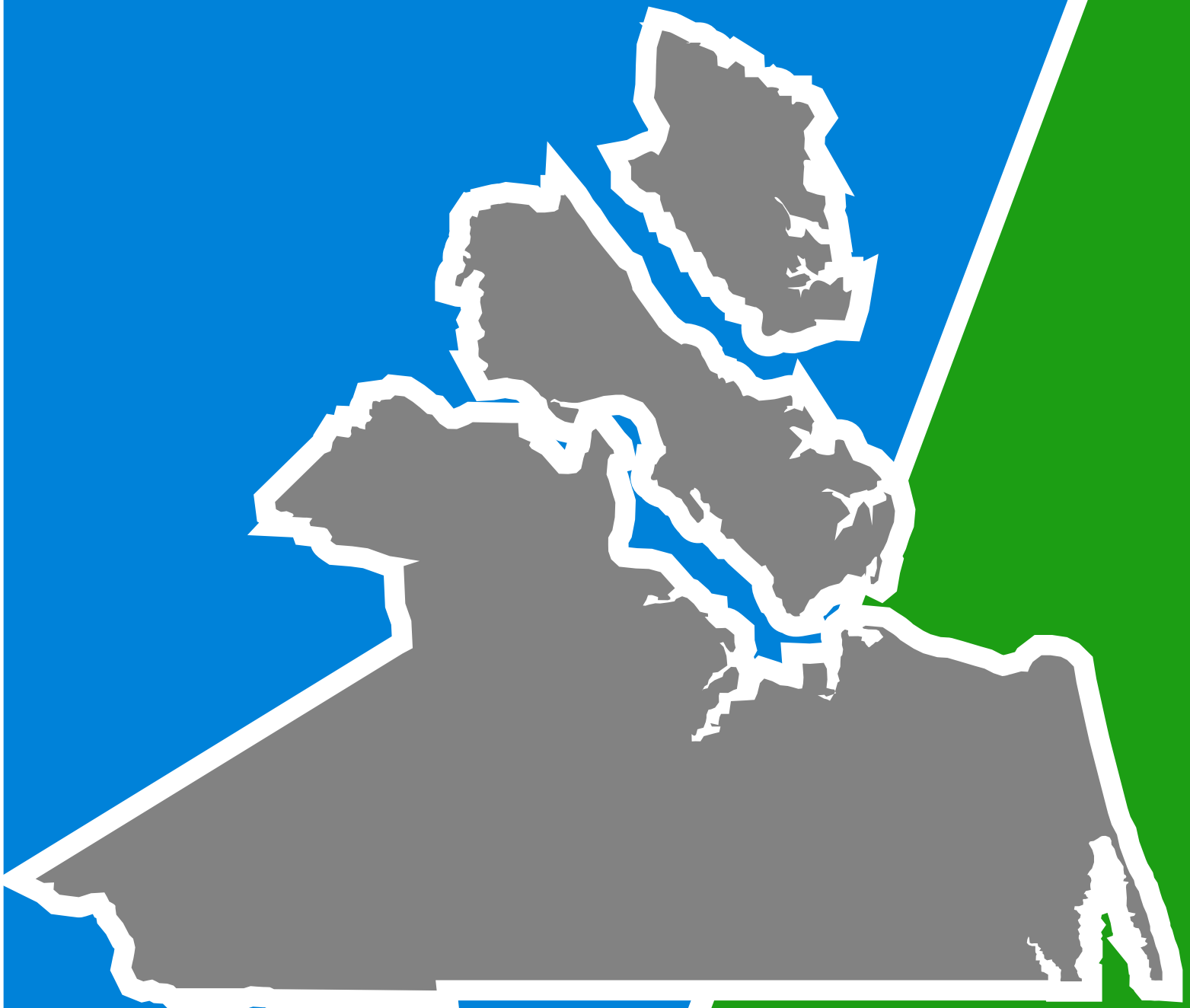


2023 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) represent the 17 local governments and over 1.7 million residents of the Hampton Roads region. We have unanimously endorsed the following 2023 Regional Legislative Priorities for the Hampton Roads region and are pleased to present the following to our State and Federal partners for consideration.

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Public Safety

Address Mental Health System

- Mental health issues are not being properly addressed by the State. Jails are becoming mental health facilities because of a lack of mental health bed space. The Commonwealth must implement a strategy and provide the financial resources to restructure the mental health system.

Witness Protection Programs

- Request funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia for enhanced Witness Protection Programs. Too many times witnesses do not come forward to testify, which often results in suspects not being prosecuted.

Invest in New Forensic Tools

- Request that the State invest in new forensic science tools such as the ability to obtain DNA from shell casings. The federal government has this capability, but the Commonwealth of Virginia does not.



Support for 599 Funding

- The Code of Virginia (§9.1-165, et seq.) provides for financial assistance to localities with police departments through the "599" program. Request the Commonwealth fully fund the 599 Funding Program.

Coordinated Case Management System Support

- Support is needed to develop enhanced Case Management Systems that improve communications between localities. Current systems make it difficult for a local police department to know that a person they have in custody may be facing charges in another locality.

Flock Cameras

- Flock cameras should be deployed regionally, however legislative authority is needed to install Flock cameras on Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) managed roads. The use of license plate readers with AI plug-in should be incorporated into a regional shared database.



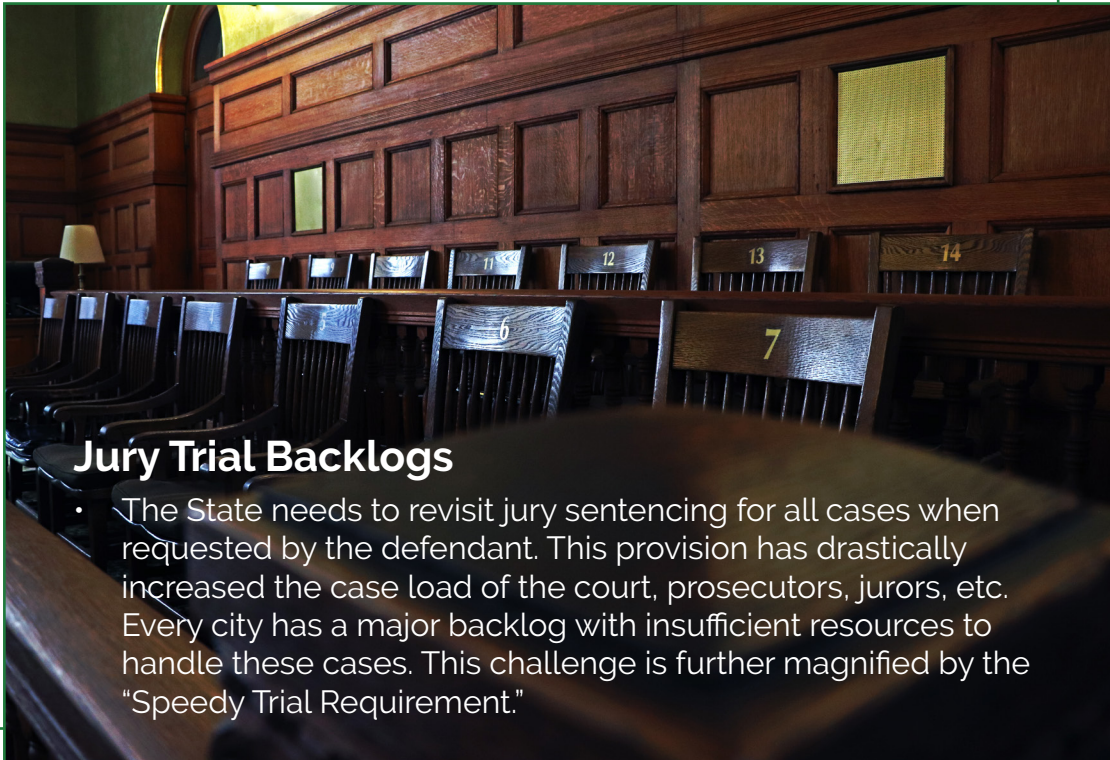
Public Safety

Violent and Repeat Offenders

- People with serious gun charges are being released into our communities. There should be special consideration for violent offenses and those who continue to reoffend to keep violent offenders off the street.

Commonwealth Attorney Office Staffing Challenges

- Request enhanced State funding to address staffing challenges being experienced in our Commonwealth Attorney offices. Compensation levels in the Commonwealth Attorney offices cannot compete with those in the private sector. Competitive pay for prosecutors is essential and should not be contingent upon a locality's ability to pay. Currently, our Commonwealth Attorney offices are only funded to prosecute felony offenses.



Jury Trial Backlogs

- The State needs to revisit jury sentencing for all cases when requested by the defendant. This provision has drastically increased the case load of the court, prosecutors, jurors, etc. Every city has a major backlog with insufficient resources to handle these cases. This challenge is further magnified by the "Speedy Trial Requirement."

Temporary Detention Order (TDO)

- Provide State assistance to decrease the time demands that Temporary Detention Order (TDO) responsibilities place on locality police departments. These TDO roles require locality police officers to supervise and transport individuals to mental health facilities. These duties often require police officers to be away from their localities for multiple days, at a time when many police departments are already under staffed.
 - Request State funding to provide needed mental health resources/staff to transition TDO responsibilities away from locality police officers.
 - Provide flexibility for other qualified professionals to perform TDO duties and allow localities the opportunity to contract for these services to reduce demands on local police forces.

Conflict Resolution/Mediation Skills in K-12 Public Schools

- Request State financial assistance to incorporate Conflict Resolution/Mediation Skills into K-12 public school curriculums, and include as a component of Standards of Learning.
 - Many incidents of violence are the result of conflicts/disagreements that result in injury or loss of life.
 - Conflict resolution/mediation techniques should be taught at an early age as part of our education curriculum to provide our residents these necessary skills.



Public Safety

Enable Assistance from Retired Public Safety Professionals

- Provide State authorization through the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) to allow retired law enforcement officers to perform full-time duties to address public safety needs
 - With the shortage of public safety professionals at the local level, retired law enforcement officers are a resource of qualified professionals who could assist with addressing local public safety needs.

Study of the Use of Technology to Address Violence and Crime

- Request that priority be given to a study that evaluates the Code of Virginia to determine barriers and opportunities regarding the use of Technology to address violence and crime.





Establish Dedicated Funding Source for Flood Prevention Projects

- Request that the Commonwealth of Virginia establish a dedicated, reliable and ongoing funding source for flood prevention projects.
 - The challenge of flooding is a statewide issue, and the cost of projects to address this threat is very high. A dedicated funding source that will support these projects is needed to protect State and locality bond ratings.
 - A dedicated funding source to address this challenge will assist with funding these high cost projects, and also provide a source of local match monies to unlock available federal funding.

Create a State Structure for Coordination

- To further protect the Commonwealth's bond rating, Virginia should create a structure for coordination between State agencies, departments and regions to ensure a collaborative and effective approach to addressing flood prevention efforts. Request a study to recommend a structure to address this goal.



Complete the I-64 Gap

Funding to Finish I-64 Between Hampton Roads and Richmond

- Request State/Federal funding to finish the I-64 Gap between Hampton Roads and Richmond.
- The Hampton Roads region has invested approximately \$311 million of local/regional tax monies through the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) to complete three phases of I-64 improvements on the Peninsula to west of Williamsburg. These monies are part of over \$5 billion of transportation projects that have been funded through HRTAC using a regional sales and use and gas tax.
- A 29-mile gap remains from Exit 234 to Exit 205 (9 of these miles are located within the Hampton Roads region). The total cost of the I-64 gap is estimated to be approximately \$750 million.
- Completing the gap is critical to support our military, the Port of Virginia and the Commonwealth's tourism economy.
- The completion of the I-64 Gap is supported by RVA/757 Connects, and is consistent with goals for establishing an I-64 Innovation Corridor between Hampton Roads and Richmond.
- We commend the Virginia General Assembly for their actions during the 2022 General Assembly session to provide funding towards the I-64 Gap. We also commend VDOT for their work to pursue federal funding for this project.
- We request the assistance of our State and Federal partners to provide full funding for this critical transportation project.



Support Faster and More Reliable Passenger Rail Service

- Support projects and efforts that promote faster and more reliable passenger rail service between Hampton Roads, Richmond and the Northeast Corridor.
- Improved passenger rail service will decrease traffic on I-64, benefit our military and Port of Virginia and better connect the Hampton Roads region with Richmond and the I-95 corridor.
- The arrival of the 3rd Passenger Rail Train to Norfolk, the 2nd Passenger Rail Train to Newport News, and the ongoing construction of Newport News Multimodal Station are all positive steps. We must now take the necessary steps to make passenger rail service between Hampton Roads and Richmond more competitive with automobile travel in this corridor.
- We request assistance from the Commonwealth and the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority to deliver projects that will provide enhanced service between Hampton Roads and Richmond.



Provide Adequate Funding to Hampton Roads' Three Transit Providers

- Preserve and provide adequate funding to support the region's public transit systems (Hampton Roads Transit, Williamsburg Area Transit Authority and Suffolk Transit).



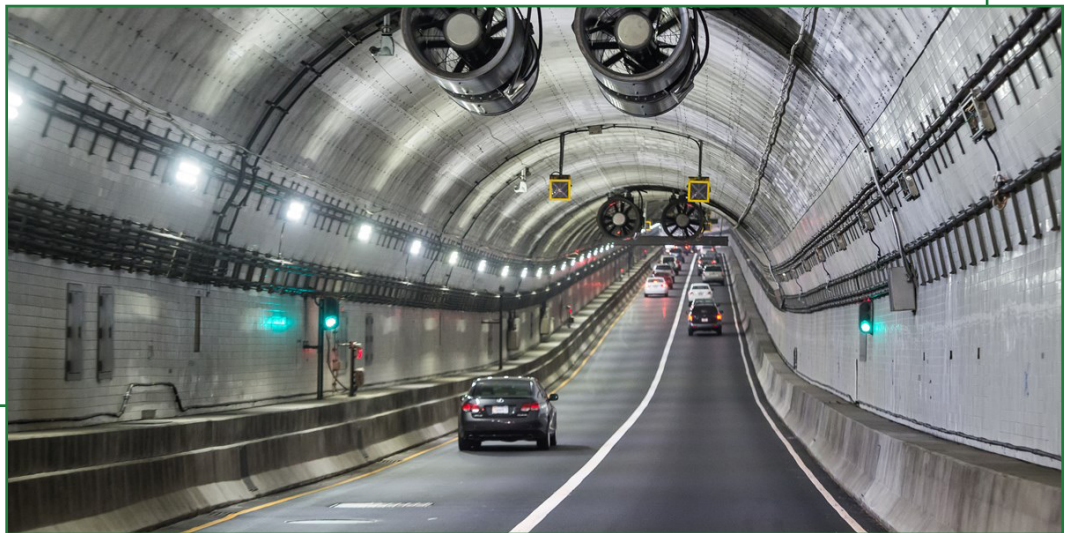
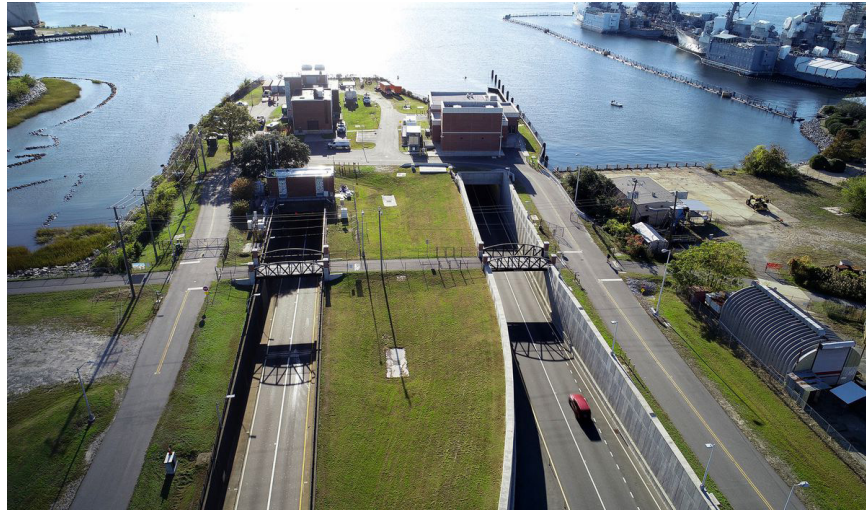
Improved Passenger Rail Service

Transit Funding

Elizabeth River Crossing (ERC) Toll Agreement

Continue Efforts to Mitigate Toll Impacts

- Support continued efforts to mitigate the impact of the Downtown and Midtown Tunnel Tolls on our region's residents and business.
- The recent expansion of the low-income toll assistance program was a very positive step for the Hampton Roads region. We commend the Virginia Department of Transportation, Elizabeth River Crossings OpCo LLC and the HRTPO's Elizabeth River Crossings Task Force for this important milestone.
- We encourage continued collaboration to explore all options to reduce toll rates for our residents and businesses.

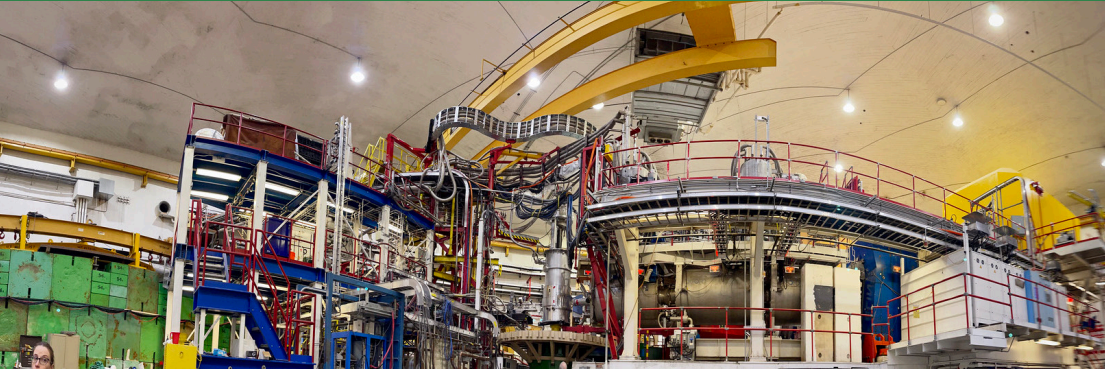


State/Federal Funding to Build the Birthplace of America Trail (BoAT)

- The 52-mile Virginia Capital Trail extends from downtown Richmond to James City County just adjacent to Williamsburg.
- The Hampton Roads region has unanimously endorsed a proposal to extend this trail to Fort Monroe on the Peninsula, and also proceed over the Jamestown Ferry and to the Oceanfront on the Southside.
- Extension of the trail on the Peninsula would create over 100 miles of continuous walking and biking trail from Downtown Richmond to Fort Monroe.
- This trail has the potential to connect significant residential, employment, tourism and recreation areas, support underserved communities and create substantial economic impact.
- RVA/757 Connects supports this trail extension as an important strategic priority for connecting the Hampton Roads and Richmond regions.
- The cost to complete the extension on the Peninsula from James City County to Fort Monroe is approximately \$150 million.
- There are several exciting trail projects in Virginia, including the Fall Line Trail, Eastern Shore Trail and the Shenandoah Trail. We request that the BoAT/Capital Trail Extension on both the Peninsula and Southside be added to this list and be considered as one of the "Big 4" trail opportunities in Virginia when State funding is considered.

Funding to Build the Birthplace of America Trail

Support for Jefferson Lab



Support Jefferson Lab's Effort to Attract High Performance Data Facility

- We offer unanimous regional support for the future High Performance Data Facility to be located at Jefferson Lab.
- When completed, this facility would be the world's most modern supercomputing and data analysis facility.
- This facility would bring together state-of-the-art performance computation coupled with advanced data storage, wide-area networking and artificial intelligence/machine learning capabilities to support the U.S. Department of Energy's computing needs across the full breadth of the agency's basic and applied research programs.
- We request support from the Commonwealth of Virginia to attract this job creation opportunity to the Jefferson Lab facility.



Support Efforts to Make Hampton Roads a Hub for the Emerging Offshore Wind Industry

- Sustain efforts to support and promote the offshore wind industry and make the Hampton Roads region a hub for supply chain jobs to support this emerging industry.
- The region's geographic location, harbor with no vertical obstructions and specialized workforce position the 757 to be the hub to support wind turbines planned for construction along the east coast.

Offshore Wind



Economic Development Site Readiness

Continue to Assist Local Governments With Preparing Shovel-Ready Sites

- Support funding programs and policies that assist local governments with preparing shovel-ready sites for economic development and job creation.
- The Hampton Roads region has utilized funding through the GO Virginia program to advance regional economic development sites through the Tier-system utilized by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP). This regional approach has been viewed as a model program for preparing shovel-ready economic development sites.
- Important to support the continuation of funding for programs that support regional efforts to advance economic development site readiness.



Adequate Housing

- Support programs and policies that promote housing opportunities for all.



Housing

Reject Legislation that Would Impose New Unfunded Mandates

- Oppose and reject legislation that would impose new unfunded mandates and fiscal responsibilities on local governments.



Oppose Unfunded Mandates

Electronic Options for Public Meeting Notices

Allow Local Governments the Flexibility to Utilize Electronic Options for Public Meeting Notices

- In response to excessive costs, unreliability of services and an overall decline in readership of print newspapers, we request that localities be permitted to use electronic options for advertising public meetings. This approach would reflect current trends, as well as be a more effective and cost-efficient use of public monies.



Use of Electronic/Virtual Meetings

A television screen showing a virtual meeting in progress. The screen displays a large conference room with several people seated around a long table. The room has flags on the wall and a large screen at the front. The screen also shows a digital clock in the top right corner displaying '12:45:32.13'. There are also some technical overlays on the screen, such as 'W T', 'AVID 100060 EX', 'A60', 'CH1', and 'CH2'. The television is a large, black, wall-mounted model.

Use of Electronic/Virtual Meetings Outside Declared State of Emergency

- Continue to refine electronic meeting protocols to facilitate the use of electronic/virtual meetings outside of a declared State of Emergency.

For More Information Contact:

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