SOUTHSIDE PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
Virtual Quarterly Meeting
July 23, 2026

The Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) held its regular quarterly meeting on July 23, 2026, at the Commission's Conference Room, 200 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, Virginia. Chair Tom Tanner started the meeting at 12:00 pm. Director Wells called the roll. With a total of 10 Commissioners being present in person, a quorum was met for this meeting. The Roll Call is as follows:

Brunswick County	Present	Virtual	Absent
Dr. Alfonzo Seward			X
Leslie Weddington – Treasurer		X	
Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris	X		
Halifax County			
Larry Roller	X		
William Claiborne	X		
Jerry Lovelace	X		
Keith McDowell	X		
Ron Brade			X
Mecklenburg County			
Joe Cappaert	X		
Charlie Simmons			X
Claudia Lundy	X		
Tom Tanner – Chair	X		
Kirk Gravitt			X
South Boston			
Joseph Chandler	X		
George Leonard – Vice Chair	X		
South Hill			
Keli Reekes			X
Lillie Feggins-Boone			X
TOTAL	10	1	6

Staff	Present	Virtual	Absent
Andy Wells, Executive Director	X		
Leslie Kubasek, Finance Director/HR	X		
Ashleigh Zincone, Senior Community Planner	X		
Sangi Cooper, Senior Planner	X		
Chad Neese, Senior Planner/GIS Specialist	X		
Tyler Creedle, GIS Coordinator	X		
Donna Wall, Community Project Manager	X		
Tanya Jessup, Administrative Assistant	X		

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:
Mr. E. Jay Ellington, Executive Director, Crater Planning District Commission
Ann Taylor Wright, Program Director of Go Virginia Region 3

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
Chair Tanner asked for public comments. Hearing none, the public comment period was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA
The Consent Agenda including the Meeting Agenda, Meeting Minutes dated April 23, 2026, and the Treasurer's Report dated June 30, 2026, were submitted in the meeting packet emailed prior to the meeting. Executive Director Wells reviewed the Treasurer's Report, including final financial figures for FY26. He also reviewed the FY revenue by project type, comparing budgeted and actual revenue to provide an overview of the Commission's revenue sources. The FY27 Electronic Meeting Policy was not included in the meeting packet, but was available for viewing, there were no changes from FY26. Executive Director Andy Wells requested the agenda items #6 and #7 be reordered to allow time for Mr. Ellington to arrive. **Keith McDowell made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Joseph Chandler, the motion carried unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Executive Director Wells reported on the following:

- **Grant Applications**
  - 24 Grant Applications submitted during FY26
  - 21 Grant Applications awarded during FY26
  - $11,507,048 total amount awarded during FY26
  - 10 Currently pending applications
- **Empower Broadband** – Empower is celebrating 10,000 customers with broadband internet.
- **South Boston Town Council Retreat** – Senior Planner & GIS Specialist Chad Neese moderated a retreat for South Boston Town Council. The retreat was very successful, and Executive Director Wells noted that the Southside PDC welcomes opportunities to provide similar facilitation and support to its member localities.

- **Staff Recognition** – Executive Director Wells recognized GIS Systems Coordinator Tyler Creedle for his one-year work anniversary, which occurred in May, and Director of Finance & Human Resources Leslie Kubasek for her three-year work anniversary on July 23, 2026 (today!). Executive Director Wells also recognized Senior Community Planners Sangi Cooper and Ashleigh Zincone and Community Project Manager Donna Wells for their significant role in securing and managing most of the Commission's funding.

RURAL HEALTHCARE TRANSFORMATION RESOLUTION

The potential role of Planning District Commissions in supporting Virginia's Rural Health Transformation Plan was discussed. The program includes $189.5 million in funding across four focus areas, with no regional match required. PDCs could provide regional coordination, administrative support, grant management, and stakeholder engagement for the Mobile & Hybrid Care Initiative. The discussion highlighted PDCs' established regional networks, experience coordinating multi-jurisdictional initiatives, and program administration capabilities. PDC involvement could help create a streamlined and efficient process for implementation and distribution of funds while providing an opportunity for PDCs to become more active in the healthcare space. The program seems to be positioned to move quickly, with additional information forthcoming.

A resolution authorizing the Commission's participation in the Virginia Rural Healthcare Transformation Mobile & Hybrid Care Initiative was presented for consideration. Adoption of the resolution authorizes participation in the initiative but does not constitute a binding commitment; the Commission would not be contractually obligated until a formal agreement is executed and signed. **George Leonard made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Keith McDowell, the motion carried unanimously.**

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY RESOLUTION

Executive Director Wells reviewed the proposed South Central Transportation Authority, which was previously discussed in detail at the April Quarterly Meeting. He outlined the Commission's role and presented the Resolution expressing support for the member localities that choose to participate. **Dr. Barbara Jarrett-Harris made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Claudia Lundy, the motion carried unanimously.**

VDOT SMARTSCALE RESOLUTION

Senior Planner & GIS Specialist Chad Neese presented an overview of eight regional Smart Scale projects. Projects included improvements along US 58, US 15, US 1, US 501, Route 751, Sinai Road, Theater Road and US 58 corridor in South Hill. Mr. Neese highlighted the proposed Restricted Crossing U-Turn (RCUT) at US 58 and Freeman's Cross Road/Reedy Creek Road in Brunswick County, noting that the design is intended to improve safety and traffic efficiency and reduce fatal and injury crashes. He also noted that previous efforts to advance a roundabout at US 58/US 15 in Mecklenburg County had been unsuccessful. Commissioners asked questions and engaged in discussions regarding the individual projects, including the proposed improvements, implementation, safety considerations and needs. **Joseph Chandler made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Joe Cappaert, the motion carried unanimously.**

GO VIRGINA R3 UPDATE

GO Virginia Region 3 Program Director Ann Taylor Wright provided an overview of the GO Virginia R3 program. Ms. Wright discussed the programs focus on regional economic growth and job creation. She reviewed the structure and responsibilities of the GO Virginia State Board and Region 3 Council. Ms. Wright also explained the Southside Planning District Commission's role as the Region 3 support organization and fiscal agent, providing administrative support. She then reviewed Region 3's core investment areas, targeted industry sectors, grant funding process, and projects benefiting the Southside region.

Ms. Wright highlighted the program's impact to date, noting that Region 3 has approved 36 projects representing approximately $23.7 million in GO Virginia funding and $23 million in matching funds; resulting in more than $46.6 million in regional economic development investment. Twenty of the 36 funded projects have directly benefited Brunswick, Halifax and Mecklenburg Counties. She emphasized that GO Virginia brings outside investment into the region, supports locally identified economic development priorities, creates opportunities for higher-paying jobs and workforce development.

OLD & OTHER BUSINESS

- Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee Update: Executive Director Andy Wells and Commissioner Jerry Lovelace briefly revisited the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee and provided an update following their participation in a virtual meeting with the West Piedmont Planning District Commission. Mr. Lovelace acknowledged Executive Director Wells for the time and effort he has dedicated to the reestablishment of the Committee. Discussion addressed the importance of ensuring representation for communities and localities. Executive Director Wells and Mr. Lovelace emphasized that reestablishing the Committee would strengthen the region's voice rather than create additional challenges, as the Committee serves in an advisory capacity. They also noted that the Committee is intended to be fully funded by the Commonwealth.
- VAPDC "Finding Funding Workshop": Executive Director Wells announced the upcoming VAPDC workshop scheduled for August 12 in Farmville, VA. He noted that he and Community Project Manager Donna Wall plan to attend. He is also going to be on a discussion panel with other Planning District Executive Directors. Executive Director Wells invited Commissioners interested in attending to participate as well.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Southside Planning District Commission is scheduled for October 15, 2026. This will be our annual dinner meeting.

Tom Tanner, PDC Chair

Andy Wells, PDC Secretary