

December 13, 2019

This weekend, Northern Virginia will reach an important milestone in its next phase of economic growth, as the Arlington community considers approvals for the first phase of development for Amazon's headquarters, known as HQ2. While land use decisions are appropriately made by individual localities, an important part of the **Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance's** (NOVA EDA) mission is to celebrate each of our members' successes and amplify the positive impacts of projects of regional importance.

The NOVA EDA believes that the benefits of the Amazon HQ2 project will extend well beyond the borders of the individual jurisdiction where it is locating. The workforce to fill the projected 47,000+ jobs (direct and indirect) will largely come from the communities that comprise the NOVA EDA, and other benefits will be felt across the entire Commonwealth. For example, the Tech Talent Investment Program is funding computer science graduate production at universities across the Commonwealth, which strengthens every surrounding community. Infrastructure investments and housing contributions will also help the entire Northern Virginia region.

One of the catalysts for the creation of the NOVA EDA was the pursuit, and eventual win, of the Amazon Second Headquarters ("HQ2") project. That pursuit brought together four Northern Virginia jurisdictions- The City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County and Loudoun County- who successfully collaborated to design an investment package and real estate solution, together with the Commonwealth of Virginia, that promotes economic opportunity and preserves the good quality of life that Northern Virginia residents expect and deserve. The success of this partnership led to the creation of a new brand for Northern Virginia- **Innovation Lives Here**- which has now been adopted by the ten jurisdictions participating in the Alliance.

When these ten economic development organizations, representing ten unique jurisdictions created the NOVA EDA in September of this year, we were deliberate in our focus- to promote the strength of the region, with the understanding that a win for one jurisdiction is actually a win for all jurisdictions. All of the Northern Virginia communities participating in the Alliance boast a dynamic, well-educated, and ethnically and socioeconomically diverse workforce. The strength of our *collective* workforce, infrastructure, education system, and our engaged communities is key to our region's position as one of the best and most competitive in the nation.

The Amazon HQ2 project will be beneficial for the entire Northern Virginia region and the Commonwealth as a whole. The NOVA EDA strongly supports this project and looks forward to continuing to create and promote economic opportunities that make us the best place to do business in the nation.

Signed,

**The Founding Members of the NOVA EDA**

City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax City, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, City of Falls Church, Fauquier County, Loudoun County, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, and Prince William County Department of Economic Development

*For more information on Economic Benefits, and Educational, Housing and Transportation Investments that the NOVA EDA believes benefit the entire region, please visit the download section at [www.hqnova.com](http://www.hqnova.com)*