

GO Virginia – Workgroup Meeting Notes

8/15/2016

Main Street Centre, Richmond, VA

- Introductory remarks by staff and stakeholders
 - Workgroup is designed to represent sectors (e.g. education, business, economic development, etc.), not necessarily regions
 - Background on legislation
 - Workgroup required per legislation
 - There are two main tasks for the workgroup:
 - Propose geographic partitioning of state regions for comment (takes priority in relation to other work)
 - Develop draft guidelines for GO Virginia program
- Overview presentation on GO Virginia - [VIDEO](#)
 - Bipartisan, business led approach to strengthen VA economy
 - Emphasis on collaboration among localities, businesses, education, etc.
 - Voluntary, incentive based approach
 - Goal is to diversify VA economy
 - Discussion of two bills
 - Growth and Opportunity Act
 - Collaborative Jobs Act - Income tax sharing with localities
- Purpose of advisory group
 - Input on GO Virginia guidelines by Oct. 15th
 - Prioritization of work
 - Decision on regions
 - Formation of regional council standards
 - Work product of councils
 - How will councils apply?
 - Definition of thresholds
 - Strategic directions
 - What are the impediments and gaps for the regions?
 - GO VA board will adopt the guidelines, then regions apply, then funds are distributed
 - Form regions so that they can begin work on applications/gap analysis
 - Advisory group could be called upon in the future for additional assistance to the GO Virginia Board

- Key points from discussion of defining the regions
 - Ideally about 10 regions
 - VAPDC has proposed the only map at this point
 - Settled on a 9 region map
 - Keep PDC boundaries intact
 - Ideal population size of at least 400,000
 - Very little negative feedback on proposed map from PDCs
 - Discussion about the VAPDC map among the workgroup highlighted the following:
 - A close parallel between proposed VAPDC map, K-12 regions, and workforce regions
 - A desire to tie regions to workforce/commuting patterns
 - Potential benefits of megaregions
 - There were questions as to whether projects can involve a locality outside of a defined region, what is the required local government involvement, and what are existing areas of collaboration?
 - Role of PDCs - not the lead agency but involvement important, especially as related to grant management
 - There was discussion of regional councils with a desire among workgroup members for the councils to be diverse, representative, and private sector led; it was noted that there may be the possibility of workgroups in addition to the regional councils

- Key points from work plan development discussion/possible upcoming meeting topics:
 - Regional council composition and certification and operational/fiduciary responsibility
 - Terminology definitions and requirements/standards
 - Application process
 - Use of funds
 - Evaluation of projects, clearly articulated standards
 - Time length provisions
 - Recovery of unspent funds; projects that do not materialize
 - Discussion among stakeholders regarding work plan and other outstanding issues:
 - There was a desire to hear from workforce boards on GAP analysis and the Tobacco Commission on do's and don'ts of regional grant management
 - Suggestion on background on basic economic development info, PDC info, etc.
 - Defining high wage and low wage jobs and in relation to what? Relative to what?
 - Areas of concern included involving opportunities for small businesses and developing evaluation format to include diverse urban/rural projects.

CONCLUSION