

Tompkins County Council of Governments

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 06/24/21 03:00 PM
Department: Tompkins County Council of Governments

ADOPTED

DOC ID: 10210

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2021

Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) Petitions the New York State Legislature to Amend Public Officers Law §103(c)

RESULT:	ADOPTED [10 TO 1]
MOVER:	Rordan Hart, Member, Village of Trumansburg
SECONDER:	Nancy Zahler, Member, Town of Ulysses
AYES:	Witmer, Howe, Conger, Gagnon, Hardaway, Hart, James, Murphy, Woodard, Zahler
NAYS:	Robert Lynch

WHEREAS, New York State Public Officers Law §103(c) states that, “A public body that uses videoconferencing to conduct its meetings shall provide an opportunity for the public to attend, listen, and observe at any site at which a member participates”, and

WHEREAS, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.1 which suspended the requirement for in-person access by members of the public to any site from which a member participates remotely in a meeting of a public body, so long as said meeting is recorded and the public has the ability to view the meeting, and

WHEREAS, representatives of Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) municipalities have found the ability to hold meetings remotely to be highly efficient, convenient, and a cause for increased participation by members of the public who would not or could not otherwise attend in-person meetings, and

WHEREAS, representatives of TCCOG municipalities have found that remote meetings have resulted in elected officials being able to attend meetings they might otherwise be unable to due to health conditions, travel, work, or personal responsibilities, to the overall benefit to the public, and

WHEREAS, modern videoconferencing technology has made the ability to conduct meetings remotely while safeguarding the necessity for public access a simple, streamlined process, and

WHEREAS, it is neither desirable nor practical to allow members of the public to attend or observe a member in-person in the member’s home or other private location, and

WHEREAS, this body recognizes the importance of the time-honored and time-tested practice of holding in-person, open meetings, now therefore be it

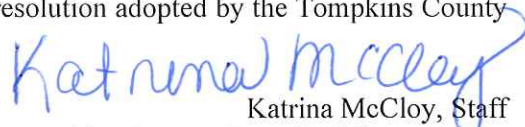
RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) hereby petitions the New York State Legislature to amend Public Officers Law §103(c) to strike the requirement of public in-person access to every site where a member of a public body may participate in a remote meeting, so long as the public has the opportunity to attend the meeting either remotely or at a predetermined, public location where members are present in-person; and

RESOLVED, further, That TCCOG advocates for the codification of Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 202.1 with respect to remote meetings, requiring that such meetings be both recorded and broadcast live; and

RESOLVED, further, That TCCOG requests its member municipalities and the Tompkins County Legislature to adopt similar resolutions, to be forwarded along with this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Assemblymember Anna Kelles, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Senators Pamela Helming, Tom O’Mara, and Peter Oberacker.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:
COUNTY OF TOMPKINS)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution adopted by the Tompkins County Council of Governments on June 24, 2021.


Katrina McCloy, Staff
Tompkins County Council of Governments