FAIRFAX COUNTY
COUNCIL FOR
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Council for Economic Opportunity (CEO) Project Updates

October 20, 2026

Northern Virginia AI Economy Action Plan

The Northern Virginia AI Economy Action Plan will establish a roadmap to grow the region's AI industry, attract new investment, and align public, private, and academic partners around a shared strategy. The initiative was developed through guidance from the Fairfax County Council of Economic Opportunity(CEO) and is led by the Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives and Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC). Contributions from CEO member AttainX funded Phase 1 of the project and a recent $100,000 GO Virginia planning grant, along with Fairfax County contributions, will now fund Phase 2. Key updates include:

- Phase 1 (complete) defines the region's competitive position in the AI economy, identifies strategic gaps, recommends priority actions to accelerate growth, and lays out a sponsorship strategy to fund the project through completion.
- Phase 2 (in progress) will validate recommended priority actions and refine the regional AI strategy through a regional AI Leadership Working Session to build consensus and identify project champions, culminating in the written AI Economy Action Plan.

Guidehouse, a global consulting firm that works with both government and commercial clients, is the project consultant. The project is guided by an advisory group of public- and private-sector experts in economic development and AI.

Economic Competitiveness and Housing Production Task Forces

The Fairfax County Chairman launched the Economic Competitiveness and Housing Task Forces to strengthen the local economy, expand housing, and improve the environment for businesses, workers, and residents. Recognizing that housing and economic competitiveness are closely linked, the Task Forces identified more than 50 initiatives that form a roadmap for growth. The County is implementing them across agencies and with business, development, regional, and state partners. Progress is well underway on many of the initiatives; several are already complete, and all will be tracked through FY 2029.

Economic Competitiveness Task Force Initiatives

- Workforce: Establishing a Workforce Competitiveness and Advancement function to build employer-aligned skills pathways, including for ALICE workers and displaced federal workers.
- Innovation ecosystem: Proposed technology accelerator focused on geospatial intelligence, space, aerospace, and dual-use technologies, enhancing the Economic Opportunity Reserve, and making greater use of state incentives.
- Predictable development: Creating tiered plan review, modernizing digital systems, and integrating economic development goals into planning and zoning.
- County assets: Forming a Real Estate Opportunities Team to proactively identify, evaluate, and execute real estate opportunities.

Housing Production Initiatives

- More housing options: Exploring Suburban Village Centers, a Compact Housing Village pilot, and updates to the Accessory Living Unit ordinance.
- Affordable housing tools: Exploring new Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) financing products, targeted tax incentives, and streamlined pathways for affordable projects, along with updates to the Comprehensive Plan Housing Element.
- Faster review: Reducing review times and steps, exploring concurrent and parallel review processes, simplifying requirements, and 12-month site plan processing commitment.
- Clearer, more accountable process: Improving customer-facing timelines and performance measures, clarifying planning and entitlement processes, and limiting site plan review recommendations to regulatory requirements.

For more information, see presentations at the May 12, 2026 Board of Supervisors Economic Initiatives, Land Use Policy, and Housing Committee meetings.