

Chs. 28 & 29 (2026 Acts of Assembly) Work Group Meeting

Draft Minutes

September 24, 2026

1:30 p.m.

Virginia Department of Transportation
Lockwood Building
3rd Floor, Meeting Room C
9120 Lockwood Blvd.
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

A meeting of the Chs. 28 & 29 Work Group was held at the Virginia Department of Transportation Lockwood Building on September 24, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Sam Brumberg – Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC)

Mike Cizenski – State Corporation Commission (SCC)

Jessica Dennis – Virginia Municipal League

Bob Fasick – NextGen Highways – Virtual attendance from office in Wisconsin (residence more than 60 miles) in accordance with § 2.2-3708.3(B)(3) of the *Code of Virginia*

Robert Hofrichter – Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Robert Kell – Clean Air Task Force – Virtual attendance from office in Marion, VA (residence more than 60 miles) in accordance with § 2.2-3708.3(B)(3) of the *Code of Virginia*

Scott Kennedy – Appalachian Power Company

Joe Lerch – Virginia Association of Counties

Laura Meadows – Dominion Energy

Members Absent:

Jamie Bitz – Commission on Electric Utility Regulation

Additional Attendees (attending both in-person and virtually)

Ryan Balluck – VDOT

Suseel Indrakanti – Cambridge Systematics

Chris Berg – VDOT

Alex Jones – VMDAEC

David Essah – SCC

Vanloan Nguyen – VDOT

Alleyn Harned – Virginia Clean Cities

Andy Payne – VDOT

DJ Hickman – VDOT

Kathryn Pobre – VDOT

Jorg Huckabee-Mayfield – VDOT

Brent Pollard – VDOT

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:32pm. It was noted at the start of the meeting that a quorum was not yet physically assembled in the meeting room.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Robert Hofrichter, Director of the VDOT Office of Land Use, welcomed attendees to the meeting and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Consideration of the minutes from the previous two meetings was deferred until a quorum was physically assembled in the meeting room.

3. Discussion of Draft Report and Proposed Regulatory Changes

Mr. Hofrichter explained that while the work group would discuss and ultimately vote to approve the report, the report would undergo review and potential revision by VDOT executives and the Secretary of Transportation prior to being submitted to the General Assembly. Using the edited version of the report shared by the SCC as the basis for discussion, the group reviewed the proposed changes to the draft report body and Appendix B. In the body of the report, the group reviewed additions from Dominion Energy related to the role of PJM Interconnection in regional transmission line planning and discussed edits from the SCC about the references to their guidelines. Review of Attachment B, the proposed amendments to 24VAC30-151, included discussion of the as-built plan requirements in Section 40 O, the proposed new text specifying the conditions for tree removal in Section 310 2 d and minor revisions to this language, the revised requirement in Section 310 4 regarding the location of longitudinal utility installations within limited access right-of-way, and the conditions added to Section 330 J for new longitudinal pole line installation within nonlimited access right-of-way.

During this discussion, additional attendees joined the meeting, establishing a quorum in the meeting room.

Joe Lerch moved that the substance of the report and regulatory amendments be approved. Laura Meadows seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved 8-0-1, with the SCC abstaining.

4. Approval of Minutes

The group reviewed the draft minutes from the previous two meetings and, with no objections, approved the minutes.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Hofrichter thanked the work group for its efforts and explained that the next steps for the report would be review by VDOT executives and the Secretary of Transportation's Office prior to submission to the General Assembly. The meeting was adjourned at 2:39pm.