



**CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION 2020-7**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO
PERMIT ATTENDANCE ELECTRONICALLY/REMOTELY AT COG MEETINGS UNDER
DECLARED EMERGENCIES OR DUE TO OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AS
DETERMINED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR GENERAL FORUM**

WHEREAS, the Centre Region Council of Governments desires to provide elected and appointed officials, COG staff, members of the public, and others, additional opportunities to participate in the governance of the Centre Region Council of Governments under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Centre Region Council of Governments desires to establish policies for participating in meetings via electronic/remote technology, video conferencing, telephone, internet, or other means; and

WHEREAS, the Centre Region Council of Governments recognizes that during future emergency circumstances affecting the Centre Region, normal face-to-face meetings may not be able to be held at COG or other local public meeting/gathering facilities, and

WHEREAS, the Centre Region Council of Governments also acknowledges that from time to time, individual members of the COG General Forum or COG Committees may not be able to be physically present at meetings held at either COG or other local public facilities, but those members may fully participate remotely given the option and access,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HERE RESOLVED: That the General Forum of the Centre Region Council of Governments hereby authorizes the following measures for the conduct of meetings for the Centre Region Council of Governments, General Forum and its Committees and Groups:

Section 1 – During emergency circumstances affecting the Centre Region:

1. Members of the COG General Forum, COG appointed officials, COG staff, members of the public, and others, may participate in a COG meeting via electronic/remote technology, telephone, or other means (i.e. video meeting software/applications).
2. A member, alternate, or appointed official who is attending electronically may participate in the meeting and vote as if the member was physically present.
3. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to create or to approve specific procedures related to holding and conducting remote meetings and update them as circumstances warrant, subject to the review by the General Forum. Changes to these rules or procedures require approval by the Executive Committee and shall be communicated with all members of the General Forum at least one week before being

implemented.

4. All other COG rules of procedure shall apply.
5. COG staff, members of the public, and others may participate in and attend COG meetings in an electronic/remote manner.

Section 2 – During non-emergency circumstances:

1. Subject to the review by the General Forum, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to create or to approve specific procedures to allow individual members of the General Forum or COG Committees to participate and vote in meetings remotely during times when no emergency circumstance exists, so long as a quorum required to conduct the meeting is present in the advertised meeting location. Changes to these rules or procedures require approval by the Executive Committee and shall be communicated with all members of the General Forum at least one week before being implemented.
2. COG staff, members of the public, and others may participate in and attend COG meetings in an electronic/remote manner.

Section 3 – Conformity: This Resolution and procedures adopted to implement this Resolution shall be subject to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If laws enacted by the Commonwealth after the adoption of this Resolution materially change the terms of this Resolution or the procedures for remote meetings, this Resolution and/or the procedures shall be automatically updated and distributed to the General Forum.


RESOLVED, this *twenty-seventh day of July 2020*, meeting in regular session.

Attest:



Eric Norenberg
Executive Director, Centre Region COG

By:



Elliot Abrams
Chair, Centre Region COG