

April 4, 2025

**Memorandum #2025-49**

**TO: HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee**  
**BY: Quan McLaurin, HRPDC/HRTPO DEI & Title VI/Civil Rights Liaison**  
**RE: HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee Meeting – April 10, 2025**

The next HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025, from Noon to 2:00 PM. Lunch will be provided. This meeting will be held in person at Nauticus in the Nauticus Conference Room - 2nd Floor 1 Waterside Dr. Norfolk, VA 23510. The agenda and related meeting materials are attached.

Attendees are encouraged to park in the W. Plume St. garage across the street. On-site parking is available only for handicapped guests. If you have concerns related to transportation to the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact Quan McLaurin ([qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov)).

There will be an optional tour at the conclusion of the CAC meeting. Prospective members will have the opportunity to connect with current members and CAC leadership to become better acquainted with the body.

Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

QM/se

Attachments

**CAC Membership:**

Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Mark A., PO (Chair)	Amos, Maleah, PO
Vacant, CH	Anderson, Sharon, PO
Vacant, FR	Harris, Garry, PO
Vacant, GL	Vacant, SH
Vacant, HA	Vacant, SM
Vacant, IW	Anthony Piglowski, SU
Vacant, JC	Vacant, SY
Cotrupi, Frank, NN	Martin, Brad, VB
Davidson, Travis, NO	Miles, Delceno, VB
Roberts, Lauren, NO	Vacant, WM
Vacant, PQ	Vacant, YK

**CAC Copy:**

Wallace Dustin, NO	Effah-Amponsah Angela, VDOT
Page, Kevin, HRTAC	Halacy, Todd, VDOT
Crittendon, Queen, VDOT	Tanner, Carolyn, VDOT

**Staff:**

Crum, Bob	Parthasarathi, Pavithra
Grootendorst, Greg	McLaurin, Quan

**HAMPTON ROADS  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**April 10, 2025  
Noon – 2:00 PM**

**Nauticus  
Nauticus Conference Room - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
1 Waterside Dr.  
Norfolk, VA 23510**

***Parking Note: Attendees are encouraged to park in the W. Plume St. garage across the street. On-site parking is available only for handicapped guests.***

***There will be an optional tour at the conclusion of the CAC meeting. Prospective members will have the opportunity to connect with current members and CAC leadership to become better acquainted with the body.***

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Approval/Modification of Agenda**

Members are provided an opportunity to modify the agenda. Any item for which a member desires consideration from the CAC should be submitted now, as opposed to under "Old/New Business."

**Recommended Action:** The CAC should consider action to approve the agenda.

**3. Public Comments**

**A. Submitted Public Comments**

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

**B. Public Comment Period**

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

**4. Summary Minutes**

The draft February 2025 meeting minutes are attached for the CAC's consideration.

Attachment 4: Meeting Minutes February 13, 2025

**Recommended Action:** The CAC should approve the February 13, 2025 minutes.

**5. HRPDC/HRTPO Summary Report – Quan McLaurin, HRPDC, DEI & Title VI/Civil Rights Liaison**

The CAC will be briefed on all major ongoing projects at the HRPDC and HRTPO. CAC members can inquire about more in-depth information about any of the listed items and request further exploration of any of the items in future meetings.

**Recommended Action:** This item is presented to CAC members as an update and for general discussion.

**6. Nauticus – Cat Taterway, Associate Director of Marketing for Nauticus, and Nate Sandel, Director of Education/Community Engagement for Nauticus**

Nauticus is a maritime discovery center located along the waterfront in downtown, Norfolk, VA, offering a unique form of experiential learning for all ages. Through interactive exhibits and STEM to STERN programming, Nauticus uses the museum, Battleship Wisconsin, sailing center, and Schooner Virginia to tell the story of the maritime environment, industry, and the military. Cat Taterway and Nate Sandel will some insight into the recent redesign, maritime job-focused programs, and the cruise ship activity.

Note: An optional tour will be provided for CAC members at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Recommended Action:** This item is presented for discussion.

**7. Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) 757 Express Updates – Sherri Dawson and Ray Amoruso of HRT.**

In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation requiring the establishment of the Hampton Roads Regional Transit Program (the Program) and the related Hampton Roads Regional Transit Fund (HRRTF). To this end, the Hampton Roads Regional Transit Program was established to define and supply resources for the development, operating, and capital needs for both expansion and state of good repair of reliable regional transit operations.

Over the past three years, Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) has been implementing various facets of the 757 Express Program, which includes high-frequency bus service, passenger amenities, and other capital investments.

**Recommended Action:** This item is presented for discussion.

**8. Elizabeth River Trail – Kindra Greene, Executive Director**

The Elizabeth River Trail Foundation (ERTF) plans, programs, and advocates for the Elizabeth River Trail (ERT) connecting Naval Station Norfolk to the Virginia Beach Trail. ERTF aims to provide something for everyone and believes that access to trails and open spaces are a fundamental right for all. The ERT has the power to connect communities and provide public access to our working waterfront.

The ERTF seeks to provide access and amenities to people along the Trail to meet the specific needs of each community.

Ms. Kindra Greene from ERTF will provide an overview and updates related to the ERTF and ERT.

**Recommended Action:** This item is presented for discussion.

**9. Membership Subcommittee – Quan McLaurin, HRPDC, DEI & Title VI/Civil Rights Liaison and Lauren Roberts Carter, CAC Chair**

Mr. McLaurin and Ms. Roberts Carter will update the CAC members on the Membership Subcommittee and pending applications.

**Recommended Action:** Members interested in joining the Membership Subcommittee should inform the CAC Chair and CAC Staff Liaison ([qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov)).

**10. Report Out from Members – Quan McLaurin, HRPDC, DEI & Title VI Civil Rights Liaison**

Members will have the opportunity to provide the committee with updates from their respective localities, planning-related updates, and updates from other committees and workgroups.

**Recommended Action:** This item is presented to CAC members as an update and for general discussion.

**11. Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

The upcoming meetings for the CAC are listed below.

June 12, 2025	VWU Greer Environmental Center
August 14, 2025	Brock Environmental Education Center (Pending)
October 9, 2025	In Person – Location TBD
December 11, 2025	In Person – Location TBD

**12. Old/New Business**

**13. Adjournment**

**Summary Minutes of the HRPDC/HRTPO  
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting  
February 13, 2025**

The February 13, 2025, meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)/ Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held at the HRBT Expansion Project Welcome Center at .9401 4<sup>th</sup> View Street Norfolk VA, 23503.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 12:05 PM with the following in attendance:

**CAC Members in Attendance**

Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Chair (PO)	Garry Harris (PO)
Sharon D. Anderson (PO)	Maleah Amos (PO)
Brad Martin (VB)	Frank Cotrupi (NN)
Lauren Roberts Carter (NO)	Travis Davidson (NO)

**CAC Members Absent**

Anthony Piglowski (SU)

**HRPDC/HRTPO Staff**

Quan McLaurin	Matt Klepeisz
Robert A. Crum, Jr.	Joe Turner
Nikki Johnson	Greg Grootendorst
Robert Cofield	Eric Walberg

**Partner Agencies**

Drew Lumpkin (HRER)	Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)
Keith Moore (VWU)	Todd Nichols (HRMFFA)
Steve Cook (HRWC)	Mitzi Crystal (VDOT)
Monty Mason (W&M)	

**Additional Attendees**

Destini Harrell	Jimmy Fay
Janetta Jatczak	Bradley Weidenhammer (VDOT)
Joshua Torres	Zamari Love (VDOT/HRBT)
Daniel Ogunyemi	Cami Castleberry

## **Approval/Modification of Agenda**

The Chair, Mr. Geduldig-Yatrofsky, asked the committee if there were any amendments or discussions surrounding the agenda's approval. There was no discussion or amendments brought forth.

Without objection, the Chair and committee allowed the agenda to move forth as presented.

## **Public Comments**

- **Submitted Public Comments**

Mr. Quan McLaurin reported that no public comments had been submitted.

- **Public Comment Period**

Members of the public were invited to address the CAC, but no in-person requests for public comment were received.

## **Minutes**

The Chair, Mr. Geduldig-Yatrofsky, asked the committee if there were any requested modifications or discussions surrounding the approval of the December CAC 2024 minutes. There was no additional discussion or requested modifications.

Lauren Carter Roberts motioned to approve the minutes. Sharon Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **HRPDC/HRTPO Summary Report – Quan McLaurin, HRPDC, DEI & Title VI Civil Rights Liaison**

Mr. McLaurin shared the HRPDC/HRTPO Summary report with the committee with specific emphasis on the most recent Executive Director's Report from the January 2025 Commission meeting, the recap from the December CAC meeting at the Norfolk International Airport (ORF) to discuss development of the adjacent parcels of land, current HRTPO public notices, and the regional Climate Action Plan being developed.

## **HRBT Expansion Project Update – Bradley Weidenhammer, VDOT Operations Manager**

Mr. Bradley Weidenhammer, VDOT Operations Manager for the HRBT Expansion Project, provided a presentation to the CAC providing background on the HRBT Expansion, original infrastructure project, latest developments, and current timeline.

Mr. Weidenhammer described the full scope of the project, including the surface and bridge rehabilitation on either side of the tunnels. The project is funded by HRTAC and the regional

sales and use tax. The HRBT is the first bored tunnel for VDOT, has no impacts to navigable waterways, has minimal impact to the traveling public, and provides for continuous operation.

Mr. Weidenhammer described the operations included in the development of the expansion project including the slurry treatment plant, the tunnel fabrication, how "Mary" the tunnel boring machine processes the slurry and is processed. Full descriptions and specs related to the interior of the tunnel boring machine were shared. The new trestles are the first trestles to be added in over 50 years for the project. Mr. Weidenhammer provided members a closer look at the slurry treatment plant on the South Island.

Mr. Weidenhammer shared current photos related to the associated widening and rehabilitation of surface road projects and bridges connecting to the HRBT. The tunnel broke through on the north side in April 2024. Mary is the heaviest and largest shield on a boring tunnel machine, and the largest application of this technology in the United States. 80% of the contractors working on the project are Virginia based.

There have been some environmental challenges, including endangered bird species nesting there. Border collies help deter the birds, and an artificial barge has been created for the nesting birds to avoid disrupting their nesting cycle. Additionally, some historical artifacts have been discovered during this process, including timber from a ship delivering granite to Fort Monroe from circa 1823 and the bones from a mastodon that is approximately 50,000 years old.

The HRBT Expansion project continues to conduct outreach to keep the public informed about the latest developments. Mr. Weidenhammer used the model tunnel-boring machine to further display the tunnel-boring process.

Members had questions about evacuation and egress from the tunnel in the event of an emergency, and Mr. Weidenhammer explained that this had been integrated into the design and is ADA-compliant. Mr. Weidenhammer explained that the dredging material has to go to be handled a specific way to avoid environmental concerns. Mr. Weidenhammer also responded to a question about inflation and explained that costs have significantly increased due to rising costs since the start of the project.

Mr. Crum asked Former Senator Monty Mason to share about the development of the regional gas sales and use tax to help fund projects like the HRBT Expansion. Members asked about the co-benefits of this project, and Mr. Weidenhammer explained that it would increase more reliable travel times. Former Senator Mason asked members to be aware of a current bill being discussed by state legislators related to creating an additional fund to support a primary and secondary roadway fund.

Mr. Crum asked Mr. Cook of the Workforce Council to share about the development of the offshore wind project, and how Hampton Roads can be centered in developing that industry for the Mid-Atlantic region. Mr. McLaurin encouraged members to revisit the Regional Connectors Study to see what other potential crossing projects could be coming to the region.

## **2025 Hampton Roads Economic Outlook – Nikki Johnson, HRPDC, Regional Economist**

Ms. Nikki Johnson, HRPDC Regional Economist, provided the CAC with an updated 2025 economic outlook for Hampton Roads. The data included a review of U.S. Real Gross Domestic Product. Ms. Johnson noted that concerns related to a recession have receded. U.S. Monthly core inflation is hovering around 3% and the US Federal Reserve aims for 2% inflation rate. U.S. Monthly change in civilian jobs have improved over the last 3 month period. Hampton Roads is at 1.7% in job growth compared to a national rate of 1.3%.

The private education and health services sector have added the most jobs. Ms. Johnson noted that the hospitality industry has dipped in the region. Residential Home sales have slowed down due to the increase in mortgage rates compared to previous years like 2020 and 2021, so a lot of existing homeowners locked into favorable rates are less likely to sell at the moment. Zillow's Home Value Index has shown an increase of 48% for Hampton Roads, and rental prices have steadily increased as well.

In review, Ms. Johnson recapped that steady growth is included on the horizon with defense spending, if unchanged, continuing to provide a boost to the regional economy. Additionally, with inflation above target and labor markets stabilizing, the Fed signals a higher-for-longer interest rate environment. Low inventories, high prices, and high interest rates continue to exacerbate the affordability crisis. High uncertainty around U.S. policy direction casts a shadow over the 2025 outlook.

CAC members asked about federal job cuts and how that may impact Hampton Roads. Ms. Johnson shared that it is difficult to predict, but that Hampton Roads is looking to be more resilient compared to other areas. Mr. Rick Dwyer, confirmed that further.

Mr. McLaurin asked if the information/tech sector is expected to grow due to the fiber ring construction. Ms. Johnson was hopeful for the outlook. Mr. McLaurin asked how Hampton Roads compares to other economic districts in Virginia, Ms. Johnson shared that a subsequent report dedicated to that question is forthcoming.

CAC members discussed the importance of population replacement and growth, as well as the important role that immigration plays in maintaining a steady rate of population growth.

Mr. Lumpkin shared that they are working to collaborate with the Hampton Roads legislative delegation to see how Hampton Roads can collaborate and work federal partners. Mr. Crum asked members to consider what agenda items, including quality of life indicators, they may like to have discussed in future meetings.

## **Nomination of Officers – Quan McLaurin, HRPDC, DEI & Title VI/Civil Rights Liaison//Robert A. Crum, Jr. Executive Director HRPDC/HRTPO**

Mr. McLaurin thanked the current and outgoing chair, Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky for his years of dedication to the CAC and work that he has done. Mr. McLaurin then shared that

there are some members who have expressed interest.

Mr. Crum opened the floor for nominations for the chair role. Maleah Amos nominated Lauren Roberts Carter for the chair. No further nominations were received. Ms. Roberts Carter was unanimously approved.

Ms. Roberts Carter, opened the floor for nominations for the vice chair role. Mr. Brad Martin nominated Ms. Sharon Anderson as vice chair. No further nominations were received. The motion was closed. Ms. Anderson was unanimously approved.

### **Membership Selection Subcommittee – Quan McLaurin, HRPDC, DEI & Title VI/Civil Rights Liaison**

Mr. McLaurin asked CAC members if anyone interested in joining the CAC membership selection subcommittee. Mr. Harris, Mr. Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Ms. Amos, Ms. Roberts Carter, and Ms. Anderson volunteered to join the subcommittee.

Mr. Crum encouraged attendees to join and recommend other prospective members to submit applications.

### **Next Meeting**

Mr. McLaurin shared that the next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025 at Nauticus in Norfolk.

### **Report Out from Members – Quan McLaurin, HRPDC, DEI & Title VI Civil Rights Liaison**

- Garry Harris (Portsmouth) - Cool Down P-Town on Saturday, February 22, 2025
- Sharon D. Anderson (Portsmouth) - Civic League meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at New Community Temple Church
- Lauren Roberts Carter (Norfolk) - HR Chamber's Leadership Exchange will be taking place in Austin, TX this year
- Drew Lumpkin (Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable) - The Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable has been working to communicate with the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation on how to best collaborate
- Steve Cook - Please consider the Hampton Roads Workforce as a resource.

### **Old/New Business**

There was no new old/new business to address.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, Chair Roberts Carter adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.