

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 20-08 FINDING NEED TO CONDUCT MEETING BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION MEANS DURING GOVERNOR’S DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY DURING COVID – 19 PANDEMIC

JANUARY 14, 2021 MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

January 14, 2021

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”); and

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; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority finds that it has a responsibility to demonstrate to the public, through the Authority’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; and

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 communication 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, member jurisdictions of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority have adopted continuity of government ordinances pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1413 which ordinances, among other provisions, contemplate regional bodies of which the locality is a member meeting electronically to transact business to assure the continuity of government; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority hereby finds that meeting by electronic means is authorized because the nature of the declared emergency makes it both impracticable and unsafe for the Authority to assemble in a single location on January 14, 2021, to discuss and transact the business of the Authority listed on the January 14, 2021 Authority Meeting Agenda; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority hereby finds that meeting by electronic means is authorized because the items on the January 14, 2021 Authority Meeting Agenda are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Authority and the discharge of the Authority's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the items on the January 14, 2021 Authority Meeting Agenda are encompassed within the continuity of operations ordinances adopted by member localities of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to assure the continued operation of the government during the disaster posed by the public health emergency resulting from COVID-19.

Adopted the 14th day of January, 2021.