



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
AUTONOMOUS DRIVING WORKGROUP

Nicholas Donohue
Secretary of Transportation

1221 East Broad Street
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Autonomous Driving Workgroup

2025 Va. Acts ch. 498 (HB2627) & 2026 Va. Acts ch. 738 (HB1124)

May 22, 2026 Meeting

Location: VDOT Lockwood, Auditorium
9120 Lockwood Blvd, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Agenda

1:00 – 1:05 pm	Welcome / Opening remarks <i>Office of the Secretary of Transportation</i>
1:05 – 1:10 pm	Administrative matters / approvals: - April 2026 meeting minutes - policy on remote participation by members <i>Joshua Heslinga, VDOT</i>
1:10 – 1:20 pm	Introduction of labor & workforce impact consultants and plans <i>Office of the Secretary of Transportation & Knowledge Advisory Group</i>
1:20 – 2:45 pm	Issues and gap analysis <i>(discussion, facilitated by VTTI and agency representatives)</i>
2:45 – 3 pm	Public comment <i>(in-person only, sign up at the meeting)</i>

Notes:

- Meeting information is posted on the [Commonwealth Calendar](#) and LIS.
(Past meeting pages have video and materials links – see [the April 2026 meeting page.](#))
- Will be livestreamed on [YouTube.com/@VDOTLIVE](https://www.youtube.com/@VDOTLIVE)
(and video available for viewing there afterward)
- Written comments may be submitted and viewed at
<https://publicinput.com/autonomousdriving>
- Administrative questions about the meeting may be sent to
joshua.heslinga@vdot.virginia.gov and ttrimble@vtti.vt.edu



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April 24, 2026 Meeting

Minutes – DRAFT

Meeting date, time, and location:

Friday, April 24, 2026, 1 pm

VDOT Lockwood Auditorium, 9120 Lockwood Blvd, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Workgroup convened by:

Deputy Secretary of Transportation Laura Schewel

Workgroup members present:

Senator Lamont Bagby

Senator J.D. “Danny” Diggs

Senator Kannan Srinivasan

Delegate David Reid

Delegate Jackie Hope Glass

Delegate Brianna Sewell

Virginia State Police (Major Ron Maxey)

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

(Assistant Commissioner Patrick Harrison)

Virginia Department of Transportation

(Assistant State Traffic Operations Engineer Mena Lockwood)

Workgroup members absent:

Delegate Terry Austin

Delegate Jason Ballard

Summary:

This was the Work Group’s first meeting of 2026.

Attendees were not required to sign in, but a wide range of stakeholders were present, including representatives of autonomous driving companies and technology associations, labor groups, trucking, airports, local government groups, and trial lawyers.

As set forth in the Agenda, the Work Group heard the following presentations:

2026 Legislative Session Summary <i>(Joshua Heslinga, VDOT Director of Governance and Legislative Affairs)</i>
Work Group Organizational Update <i>(Joshua Heslinga, VDOT Director of Governance and Legislative Affairs)</i>
Summary of Areas of Interest from Legislative Review <i>(Tammy Trimble, Ph.D., Virginia Tech Transportation Institute)</i>
Autonomous Driving Systems Safety Scan <i>(Noah Goodall, Ph.D., P.E., Virginia Transportation Research Council)</i>

The latter two presentations drew questions from workgroup members and some comments from stakeholders.

In addition, both workgroup members and stakeholders participated in discussion of the work group’s goals and tasks ahead, as it works to complete its meetings and report in the timeframe set forth in the legislation.

Legislative members noted a desire to have comprehensive legislation in 2027, to consider what should be in legislation vs. subsequent regulations and what approach should be taken to legislation (e.g., piloting vs. full deployment), to learn from other states while not necessarily just copying from elsewhere, to act expeditiously while not carelessly or without deliberation, and to proceed in a way that promotes public trust through measurable standards, transparency (including in testing), and accountability.

Labor representatives expressed a desire for concrete recommendations and comprehensive planning for labor and workforce and for Virginia to proceed in a way that's safe for workers and all road users.

Also mentioned in discussion:

- Distinctions between lighter and heavier vehicles (e.g., tractor trailers vs cars).
- The fact that transportation is inter-state, and the potential impediment of a patchwork of requirements and laws.

- Use at airports should take into account the particular and critical needs of airports, and there should be operational data that addresses special circumstances at airports.
- A need for testing and inspection of vehicles in a robust and transparent way.
- Thinking of legislation as being iterative, especially in developing technology.

No votes were taken.

Deputy Secretary Schewel concluded the meeting at approximately 2:15 pm.

The meeting was streamed live (for viewing only, not remote participation) on [YouTube.com/@VDOTLIVE](https://www.youtube.com/@VDOTLIVE), and [a recording may be viewed there](#) for complete information regarding the discussion and other content of the meeting.

The presentations and meeting handouts were posted on April 23 on the [Commonwealth Calendar page for this meeting](#) and continue to be available to view or download from the “Agenda” link there.

Anyone interested in providing written comments continues to be able to do so at <https://publicinput.com/autonomousdriving>

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The following is the remote or electronic participation policy of the Autonomous Driving Workgroup.

Member Remote Participation

Individual Workgroup members may participate in meetings of the Workgroup by electronic communication means to the full extent permitted by applicable law, including [§ 2.2-3708.3](#) of the *Code of Virginia*. (When such individual participation is due to a personal matter, such participation is limited by law to two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.)

This shall apply to the entire membership and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

Whenever a member wishes to participate from a remote location, the law requires a quorum of the Workgroup to be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location. A member with a disability shall count toward the quorum as physically present, in accordance with law.

Virtual Meetings

The Workgroup may hold all-virtual public meetings to the full extent permitted by applicable law, including Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3(C). Such all-virtual public meetings are limited by law to two meetings per calendar year or 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater, and may not be held consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting.

When audio-visual technology is available, a member of a public body shall, for purposes of a quorum, be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails or during which audio communication involuntarily fails.

Requests and Minutes

Requests for remote participation or that the Workgroup conduct an all-virtual public meeting shall be conveyed to Workgroup staff, who shall then relay such requests to the Secretary of Transportation's Office.

To send requests to staff, please submit them via email to Joshua.Heslinga@vdot.virginia.gov and ttrimble@vtti.vt.edu. If a request is made in another manner, staff shall ensure a record exists of the request and its handling.

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Individual participation from a remote location shall be considered approved unless a member asserts that such participation would violate this policy or the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Va. Code § 2.2-3700 *et seq.*). If a member's participation from a remote location is challenged, then the Workgroup shall vote whether to allow such participation.

The request for remote participation or that the Workgroup conduct an all-virtual public meeting shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the Workgroup votes to disapprove of the member's participation because such participation would violate this policy, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity. The minutes shall include other information as required by law (see Va. Code §§ 2.2-3707 and 2.2-3708.3), depending on the type of remote participation or all-virtual public meeting.

This policy was originally adopted at the Workgroup meeting on _____, 2026, and shall be reviewed and adopted once annually by recorded vote at a public meeting.

The following additional explanation is intended to inform understanding of current legal requirements and is not legal advice, an authoritative interpretation of the law, or required by this policy independent of the requirements of law.

Additional Explanation of Current Requirements for Remote Participation by Members

When a meeting is scheduled to be held in person, there are four circumstances set out in subsection B of § 2.2-3708.3 where individual members of a public body may participate from a remote location instead of participating in person. In order to use these provisions, the member must notify the chair of the public body of one of the following four reasons for remote participation:

1. The member has a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance;
2. A medical condition of a member of the member's family requires the member to provide care that prevents the member's physical attendance, or the member of the body is a caregiver who must provide care for a person with a disability at the time of the meeting, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance;
3. The member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location identified in the required notice for such meeting; or

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4. The member is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter. However, the member may not use remote participation due to personal matters more than two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater.

The limitations to two meetings per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year does not apply to the first three types of remote participation (member's disability or medical condition, need to provide medical care for a family member or principal residence distance from the meeting location), it only applies when the member participates due to personal matter.

Additional Explanation of Current Requirements for Minutes

- If an individual member remotely participates in a meeting, a general description of the remote location must be included in the minutes. (That does not need to be an exact address— for example, the minutes might read that "[Member] participated from his home in [locality]" or that "[Member] participated from her office in [locality].") The remote location does not have to be open to the public.
- If a member remotely participates due to a (i) temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevented the member's physical attendance, or (ii) family member's medical condition that required the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance, that fact must be included in the minutes. While the fact that a disability or medical condition prevents the member's physical attendance must be recorded in the minutes, identifying the specific disability or medical condition is not required.
- If a member remotely participates because the member's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location, the minutes must include that fact.
- If a member remotely participates due to a personal matter, the minutes must include the nature of the personal matter cited by the member.
- As stated above, if remote participation by a member is disapproved because it would violate the participation policy adopted by the public body, such disapproval must be recorded in the minutes with specificity. Note that even if remote participation is disapproved, the member may continue to monitor the meeting from the remote location but may not participate and may not be counted as present at the meeting.

Additional Explanation of Current Requirements for All-Virtual Meetings

The provisions of Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.3(C) and the following concern all-virtual meetings:

1. An indication of whether the meeting will be an in-person or all-virtual public meeting is included in the required meeting notice, along with a statement notifying the public that the method by which a public body chooses to meet shall not be changed unless the

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public body provides a new meeting notice in accordance with the provisions of § 2.2-3707;

2. Public access to the all-virtual public meeting is provided via electronic communication means;
3. The electronic communication means used allows the public to hear all members of the public body participating in the all-virtual public meeting and, when audio-visual technology is available, to see the members of the public body as well;
4. A phone number or other live contact information is provided to alert the public body if the audio or video transmission of the meeting provided by the public body fails, the public body monitors such designated means of communication during the meeting, and the public body takes a recess until public access is restored if the transmission fails for the public;
5. A copy of the proposed agenda and all agenda packets and, unless exempt, all materials furnished to members of a public body for a meeting is made available to the public in electronic format at the same time that such materials are provided to members of the public body;
6. The public is afforded the opportunity to comment through electronic means, including by way of written comments, at those public meetings when public comment is customarily received;
7. No more than two members of the public body are together in any one remote location unless that remote location is open to the public to physically access it;
8. If a closed session is held during an all-virtual public meeting, transmission of the meeting to the public resumes before the public body votes to certify the closed meeting as required by subsection D of § 2.2-3712;
9. The public body does not convene an all-virtual public meeting (i) more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater, or (ii) consecutively with another all-virtual public meeting; and
10. Minutes of all-virtual public meetings held by electronic communication means are taken as required by § 2.2-3707 and include the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held. If a member's participation from a remote location pursuant to these requirements is disapproved because such participation would violate the policy adopted pursuant to subsection D of § 2.2-3708.3, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

If an individual member had already reached his limit on participation due to personal matters, but the public body scheduled an all-virtual public meeting, the member could still participate in all virtual public meeting because the numerical limits are counted separately for the different types of electronic meetings.