



Legislation Text

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Resolution Endorsing Go Virginia Unmanned Vehicle Proposal and Participation

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The State is currently soliciting applications for the Go Virginia grant program. The Peninsula Economic Development Directors and City/County Managers worked together to develop a proposal that is believed to meet all the criteria and which will help to foster high wage job retention/expansion. The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has unanimously supported the project.

As part of the Go Virginia application package, resolutions from potential participating localities are required. Hampton staff is very supportive of the Unmanned Vehicle Proposal and recommends Council adoption of the resolution.

Recommendation:

Adopt Resolution

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has unanimously endorsed the proposed Unmanned Systems Testing and Demonstration Center proposal as a regional economic development initiative worthy of support through the Go Virginia project evaluation process;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is envisioned to be incrementally developed on approximately 432 acres of surplus Commonwealth of Virginia property located in York County accessible to all Hampton Roads businesses involved in the design and development of unmanned systems technology;

WHEREAS, unmanned systems and aerospace development is identified as a high growth, high wage economic cluster within Southeast Virginia;

WHEREAS, the proposal envisions a shared investment by multiple regional localities and a proportional share of project revenues; and

WHEREAS, a regional management and governance structure is anticipated that transparently allows the participation of all willing Hampton Roads local government partners based on parameters to be mutually established;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Hampton does hereby pledge to participate in the proposed venture to include a proportional financial contribution for the development and operational cost of the project either directly or through its Economic Development Authority;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such financial participation is understood to be contingent on the project receiving a substantial Go Virginia project grant, the completion of satisfactory cost sharing

and governing arrangements as determined by the City Manager and customary and orderly budget approval procedures by the City Council.