 2020 (“COVID-19”);

WHEREAS: In subsequent Executive Orders, particularly Executive Order Nos. 53 and 55, as amended, the Governor of Virginia, among other measures designed to ensure safe physical distancing between individuals, prohibited public and private in person gatherings of 10 or more individuals and ordered all individuals in Virginia to remain at their place of residence, with limited exceptions, to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and prevent its spread;

WHEREAS: The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission finds that it has a responsibility to demonstrate to the public, through the Commission’s conduct, the importance of maintaining proper physical distance from others and to avoid gathering in public where the risks of infection are highest, and to take measures that promote physical distancing in order to protect the public health and mitigate the impacts and spread of COVID-19, including, among others, conducting meetings electronically whenever possible;

WHEREAS: On April 22, 2020, the Virginia General Assembly adopted, and the Governor signed, budget bill amendments to HB 29 that expressly authorize “any public body, including any state, local, [or] regional body” to “meet by electronic means without a quorum of the public body . . . physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency . . ., provided that (i) the nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe for the public body . . . to assemble in a single location; (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body . . . and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities” among other provisions; and

WHEREAS: Several member jurisdictions of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission have adopted continuity of government ordinances pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1413 which ordinances, among other provisions, authorize regional bodies of which the locality is a member may meet electronically to transact business essential to the continuity of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hereby finds that meeting by electronic means is authorized because the nature of the declared emergency makes it both impracticable and unsafe for the Commission to assemble in a single location on May 7, 2020, to discuss and transact the business of the Commission listed on the May 7, 2020 Commission Meeting Agenda.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC that hereby finds that meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the May 7, 2020 Commission Meeting Agenda are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Commission and the discharge of the Commission's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVTC hereby finds that the items on the May 7, 2020 Commission Meeting Agenda are encompassed within the continuity of operations ordinances adopted by several member localities of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission as essential to the continued operation of the government during the disaster posed by the public health emergency resulting from COVID-19.

Approved this 7th day of May 2020.

Katie Cristol
Chair

Jeffrey C. McKay
Secretary-Treasurer