



Michael J. Hipple, Chair | Richard W. West, Vice-Chair
Robert A. Crum, Jr., Executive Director/Secretary

February 28, 2025

Memorandum #2025-33

TO: HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee

BY: Keith Nichols, PE – Principal Transportation Engineer

RE: HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting – March 7, 2025

The next HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held in person at the **Virginia Port Authority located at the World Trade Center, 6th Floor, 101 W. Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510**. The agenda and related meeting materials are attached.

KN/cm

Attachments

Agenda
HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
March 7, 2025

1. Call to Order (*targeted for 10:00 AM*)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comments
 - A. Public Comment Period (limit 3 minutes per individual)
 - B. Submitted Public Comments
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
5. Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study (*45 minutes*)
Presented by Keith Nichols, HRTPO

BREAK

6. National Multimodal Freight Network Update (*15 minutes*)
Presented by Keith Nichols, HRTPO
7. HRTPO FY 2026 UPWP – Port of Virginia Special Study (*15 minutes*)
Presented by Keith Nichols, HRTPO and Port of Virginia Staff
8. HRTPO Updates (*5 minutes*)
Presented by Keith Nichols, HRTPO
9. Statewide Freight Advisory Committee – Update (*5 minutes*)
Presented by David White, FAC Chair
10. Future Meeting Topics and Action Items (*5 minutes*)
 - A. 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Updates
 - B. VA 164 Study
 - C. Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study
 - D. Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study
 - E. HRPDC/HRTPO Legislative Agenda
11. Old/New Business
12. Next Meeting
13. Adjournment (*targeted for 12:00 PM*)

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Members are provided an opportunity to add or delete items from the agenda. Any item for which a member desires action from the FTAC should be submitted at this time, as opposed to under “Old/New Business.”

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comment Period (*limit 3 minutes per individual*)

Members of the public are invited to address the FTAC. Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

B. Submitted Public Comments

There were no submitted public comments. Any written public comments received after the preparation of this agenda will be announced at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The summary minutes of the FTAC meeting held on December 16, 2024, are attached.

Attachment 4

Recommended Action: Approve the minutes.

HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16, 2024
10:00 am

Members in Attendance:

Mike Abbott, Hapag-Lloyd
Robert Eveleigh – Chair, Port City Transportation
Chad Gregg, Givens
Cannon Moss, Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad
David White – Vice Chair, Virginia Maritime Association

Other Participants:

Sam Belfield, HRTPO
Theresa Brooks, HRTPO
Mitzi Crystal, VDOT
Chris Gullickson, Port of Virginia
Karen McPherson, VHB
Barbara Nelson, Port of Virginia
Keith Nichols, HRTPO
Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO
Erik Johnson, VDOT (virtual)
Ivan Rucker, FHWA (virtual)
Amanda Rutherford, MARAD (Virtual)
Emily Stock, DRPT (virtual)

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:03 am.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by the committee.

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were submitted prior to or made during the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 24, 2024, and September 25, 2024, meetings was made by Mr. Abbott, and seconded by Mr. Moss. The minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEM #5: HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY

Mr. Belfield discussed historic and current freight planning efforts underway in Hampton Roads. Mr. Belfield highlighted the Regional Freight Study, referring to it as the most comprehensive resource document and which is updated every five years. Mr. Belfield described freight trends from 2020 to 2023. He also highlighted an analysis of commodity flow data, which shows an expected increase in regional freight movement by 2045, with significant growth also occurring on I-95 and I-81. Volume growth is also expected through regional gateways. Mr. Belfield highlighted the ongoing work taking place on the document, and noted that the remaining sections of the study will be presented at the Spring FTAC meeting. Following the presentation, discussion included the importance of consistent data sources; highlighting various freight corridors like I-64, US 58, and US 460; and examining recent trends and shifts in freight movement, particularly post-COVID.

AGENDA ITEM #6: NATIONAL MULTIMODAL FREIGHT NETWORK UPDATE

Mr. Nichols provided an update on the National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN), which is being finalized by USDOT in order to prioritize federal investments in freight and to aid in federal, state, and regional freight transportation planning. After highlighting the Interim NMFN, Mr. Nichols described the components of the National Highway Freight Network portion of the NMFN. These include the Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS), which is limited to 41,000 miles nationally with 842 miles in Virginia; the Non-PHFS Interstates, which include interstates not part of the PHFS such as I-264 and I-464; Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC), which are designated in cooperation with MPOs and states and limited to 83 miles in Virginia; and Critical Rural Freight Corridors (CRFC), which are limited to 154 miles in Virginia. Mr. Nichols noted that the current funding allocation is \$7.2 billion over five years for the National Highway Freight Program, with Virginia receiving \$184 million. These funds can only be used on PHFS, CUFC, and CRFC in high mileage states like Virginia, although Virginia allocates NHFP funds via SMART SCALE and other established statewide funding processes. Mr. Nichols wrapped up the topic by giving a NMFN update, and noting that there has been no additional federal guidance on the NMFN since the Summer.

AGENDA ITEM #7: HRTPO FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Nichols provided an overview and introduction to the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Nichols provided a timeline for the new work program, which will take effect on July 1, 2025, and run through June 2026. The draft UPWP is expected in early spring, with final approval in mid-May. Mr. Nichols shared examples of recent freight-specific studies such as the Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study. Mr. Nichols made an open invitation for ideas on possible studies, with feedback to be gathered from various committees over the next two months. Mr. Gullickson provided a summary of a potential special study that would aim to enhance the understanding of freight movement between key load centers, including warehouses, manufacturing operations, truck terminals, and port facilities. The proposed study will focus on creating a comprehensive map that details the volumes and frequencies of freight trips between these critical load centers, which can provide valuable insights that can inform future infrastructure investments and policy decisions.

AGENDA ITEM #8: HRTPO UPDATE

Mr. Nichols gave an update on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. He noted that the candidate project list is under review by localities. Next steps will include the TPO Board taking action on the final candidate project list at their January meeting. Once approved, the list will undergo analysis for prioritization.

Mr. Nichols also gave a brief update on the progress of the Rail Crossing Study.

Finally, Mr. Nichols gave an update on the HRPDC/HRTPO Legislative Agenda. He noted that there was a discussion at the November HRTPO Board meeting regarding the proposed Primary and Secondary Road fund, and provided details on the motion that was approved by the Board.

AGENDA ITEM #9: STATEWIDE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(This item was moved up prior to item #7)

Mr. White provided a summary of activities undertaken by the committee in the past few months. Freight highlights were shared at the Governor's Transportation Conference, which featured a freight-specific panel for the first time. The Governor spoke at VMA's 24 Conference and he emphasized freight's role in Virginia's economy. The committee also discussed legislative concerns for the upcoming General Assembly session.

AGENDA ITEM #10: FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTIONS

A. 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Updates

B. VA 164 Study

E. Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study

F. Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study

AGENDA ITEM #11: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEM #12: NEXT MEETING

A doodle poll will be sent out to committee members to set the meeting calendar for 2025.

AGENDA ITEM #13: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

AGENDA ITEM #5: HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY

HRTPO engages in numerous regional freight planning activities, including the development of the Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study, which serves as a comprehensive resource document on the Hampton Roads multimodal transportation system.

The overall purpose of the Regional Freight Study is to understand the impact of regional freight movement in order to guide policy and investment decisions—particularly for prioritizing transportation projects—that will improve the connectivity, efficiency, reliability, and safety of the Hampton Roads freight multimodal transportation system.

The Regional Freight Study details the movement of goods across all freight facilities—highways, ports, railways, and airports. This version of the Regional Freight Study, which updates the most recent version that was released in 2017, includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- Freight Facilities Inventory
- Freight Trends and Forecasts
- Hampton Roads Commodity Flows
- Regional Truck Movement and Bottlenecks
- Integration of Freight into the Transportation Planning Process
- National Freight Planning Efforts and Funding Sources
- Summary and Next Steps

HRTPO staff presented the first part of the study at the December 2024 FTAC meeting, which included the first four bullets listed above. Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO, will brief the FTAC on the second part of the study, and provide a handout of the draft version of the Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study.

Recommended Action: For discussion and information purposes at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #6: NATIONAL MULTIMODAL FREIGHT NETWORK UPDATE

The National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN) is being established by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to assist in directing resources toward improved system performance for the efficient movement of freight, to inform freight transportation planning, and to assist in the prioritization of Federal investment. This National Multimodal Freight Network will replace the Interim NMFN that was established in 2015.

Last summer, USDOT released a Request for Information regarding the NMFN. HRTPO staff submitted comments to USDOT on behalf of the FTAC based on feedback provided by committee members at a special meeting on June 10, 2024. Based on this feedback, USDOT released a draft National Multimodal Freight Network in January 2025. More information on the draft network is available at <https://www.transportation.gov/freight-infrastructure-and-policy/NMFN>.

Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO, will provide an update to the FTAC on this item.

Recommended Action: For discussion and information purposes at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #7: HRTPO FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM – PORT OF VIRGINIA SPECIAL STUDY

Each year, HRTPO staff conducts a few special studies to address specific transportation concerns of its member localities and agencies. At the December 2024 FTAC meeting, staff made a presentation of examples of past freight-related studies completed by the HRTPO and solicited possible freight-related study topics for the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Port of Virginia staff submitted a request for HRTPO staff to conduct a special study for an interregional freight network map to help understand freight movement between various regional freight activity centers and port facilities.

Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO, and Port of Virginia staff will brief the FTAC on this item.

Attachment 7

Recommended Action: For discussion and information purposes at this time.



VIRGINIA PORT AUTHORITY
600 World Trade Center, Norfolk, VA 23510
(757)683-8000

January 24, 2025

Mr. Rob Case
Chief Transportation Engineer
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Re: Special Study Request for the FY26 Unified Planning Work Program

Dear Rob,

The Port of Virginia is writing to formally request a special study under the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to develop an inter-regional freight network map for the Hampton Roads region. This study aims to enhance our understanding of freight movement between key load centers, including warehouses, manufacturing operations, truck terminals, and port facilities.

The proposed study will focus on creating a comprehensive map that details the volumes and frequencies of freight trips between these critical load centers. By analyzing the inter-regional network of freight movement, we aim to achieve the following objectives:

- **Key Freight Corridors:** Determine the primary routes used for freight transportation and their respective capacities, to include locally designated truck routes.
- **Volume and Frequency Analysis:** Assess the volume of freight and the frequency of trips between load centers to identify patterns and peak usage times.
- **Infrastructure and Truck Parking Needs:** Highlight areas where infrastructure and truck parking improvements are necessary to support efficient and safe movement of freight.
- **Economic Impact:** Evaluate the economic implications of freight movement on the region, including potential benefits and challenges.
- **Planning Recommendations:** Provide data-driven recommendations for the long-range planning process to enhance the efficiency and reliability of the freight network.

The Hampton Roads region is a vital hub for freight movement, with significant economic activities centered around the ports and industrial facilities. Understanding the dynamics of freight transportation within the region is crucial for optimizing logistics, reducing congestion, and supporting economic growth. This study will provide valuable insights that can inform future infrastructure investments and policy decisions.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to your support and collaboration in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Chris Gullickson
Director, Development Engagement

cc: Keith Nichols, PE, Principal Transportation Engineer, HRTPO
Barbara Nelson, Vice President, Transportation & Government Affairs, The Port of Virginia

AGENDA ITEM #8: HRTPO UPDATES

Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO, will provide a brief update on the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan, along with any other items of interest to the committee.

Recommended Action: For discussion and information purposes at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #9: STATEWIDE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - UPDATE

In an effort to ensure that freight is considered continuously and comprehensively, the Secretary of Transportation established a statewide Freight Advisory Committee (FAC). The FAC provides a forum to communicate and engage with public and private partners to understand needs, inform policy, and advocate for freight to achieve a dynamic transportation system that creates economic opportunity for Virginia and the nation. The FAC held its most recent meeting on February 12, 2025.

Mr. David White, FAC Chair, will provide an update to the FTAC on this item.

Recommended Action: For discussion and information purposes at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #10: FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTION ITEMS

- A.** 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Updates
- B.** VA 164 Study
- C.** Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study
- D.** Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study
- E.** HRPDC/HRTPO Legislative Agenda

AGENDA ITEM #11: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #12: NEXT MEETING

The next FTAC meeting is currently scheduled for June 5, 2025, at the Port of Virginia office in the World Trade Center in Norfolk.

AGENDA ITEM #13: ADJOURNMENT