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**HRPDC/HRTPO Public Comment**  
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Name: Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky

Date: May 17, 2021

Subject: Meeting Procedures

Comment:

Chair, Honorable Commissioners, and Regional Neighbors:

Although many of us would like to believe that we are nearing the end of the COVID-19 emergency, the like of which we may not see again for another century, I would not want to bet my family nest egg on either of those suppositions. Rather, I think we should be maintaining a running inventory of effective coping strategies so that when we return to a reasonable approximation of what passed for “normalcy” in the ante-COVID era, we should codify what we’ve learned and keep the documentation on a readily accessible portion of our emergency preparedness shelf.

In that context, I urge you to modify your current virtual meeting procedures in two respects: 1) by providing a “real time” technological means to address the board during the public comment portion of each meeting; and 2) creating an electronic sign-in sheet by which those viewing the board meetings contemporaneously with the proceedings could register their presence. These two modifications would bring the virtual and in-person procedures into closer alignment for the remainder of the current emergency but also would lay a foundation for offsite public and, ideally, board member participation post-pandemic. (I recognize that changes to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act provisions would be necessary for board members routinely to participate remotely. I believe, though, that multiple benefits would accrue to those members, not the least of which is increased personal productivity due to reduced travel time.)

Please let me know if you need additional information.