

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Meeting – November 20, 2025
Agenda Page

Ballroom, Davis Student Union, 2nd Floor
Christopher Newport University
1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News, VA 23606

1. Call to Order
2. Special Presentations
 - A. Welcome Remarks – President William G. Kelly, Christopher Newport University
 - B. Unveiling Black History in Hampton Roads – Dr. Amelia Ross-Hammond, City of Virginia Beach Council Member
3. Approval/Modification of Agenda ***[Action Requested]***
4. Public Comments
 - A. Submitted Public Comments
 - B. Public Comment Period
5. Executive Director's Report
6. Community Advisory Committee Report – Start in Hampton Roads
7. Consent Agenda ***[Action Requested]***
 - A. Treasurer's Report – September 2025
 - B. HRPDC Applications for Community Flood Preparedness Fund Round 6
 - C. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program 2025
 - D. Title VI Goals and Accomplishments FY 2024 – FY 2025
8. Appointment of Nominating Committee
9. Fiscal Infrastructure Framework for Hampton Roads – Bob Crum, HRPDC ***[Action Requested]***
10. GO Virginia Region 5 – 2025 Economic Growth and Diversification Plan – Nancy Grden, Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable
11. Upcoming Meetings
12. Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
13. Technical Committee Meeting Summaries
14. Old/New Business
15. Adjournment

**Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Meeting – November 20, 2025
Expanded Agenda**

**Ballroom, Davis Student Union, 2nd Floor
Christopher Newport University
1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News, VA 23606**

1. Call to Order

2. Special Presentations

A. Welcome Remarks

Mr. William G. Kelly, Christopher Newport University President, will address the Commission.

B. Unveiling Black History in Hampton Roads

Dr. Amelia Ross-Hammond, City of Virginia Beach Council Member, will brief the Commission on the *Hampton Roads African American Heritage Trail Guide*.

Handout

3. Approval/Modification of Agenda *[Action Requested]*

4. Public Comments

A. Submitted Public Comments

No public comments have been submitted since the last HRPDC meeting. Any 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 Commission. Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

5. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director's Report is included as [Attachment 5](#).

6. Community Advisory Committee Report

- Start in Hampton Roads

7. Consent Agenda [Action Requested]

A. Treasurer's Report – September 2025

The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the activities of September 2025 is included as Attachment 7A for Commission review and approval.

B. HRPDC Applications for Community Flood Preparedness Fund Round 6

The Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) was created by the General Assembly in 2020 to help localities implement flood protection studies, plans, and projects. The CFPF is administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), with funding originally provided by distributions from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and now through budget appropriations. The HRPDC staff has worked with the Coastal Resiliency Committee and other locality staff and partners to identify proposals for planning/capacity building and technical studies. DCR requires the applications to include a resolution of support from the HRPDC.

Proposals are due to DCR by December 1, 2025. The resolutions are included as Attachment 7Bi, Attachment 7Bii, and Attachment 7Biii.

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the resolutions authorizing the Executive Director to submit proposals to DCR for Round 6 of the CFPF.

C. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program 2025

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Manual provides the HRPDC and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) with guidance on administering their procurement procedures to align with the requirements prescribed by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Staff has prepared an update to the DBE Program Plan, "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program," to ensure that DBE firms continue to have equal opportunities to participate in the performance of USDOT-assisted contracts administered by the HRPDC/HRTPO. The DBE program document describes the objectives, policy, definition of terms, and functional requirements to be incorporated into internal procurement processes. The document was made available for public review and comment from November 5, 2025, to November 19, 2025 with no comments received to date.

The DBE Program Manual is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

<https://www.hrtpo.org/DocumentCenter/View/15081/HRPDC-HRTPO-DBE-Program-Manual-PDF>

Staff recommends approval of the DBE Program Manual.

D. Title VI Goals and Accomplishments FY 2024 – FY 2025

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and associated requirements set forth by VDOT, a Title VI Goals and Accomplishments report is to be created annually. The report serves as a broad overview of HRPDC/HRTPO progress in implementing its Title VI plan and other associated compliance-related goals.

This document provides an overview of the nondiscrimination program-related work and progress made by the HRPDC/HRTPO during fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Additionally, this document provides future Title VI-related goals.

The Title VI Goals and Accomplishments FY 2024 – FY 2025 is available on the HRPDC website using the following link:

https://www.hrpdcva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15121/FY24FY25-Goals-and-Accomplishments-DRAFT_11102025

Staff recommends approval of the Title VI Goals and Accomplishments FY 2024 – FY 2025.

Action Requested: The HRPDC should consider action to approve the November 20, 2025 Consent Agenda.

8. Appointment of Nominating Committee

The HRPDC Bylaws provide that, at its Annual Meeting in January, the Commission will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer to serve during the upcoming year. The Chair and Vice-Chair must come from separate localities and be elected officials. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer must be voted on an annual basis, but need not be elected officials and may succeed themselves. Please note that the current HRPDC Chair and Vice-Chair are eligible to serve in their current positions for another year.

The Chair requests the following Commissioners serve on the HRPDC Nominating Committee and provide a report to the Commission at its Annual Meeting:

Chesapeake – Ella Ward
Franklin – Paul Kaplan

Gloucester – Phillip Bazzani
Hampton – Jimmy Gray

Isle of Wight – Joel Acree
James City – Michael Hipple
Newport News – Cleon Long
Norfolk – Courtney Doyle
Poquoson – David Hux
Portsmouth – Shannon Glover
Smithfield – Michael Smith

Southampton – William Gillette
Suffolk – Leroy Bennett
Surry – Walter Hardy
Virginia Beach – Robert Dyer
Williamsburg – Doug Pons
York – Sheila Noll

**9. Fiscal Infrastructure Framework for Hampton Roads – Bob Crum, HRPDC
[Action Requested]**

At their October meetings, the HRPDC and HRTPO approved the Regional Legislative Agenda for the upcoming General Assembly session. As part of the Regional Legislative Agenda, the HRTPO Board requested that the General Assembly establish a Primary and Secondary Road Fund to address transportation needs on non-interstate roadways within Hampton Roads. While the HRTPO endorsed the creation of this fund as a mechanism to collect and invest future revenues for transportation improvements, the Board did not identify a specific revenue source.

In recent years, discussions surrounding the Primary and Secondary Road Fund have often focused on a potential increase in the regional sales and use tax as a funding mechanism. Local officials at both the HRPDC and HRTPO October meetings emphasized that Hampton Roads communities face infrastructure needs beyond transportation, particularly in areas such as flood prevention, school modernization and construction, and other essential local projects. A suggestion was made that the region consider a broader “Fiscal Infrastructure Framework.”

Attached for review is a paper entitled “Fiscal Infrastructure Framework for Hampton Roads” ([Attachment 9](#)). This summary paper briefly describes an overview of regional infrastructure funding needs, discusses funding challenges and considerations, and outlines a potential path forward.

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRPDC/HRTPO Executive Director, will introduce this information and request discussion.

Action Requested: The HRPDC should consider action to approve requesting the assistance of the Virginia General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive review and modernization of the state’s tax system, including assistance to address the significant impact that existing state tax exemptions are having on local government budgets and the ability of local governments to fund essential infrastructure and government services.

10. GO Virginia Region 5 – 2025 Economic Growth and Diversification Plan – Nancy Grden, Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable

Every two years, GO Virginia (Growth and Opportunity Virginia) requires the nine Regions to review/update their Economic Growth & Diversification Plans, focusing on growing key industry clusters with recommended initiatives. Region 5 has just completed its 2025 Plan, with content/editorial assistance from the HRPRC and Hampton Roads Alliance, and with data from the Old Dominion University (ODU) Dragas Center for Economic Analysis and Policy. This presentation will offer summary results and seek comments/input for implementation ahead:

The plan is available using the following link:

<https://roundtablehr.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2025-Growth-and-Diversification-Plan-Region-5-for-approval.pdf>

Ms. Nancy Grden, Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable President & CEO, will provide a brief presentation.

This item is presented for information and discussion by Commission members.

11. Upcoming Meetings

December 2025

No Meeting per Regional Meeting Schedule – Happy Holidays!

January 15, 2026 (Annual Meeting)

2026 Economic Forecast

Election of Officers

Roadway Flood Sensors

Southside Network Authority

February 19, 2026

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Follow-Up Efforts

Regional Housing Assessment Update

Regional Legislative Update

Resiliency – FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS) System Points

Virginia Governor’s Priorities

March 19, 2026

Hampton Roads Strategic Plan

Regional Legislative Update

12. Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

HRPDC Advisory Committee meeting minutes approved since the last Commission meeting are included as Attachment 12.

13. Technical Committee Meeting Summaries

Summaries of HRPDC Technical Committee meetings held since the last Commission meeting are included in Attachment 13.

14. Old/New Business

15. Adjournment

FORT MONROE FORWARD EVENT

Members of the HRPDC/HRTPO team attended the Fort Monroe Landscape Action Plan Launch on October 23. This event brought together community members, local leaders and world-class landscape architects to envision the future of the Fort Monroe property. Background information on this exciting strategic planning effort can be found on the [Fort Monroe Foundation website](#).



REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY PANEL

The HRTPO Regional Transit Advisory Panel (RTAP) held its regularly scheduled meeting on October 20. Attendance/participation at these meetings continues to be excellent. Primary agenda items included the following:

- Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) Update
- Update on the Virginia Breeze – Tidewater Route Finalization by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Hampton Roads Transit Unified Fare Systems Study
- Overview of the October 21 State of Transit Event
- Roundtable Information sharing by RTAP members on transit related items

STATE FUNDING FOR PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSIONS

The HRPDC staff has worked with all 21 Planning District Commissions (PDCs) in Virginia to develop a one-page advocacy paper that expresses the need for increased State funding for all PDCs in Virginia. This advocacy one-pager was designed by HRPDC staff, professionally printed and circulated to all PDCs with a request that they share this information with their General Assembly members. HRPDC staff will continue to work with the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions to ensure a coordinated effort to stress the importance of state funding to support Virginia's PDCs and regions.



REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

The HRPDC Planning and Economics Department continues to lead the preparation of the Regional Strategic Plan as required for PDCs by the Code of Virginia. This phase of the planning process includes the collection of input from community partners on important regional issues that should be addressed in the Regional Strategic Plan for Hampton Roads. On October 17, the incoming class for the CIVIC Leadership Institute provided input into this strategic planning effort during a session that was held in Williamsburg. We want to thank class members for their input during this planning session and for their passion for our region.



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

The CAC held its regularly scheduled meeting on October 9 in Newport News. Agenda items included:

- 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update
- Active Transportation Update (bike/walk trails)
- HRPDC/HRTPO Public Engagement Plan
- Overview briefing by Newport News Economic Development Director





CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS (CAO) COMMITTEE

The CAO Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting on November 5 in Hampton. Agenda items included:

- Discussion with local Foodbank representatives
- Introduction and Comments from Michael Davis, P.E., VDOT District Engineer
- Regional Infrastructure Fiscal Framework
- State Tax Exemptions and Update on Collaboration with other Regions
- Regional Information Sharing

OTHER MEETINGS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OUTREACH

- Participated in the Southside Network Authority Board meeting on October 10.
- Facilitated the PDC and TPO Pre-Briefing Calls with Board leadership on October 14.
- Attended the Regional Public Information Officer Subcommittee meeting on October 21.
- Several members of the HRTPO/HRPDC staff team attended the State of Transit Forum on October 21 at the Hampton Convention Center.
- Attended the Virginia Peninsula Chamber Board Meeting on October 23.
- Coordinated a meeting on October 27 between Hampton Roads Transit, Norfolk International Airport and City of Norfolk representatives to discuss opportunities for transit service to the Airport.
- Participated in a meeting with stakeholders on October 28 to discuss plans to extend the Virginia Capital Trail into Williamsburg.
- Attended the Hampton Roads Playbook Launch event that was hosted by the Hampton Roads Alliance on October 29 at the Sandler Center in Virginia Beach.
- The HRPDC/HRTPO Management Team held a strategic planning retreat on October 31.
- Attended the Southside Network Authority meeting with the Southside Chief Administrative Officers, which was held at the Regional Building on November 3.
- Participated in a trail planning meeting with Williamsburg staff on November 3.
- Participated in the Hampton Roads Chamber Leadership Exchange planning meeting on November 4.
- Provided a presentation as part of a panel on the Dutch Dialogues 10-year event on November 6.

FISCAL YEAR 2026
9/30/25
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
25% OF FISCAL YEAR COMPLETE

REVENUES	Annual Budget	Previous YTD	Current Month	YTD	% Received /Expended
State PDC Revenue	\$ 190,943	\$ -		\$ -	0%
DEQ	350,536	-		-	0%
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	1,610,298	-		-	0%
Housing DHCD/ Portsmouth/ Chesapeake/IoW	582,652	-		-	0%
Virginia Housing VHDA Spac Grant	8,500	-	\$ 2,700.00	2,700.00	32%
HRSB Sponsorship	-	-		-	0%
Water Quality Assessment	670,200	223,400.00	\$ 223,400.00	446,800.00	67%
SCRC LDD	24,000	-		-	0%
VDEM	1,116,263	58,194.12	\$ 125,000.00	183,194.12	16%
Local Jurisdiction Membership Dues	1,764,653	783,508.25	\$ 113,241.25	896,749.50	51%
Local Jurisdiction Programs	2,057,468	1,187,300.25	\$ 143,906.25	1,331,206.50	65%
HRMFFA	62,659	-		-	0%
GoVA Executive Roundtable	-	15,000.00		15,000.00	0%
HR Economic Development Site Readiness	1,174,631	-		-	0%
DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant	6,000	-		-	0%
Solid Waste Planning Unit	20,000	-		-	0%
Southside Network Authority	88,269	-		-	0%
VA Telecommunications	17,532,586	-		-	0%
SALES, INTEREST & MISC	312,815	52,603.58	\$ 27,053.89	79,657.47	25%
VDOT-PL SEC 112	5,559,122	-		-	0%
HRTAC	301,645	-		-	0%
VDRPT 5303/ Pass Through	1,208,508	-		-	0%
Special Contracts/Deferred/Pass Through	818,017	-	\$ -	-	0%
Total Revenue	35,459,765	2,320,006	635,301	2,955,308	8%
EXPENDITURES					
PERSONNEL	\$ 6,892,345	\$ 840,374	\$ 442,777	\$ 1,283,150	19%
STANDARD CONTRACTS	214,825	223	\$ 223	445	0%
SPECIAL CONTRACTS/PASS THROUGH	27,325,275	565,895	\$ 441,611	1,007,506	4%
OFFICE SERVICES	1,027,320	86,533	\$ 41,384	127,917	12%
INDIRECT COSTS		349,910	184,361	534,270	0%
Total Expenses	35,459,765	1,842,934	1,110,355	2,953,289	8%
TOTALS	\$ -	\$ 477,072	\$ (475,053)	\$ 2,019	*

* HRTPO grants operate on a quarterly reimbursement basis; as such the total YTD does not reflect the commission's current financial position.



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2025-05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A PLANNING PROPOSAL TO THE VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

WHEREAS, local and regional initiatives in Hampton Roads have analyzed vulnerabilities, identified opportunities, and developed implementation strategies to make communities in Hampton Roads more resilient to coastal hazards;

WHEREAS, the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) is an initiative of three universities, including Old Dominion University, the University of Virginia, and Virginia Tech;

WHEREAS, the RAFT has been used over the past year in James City County, Williamsburg, and York County to develop specific recommendations and actions for those communities and is now ready to begin implementation;

WHEREAS, James City County, Williamsburg, and York County support an application from the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission to implement recommendations from the RAFT;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to apply for a Community Flood Preparedness Fund grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to complete the RAFT planning process for the Historic Triangle and begin implementation of its recommendations;

Be it further resolved that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission authorizes the Executive Director to enter into contracts with the Virginia Resources Authority, should this proposal be accepted for funding.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission on this 20th day of November 2025.

James A. Gray, Jr.
Vice-Chair
Hampton Roads Planning District
Commission

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director/Secretary
Hampton Roads Planning District
Commission



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2025-06**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF STUDY PROPOSALS TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

WHEREAS, the tide gauge at Sewell's Point in Norfolk has recorded approximately 1.54 feet of relative sea level rise since 1927, equivalent to an increase of 1.59 feet per 100 years;

WHEREAS, reports, plans, and studies by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and Hampton Roads local governments have found the region to be vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise;

WHEREAS, the HRPDC staff and Coastal Resiliency Committee have identified several technical studies, analyses, and products that would support local and regional resilience efforts;

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation provides grants to local governments for studies to help reduce the impacts of flooding through the Community Flood Preparedness Fund;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to apply for Community Flood Preparedness Fund grants from the Department of Conservation and Recreation in support of the installation of flooding and other sensors, data collection, technical studies, resilience research, and analyses addressing flooding in Hampton Roads;

Be it further resolved that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission authorizes the Executive Director to enter into contracts with the Virginia Resources Authority, should any proposals be accepted for funding.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission on this 20th day of November 2025.

James A. Gray, Jr.
Vice-Chair
Hampton Roads Planning District
Commission

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director/Secretary
Hampton Roads Planning District
Commission



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2025-07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF CAPACITY BUILDING PROPOSALS TO THE VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

WHEREAS, several communities in Hampton Roads currently participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System, which allows participating communities to lower flood insurance premiums by adopting higher standards, implementing sound floodplain management practices, and educating residents about flood risk;

WHEREAS, the HRPDC staff has recently worked with Hampton Roads localities to identify specific opportunities for new and expanded initiatives to further support locality participation in the Community Rating System;

WHEREAS, the HRPDC staff has identified additional outreach and education opportunities related to resilience and flood protection that would benefit from additional regional resources;

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation provides grants to local governments for studies to help reduce the impacts of flooding through the Community Flood Preparedness Fund;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, that the Executive Director is authorized to apply for Community Flood Preparedness Fund grants from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to build regional capacity to support local resiliency initiatives in Hampton Roads;

Be it further resolved that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission authorizes the Executive Director to enter into contracts with the Virginia Resources Authority, should any proposals be accepted for funding.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission on this 20th day of November 2025.

James A. Gray, Jr.
Vice-Chair
Hampton Roads Planning District
Commission

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director/Secretary
Hampton Roads Planning District
Commission

Fiscal Infrastructure Framework for Hampton Roads

Introduction and Background

At their October meetings, the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) approved the Regional Legislative Agenda for the upcoming General Assembly session. As part of this agenda, the HRTPO Board requested that the General Assembly establish a Primary and Secondary Road Fund to address transportation needs on non-interstate roadways within Hampton Roads. While the HRTPO endorsed the creation of this fund as a mechanism to collect and invest future revenues for transportation improvements, the Board did not identify a specific revenue source.

In recent years, discussions surrounding the Primary and Secondary Road Fund have often focused on a potential increase in the regional sales & use tax as a funding mechanism. Local officials at both the HRTPO and HRPDC October meetings emphasized that Hampton Roads communities face infrastructure funding needs beyond transportation, particularly in areas such as flood prevention, school modernization & construction, and other essential local projects.

Overview of Funding Needs

Local governments in Hampton Roads are responsible for advancing projects across a wide range of infrastructure areas that are vital to maintaining and enhancing our region's quality of life and economic strength. The cost of these projects, however, far exceeds the financial capacity of local governments under Virginia's current tax structure, given the high costs of major infrastructure investments.

Hampton Roads hosts a number of state and federal facilities of national importance. The region is home to the largest naval base in the world and one of the highest concentrations of military assets in the United States, including significant presences from the U.S. Navy, Army, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. It also contains the Port of Virginia, which supports both the Commonwealth's economy and supply chains across the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest. These nationally significant assets are at risk if the region's infrastructure needs are not adequately addressed. Below are three examples of major infrastructure priorities for the region:

Transportation

Over the past decade, the approach to funding and advancing major transportation projects in Hampton Roads has changed dramatically. Historically, interstate transportation projects were primarily funded by the federal and state governments. However, over the past 30 years, Hampton Roads has not received sufficient federal and state funding to address long-standing transportation

challenges. Following the construction of the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel in 1992, the region saw a long gap in large-scale, publicly funded transportation projects until local governments urged the General Assembly to establish the Hampton Roads Transportation Fund (HRTF) in 2013. This fund created an additional regional sales & use tax and gasoline tax, and the General Assembly also formed the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) to manage these revenues and implement large-scale congestion relief projects.

The impact has been transformational. In just ten years, the region has advanced nearly \$6 billion in regional transportation projects, 93% of which have been funded through regional tax revenues managed by HRTAC.

More recent discussions have shifted to focus on the region's local primary and secondary roadways, which connect to or run parallel with interstate corridors. The HRTPO has identified more than \$3 billion in unfunded projects on this local road network. However, local officials have cautioned that increasing the regional sales & use tax further to fund these projects cannot be considered in isolation, given significant needs in other infrastructure categories.

Recurrent Flooding

Flooding is a persistent challenge in Hampton Roads, caused by a combination of tidal events, heavy rainfall, and coastal storms. These issues are further compounded by well-documented trends of sea level rise and land subsidence, which will continue to exacerbate the problem in the coming decades.

Several local governments have developed detailed plans identifying the infrastructure investments necessary to reduce flooding risks. However, the costs of these projects are substantial and far beyond what local governments can fund alone. Although federal funds are available, they typically require a 35% non-federal match. For example, Norfolk would need to provide approximately \$950 million in local matching funds to access federal support for the construction of its floodwall. Virginia Beach recently approved a \$568 million bond referendum to fund flood mitigation projects, but inflation has significantly increased costs. On the Peninsula, localities are collaborating to complete an Army Corps of Engineers study to identify eligible projects, but these smaller jurisdictions will face even greater challenges in meeting required local match obligations.

Without a comprehensive financing strategy for flood prevention, the region's federal and state assets, economy, and quality of life remain at risk.

School Construction and Modernization

High-quality public education is a cornerstone of a strong community and a healthy economy. There is a clear link between school performance, quality of life, property values, and local tax revenue. However, many urban localities in Hampton Roads face limited land availability, revenue-generating constraints, and tax exemptions under Virginia's current tax system.

These constraints make it difficult for some localities to balance the need for school investment with other financial priorities. In some cases, school closures have been proposed as a cost-saving measure. Ensuring continued investment in quality K-12 education is critical to providing equitable, high-quality learning opportunities for all students across Hampton Roads.

Other Infrastructure Needs

Beyond the priorities outlined above, local officials have highlighted the need for toll relief for the Elizabeth River Crossings Downtown and Midtown tunnels. These tolls have had significant impacts on the residents and businesses of Portsmouth and Norfolk, as well as commuters throughout the region. Additionally, there is growing regional interest in expanding investment in public transportation to improve frequency, reliability, and accessibility across Hampton Roads.

Funding Challenges and Considerations

As noted earlier, Hampton Roads residents and businesses have already contributed more than \$5 billion toward major transportation investments. The regional sales & use tax has been the primary source of this funding. Local officials are concerned that continued increases to this high tax rate could reduce the region's economic competitiveness.

Moreover, state tax exemptions significantly reduce local revenue. One locality reports losing as much as \$50 million annually due to exemptions and unfunded mandates. These exemptions cause smaller localities to lack sufficient financial reserves to handle unexpected budgetary pressures.

Virginia's tax structure is outdated, and regional leaders, notably the Chief Administrative Officers, have discussed the urgent need for comprehensive modernization. Currently, localities in Virginia do not receive income tax revenue and rely heavily on real estate and sales taxes to fund essential infrastructure. Other taxes, such as the car tax, are politically unpopular and often targeted for elimination without clear plans to replace the lost revenue.

Path Forward

Hampton Roads should consider action by the HRTPO and HRPDC to seek assistance from the Virginia General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive review and modernization of the state's tax system. This review should focus on establishing modern revenue mechanisms to fund a broad range of infrastructure needs, including transportation, flood prevention, school construction and modernization, public transportation, and toll relief.

Hampton Roads has already demonstrated success through HRTAC's effective management of regional transportation investments. Through the collaboration of 17 local governments, the region has established a proven model for setting priorities, developing financing strategies, and partnering with VDOT to deliver transformative projects. This same model could be adapted to address other critical infrastructure needs, provided that localities have access to sustainable and equitable funding sources.

Now is the time to take a comprehensive, forward-looking approach to infrastructure funding that will strengthen our region and our Commonwealth, improving quality of life for generations to come.

**Summary Minutes of the HRPDC/HRTPO
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
August 14, 2025**

The April 10, 2025, meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)/ Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, VA.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 12:00 PM with the following in attendance:

CAC Members in Attendance

Lauren Roberts Carter(NO)
Sharon D. Anderson (PO)
Brad Martin (VB)
Anthony Piglowski (SU)

Maleah Amos (PO)
Frank Cotrupi (NN)
Travis Davidson (NO)

CAC Members Absent

HRPDC/HRTPO Staff

Quan McLaurin
Whitney Katchmark

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Matt Klepeisz

Partner Agencies

Damon Pauly, VDOT
Veleka Gatling, ODU
Keith Moore, VWU

Jo Ann Short, Planning Council
Mariah David, VDOT
Keisha Wilkins, VDOT

Additional Attendees

Daniel Ogunyemi, VIMS
Shelby Dell, On Point PR
Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Portsmouth
Destini Harrell, The Blessed Rogue
Josh Sterling, HRA
Herby DeGroft, Isle of Wight
Nancy Gardn, Norfolk Innovation Corridor

Michael Evans, HRA
Rodney Nickens
William Webb, Suffolk
Cierra Lewis, YWCA
Michael Evans, HRA
Tom Finderson, Isle of Wight
Thomas Dudley II, The Planning Council

Approval/Modification of Agenda

The Chair, Lauren Roberts Carter, asked the committee if there were any amendments or discussions surrounding the agenda's approval. There was no discussion or amendments brought forth.

Mrs. Lauren Carter made a motion to approve the agenda as is. Ms. Sharon Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

- Mr. Herb DeGroft shared excerpts of the recently published article “Nonprofits supporting seniors need support, opportunity” and implored the CAC to remember to support the senior members within the Hampton Roads community.
- Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky shared a public comment imploring the public to be aware of air quality issues and how they impact health. He advised members and their communities to wear N95 masks outdoors when the air quality level is 50 and above, especially for joggers, bicyclists, or fast walkers, to protect lung health.

Membership Approval – Quan McLaurin, Civil Rights & Community Engagement Liaison

- Quan McLaurin provided an update on expanding the CAC to be representative of the 17 localities, emphasizing the benefit of diverse perspectives
- The membership subcommittee reviewed applications over several months.
- A list of prospective members was presented for approval to become full-fledged voting members of the CAC.

Carolyn White	Suffolk	Committee Member	2 vacancies (3)
Tiaira Walker	Norfolk	Committee Member	3 vacancies (5)
Daniel Ogunyemi	Yorktown	Committee Member	2 vacancies (2)
Todd DuRose	Chesapeake	Committee Member	5 vacancies (5)
Rodney Nickens	Chesapeake	Committee Member	5 vacancies (5)

Shelby Dell	Virginia Beach	Committee Member	6 vacancies (7)
Josh Sterling	Virginia Beach	Committee Member	6 vacancies (7)
Shannon Sorrell	Virginia Beach	Committee Member	6 vacancies (7)
Destini Harrell	Virginia Beach	Committee Member	6 vacancies (7)
Michael Evans, Hampton Roads Alliance	Chesapeake	Partner Agency	

- Many prospective members have already been attending meetings and engaging with the committee.
- Lauren Carter motioned that the CAC approve the membership recommendations presented by the CAC Membership Subcommittee. Sharon Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no opposition or abstentions.
- Prospective members were welcomed, and further onboarding information will be sent.

Start in Hampton Roads – Lauren Roberts Carter, CAC Chair and Hampton Roads Chamber

- Mrs. Carter provided an overview of "Start in Hampton Roads," a pilot program aimed at attracting and retaining talent. It is a partnership between the Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable, the Workforce Council, and the Hampton Roads Chamber.
- The initiative grew out of the Fahrenheit study, which identified an out-migration challenge in the region, particularly among younger, non-military remote workers without children.
- **Goal:** Attract and retain top talent through paid and earned media strategies that promote the region's assets.
- **Key Audiences:** The campaign targets job seekers in key industries, "quality of life chasers," and transitioning military veterans.
- **Factors Driving Out-Migration:** Cost of living (perception of affordability), safety concerns, job and career opportunities, and availability of healthcare.
- **Regional Identity:** The region still faces a "regional identity crisis," and this pilot hopes to evolve into a broader regional marketing initiative.
- **Landing Page:** The initiative's landing page is www.startinhamptonroads.com.
- **Timeline:** The pilot program runs through December 2025, after which the region will take over the initiative.
- **Call to Action:** CAC members were asked to share the landing page, embed it in their own marketing materials, and share positive regional news and events that the campaign can highlight.
- Rodney Nickens expressed excitement about the initiative and its alignment with retaining young people in the region

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Update – Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer

- Ms. Katchmark provided an update on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which is being revised as the "Beyond 2025" agreement.
- A recent scientific review (the Caesar report) concluded that while progress has been made, the 2025 goals for nitrogen reduction will not be met. It also found a disconnect between water quality efforts and the health of living resources like fish and grasses.
- The new draft agreement consolidates 31 outcomes into 21 and focuses on four areas: habitat, clean water, healthy landscapes, and engaged communities.
- The HRPDC's comments on the draft will encourage linking actions to funding, improving local government engagement, and adapting to new challenges like sea-level rise and emerging contaminants.
- **Call to Action:** A 60-day public feedback period on the draft agreement is open until September 1, 2025. CAC members were strongly encouraged to submit comments and share the opportunity within their communities.

Regional Legislative Agenda – Robert A. Crum, Jr., Executive Director HRPDC & HRTPO

- Mr. Crum presented the emerging priorities for the 2026 Regional Legislative Agenda. The agenda requires unanimous support from the 17 member localities.
- **Primary/Secondary Road Funding:** The top priority is a request to increase the regional sales tax from 0.7 cents to a whole penny to generate an additional \$85 million annually for local road and bridge projects. A similar bill passed the General Assembly in the last session but was vetoed.
- **Transit Funding:** Advocate for increased state transit funding to support the regional backbone bus system and the maintenance needs of The Tide light rail.
- **Flood Prevention:** Continue to advocate for at least \$200 million in the state's Community Flood Preparedness Fund and seek state assistance with the required local match for federal flood protection projects.
- **Trail Funding:** Seek state funding to build out the regional trail network, which is a key quality-of-life amenity for attracting and retaining talent.
- **Emergency Management:** Request state assistance to improve regional sheltering capabilities and provide more sustainable funding for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM).
- **Other Priorities:** Included securing a reliable energy supply for economic growth, improving passenger rail service, mitigating toll impacts at the Downtown/Midtown Tunnels, and maintaining existing infrastructure.
- **Call to Action:** CAC members were asked to engage with their state legislators on the issues they are passionate about and to use their role on the committee to build relationships with elected officials.
 - Discuss these legislative priorities with state legislators, especially if there's a particular passion (e.g., transit, bike paths, toll relief).
 - Share the slides and information with communities and organizations.
 - Connect with elected leaders (who will vote on the agenda) to provide input.

- Bob offered to arrange meetings with general assembly members for CAC members interested in specific items.
- An app called "Virginia Public Access (VPAP)" can be downloaded to find contact information for general assembly members.
- Members were encouraged to form relationships with representatives before making asks.

Next Meeting

Mr. McLaurin shared that the next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2025.

Old/New Business

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Roberts Carter adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

MEETING SUMMARY

askHRgreen.org Environmental Education Committees

The askHRgreen.org Environmental Education Committees met in October to discuss the following ongoing programs and initiatives.

All committees discussed replacing the askHRgreen trailer and updates to the askHRgreen website.

askHRgreen.org Recycling & Beautification Committee – October 14

- The Committee is implementing a three-year EPA Recycling Education and Outreach Grant. Recent work includes analyzing results from the regional recycling confidence benchmarking survey and focus groups to develop new education initiatives.
- The Committee continues to promote the “Foam Free” campaign to help small restaurants and food service establishments in Hampton Roads comply with Virginia’s upcoming EPS ban, which goes into effect July 1, 2026. Business owners can request free sample kits to test alternative packaging options by submitting a form online at askHRgreen.org/foam-free.

askHRgreen.org Stormwater Education Committee – October 17

- The Committee received a \$4,700 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund to support environmental education mini grants, rain barrel workshops, and new stormwater education display materials in FY26.
- Work continues on refreshing the Bay Star Homes and Bay Star Business programs. Goals include updating the logo, aligning the residential and business programs, and simplifying the registration process.

askHRgreen.org Fats, Oils, & Grease Education Committee – October 21

- The Committee has launched new Food Service Employee FOG training videos in both Spanish and Chinese to better serve populations with limited English proficiency in the region.
- The Committee continued discussions for procuring software for FOG inspections and FOG certification training.

askHRgreen.org Water Awareness Committee – October 23

- The Committee discussed regulatory requirements related to lead and PFAS outreach.
- The Committee discussed outcomes from Imagine a Day Without Water on October 16. In addition to paid media, the Committee held a social media giveaway, had a media appearance on The Hampton Roads Show, and had multiple appearances of Hydro Joe at meetings.

MEETING SUMMARY

Planning Directors Committee

The Planning Directors of the Hampton Roads region met on October 30, 2025. The following items were discussed.

➤ **Guest Presentation: Mr. Eldon James (APA Virginia)**

Mr. James provided a preview of the upcoming Virginia General Assembly session. Key points included the following:

Budget & Macro Economy Outlook

- Virginia's long run of budget surpluses is ending.
 - Job losses in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads; GDP down from 6.2% (2024) to under 2% (2025).
 - Unemployment is rising; revenue growth is slowing.
- Expect the session to be budget-dominated, leaving less space for new spending bills.

Housing & Local Land Use

- Push to expand Virginia Housing Trust Fund from \$87.5M → \$150M, plus higher funding for rental assistance and homeless programs.
- Sen. VanValkenburg to revive his bill requiring localities to increase housing supply by a fixed % (previously 7.5%/5 yrs), with a state override if they don't act. Local groups (APA VA, VACO, VML) plan to oppose the override.
- Bills expected to ease the use of church/nonprofit land for affordable housing.
- Manufactured housing and eviction reforms under review.
- City of Chesapeake is advancing a bill (Del. Cliff Hayes) to allow development agreements in TDR receiving areas to fund infrastructure.

Data Centers

- 2024's competing bills (restrict vs. expand local authority) stalled.
- SCC is now studying how to assign electricity costs fairly.
- 2025 session is likely to balance state competitiveness with local controls on noise, visual impact, groundwater, and grid load.

Environment & Energy

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation priorities:
 - More funding for stormwater, wastewater, and agriculture BMPs.
 - Tree conservation bills are expected to return.
- If Democrats control the Governor's office, Virginia likely rejoins RGGI, ending the ongoing court case.
- PFAS/biosolids: New bills will likely require testing and source tracking; DEQ's voluntary survey may become mandatory.

Transportation

- DRPT's MERIT program changes for transit operating and capital aid are open for public comment (45 days).

Elections/Redistricting

- HJR 6007: Allows mid-decade congressional redistricting (2025 only) if other states redraw lines.
 - Passed in special session; lawsuit dismissed.
 - Requires a second vote in January, then voter approval—possibly in a spring special election.

➤ **Round Robin Discussion**

Topics discussed by the Planning Directors included the following:

- Several localities report fraud attempts by criminals posing as locality staff and utilizing online permit application information to contact and solicit payments from applicants. Several of the Directors reported removing applicants' email addresses and other contact information from online listings to reduce the risk of this type of fraud. Additional measures include warning applicants of the pervasiveness of this type of fraud.
- Onboarding procedures for new planning staff were discussed.
- Several localities report progress on various aspects of comprehensive planning.
- Several localities are working on modifications to data center ordinances.



REGIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

10/21/25 Meeting Highlights

The quarterly Regional Public Information Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at the HRPDC office in Chesapeake. The meeting brought together regional communicators to share information and resources, align on key initiatives, and strengthen collaborative efforts. Below are some highlights from the meeting:

1. **July Recap & Announcements:** Members reviewed the July 15 meeting highlights and discussed the upcoming regional FOIA training session to be held at the HRPDC on Friday, November 14. Registration is now open for that session which will be led by Attorney Mike Lockaby with Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC. The invitation and [registration link](#) will be sent via email, and the Committee was encouraged to share it with any colleagues who may benefit from attending.
2. **Roundtable Discussion:** Committee members shared current communications priorities and challenges across the region. Topics included:
 - Addressing misinformation and best practices for using official communications channels for factual corrections and information sharing (Gloucester, James City County)
 - Proactive promotion of major capital projects and community developments (Isle of Wight, Surry)
 - Ongoing curbside recycling service transitions (James City County, Poquoson)
 - Flooding communications and storm messaging, particularly around tidal impacts (Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Suffolk)
 - Public safety and major event coordination (Newport News, Norfolk)
 - FOIA volume and resource strain as well as citywide branding/website projects (Suffolk)
 - Interest in a future discussion on communications staffing models (centralized vs. decentralized)
 - Additional updates from regional partners on EMS restructuring, statewide health messaging, planning initiatives, disaster response/resources, and transportation construction milestones.
3. **ADA Compliance in Communications:** Jason Nichols (Virginia Beach) provided an informative overview of ADA compliance for public communications, including what accessibility looks like for digital and printed materials, tools for testing compliance, and practical tips to ensure content is inclusive and user-friendly.
4. **The Narrative of Regional Collaboration:** HRPDC Deputy Executive Director Greg Grootendorst facilitated a short discussion on recent public perspectives around collaboration in Hampton Roads. While congestion relief, regional cooperation, and quality of life are consistently shared priorities, public views differ on regional identity, branding, and transit direction, reinforcing the need for clear, compelling storytelling about regional cooperation.
5. **Regional Update:** HRPDC/HRTPO Executive Director Bob Crum shared the latest on the recently adopted regional legislative agenda and broadband expansion efforts. The Southside fiber ring is on track for completion in spring 2026, with work underway to expand connectivity to the Peninsula. VATI investments continue to close broadband gaps in rural areas of the region. Additionally, staff would like to explore opportunities for a coordinated regional promotion of biking and walking trails.

The Next Meeting will be held in **virtually** on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.