REGIONAL COOPERATION:
What's Worked

Richmond’s Future
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Mechanisms for Cooperation

• Virginia Provide Multiple Mechanisms for Local Cooperation
  – Authority
  – Commission
  – Service Agreement
  – Contract
  – State Initiative
  – Joint Services Power, Local Govt. Commission
  – Planning District Commissions
Utilized in Multiple Arenas

- Economic Development and Tourism
- Education and Arts
- Emergency Management/Preparedness
- Health/Mental Health
- Jails and Detention Services
- Law Enforcement
- Recreation
- Solid Waste Management
- Transportation
- Social Services

Major Examples

- Greater Richmond Convention Center Authority
- RIC
- Virginia Biotechnology Research Park
- Richmond Metropolitan Authority
- Appomattox Water Authority
- Riverside Regional Jail
- Greater Richmond Partnership
- Maggie Walker and Appomattox Governors’ Schools
Major Examples (Cont'd)

- VCU School of Engineering
- Capital Region Collaborative
- Medflight
- 288
- Joint Purchasing Agreements
- The Diamond
- Water and Sewer Agreements
- Henricus

Keys to Success

- Initial Vision/Leadership/Business Champions
- Linkage of Locality Self Interest to Regional Benefit
- Strong Relationship Between Local Leaders of Different Jurisdictions
- Managers/Administrators Assume an Active Not Passive Role
- Elected Officials Willing to Sell Cooperation's Benefits to Their Constituents
Going Forward

- Think about Cooperation in Broader and Larger Contexts—Not Only 4 Jurisdictions
- Be Flexible in Thinking about the “Region”—Some Initiatives May Involve 2 Jurisdictions, Some Many, and Some May Involve Jurisdictions Outside our Normal Boundaries
- Be Attentive to Incentives for Cooperation that Tie Local Interests to Regional Aspirations