

HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 7, 2025
10:00 am

Members in Attendance:

Paul Croft, Canon Virginia
Robert Eveleigh – Chair, Port City Transportation
Diane Grigsby, Newport News Shipbuilding
David White – Vice Chair, Virginia Maritime Association
Mike Abbott, Hapag-Lloyd (virtual)

Other Participants:

Sam Belfield, HRTPO
Wayne Coleman, Commonwealth Transportation Board
Mitzi Crystal, VDOT
Chris Gullickson, Port of Virginia
Karen McPherson, VHB
Barbara Nelson, Port of Virginia
Keith Nichols, HRTPO
Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO
Emily Stock, DRPT
Anthony Donald, RKK (virtual)
Angela Effah-Amponsah, VDOT (virtual)
Erik Johnson, VDOT (virtual)
Ivan Rucker, FHWA (virtual)
Amanda Rutherford, MARAD (Virtual)

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

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

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting did not have a quorum. The meeting agenda was changed to include an item on the VA-164 corridor study.

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The meeting did not have a quorum. Approval of the previous meeting's minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5: VIRGINIA ROUTE 164 CORRIDOR STUDY

Mr. Donald provided the FTAC with an overview of the VA-164 study and its focus on improvements along the corridor to include the interchanges of Towne Point Road, Cedar Lane, Virginia International Gateway Boulevard, and West Norfolk Road. Proposed improvements include:

- Towne Point Road - Safety and pedestrian improvements and converting ramp intersections to roundabouts.
- Cedar Lane - Similar improvements as Towne Point Road with an additional option to convert the westbound ramp intersection to a roundabout.
- Virginia International Gateway (VIG) Boulevard - Extending deceleration lanes, adding signals at intersections, or reconfiguring to a diverging diamond interchange.
- West Norfolk Road - Extending deceleration lanes and exploring ramp metering.

Members of the FTAC provided initial feedback and shared concerns on the proposed improvements, most of which concerned VIG Boulevard. Dual turn lanes for trucks, pedestrian crossings, and staging areas for trucks near VIG were discussed.

AGENDA ITEM #6: NATIONAL MULTIMODAL FREIGHT NETWORK UPDATE

Mr. Nichols shared an update on the National Multimodal Freight Network, including the addition of new routes and connectors in Virginia. The draft expansion of the network includes Route 58, Route 460, and Route 13. Mr. Nichols stressed the importance of the network for federal funding eligibility. Mr. Nichols added that additional mileage can be requested by states once the draft network is finalized, and that additional feedback will be requested from the FTAC as this occurs.

AGENDA ITEM #7: HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY

Mr. Nichols reviewed the second part of the draft Regional Freight Study (the first part was presented at the December 2024 FTAC meeting) and highlighted sections related to regional truck movement. This included an analysis of truck volumes at gateways and river crossings, congestion costs, and freight bottlenecks in the region.

Key findings in the Regional Freight Study that were presented include:

- Significant truck volume growth occurred over the last ten years on the region's interstate system and key gateways like I-64, Route 58 and Route 460.
- The Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel carries the most trucks across the Hampton Roads Harbor, and nearly twice as many trucks as the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel.

- Regional truck congestion costs are generally lower in Hampton Roads than in other large comparable metropolitan areas.
- The largest freight bottlenecks in the region, which also incur the highest congestion costs on the trucking industry, occur at the HRBT and the High Rise Bridge.
- While the I-64 Gap project is fully funded, other gateways including Route 58 and the proposed I-87 corridor have few funded improvements.

Mr. Nichols wrapped up the presentation by noting that the FTAC will be asked for approval of the final document at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #8: HRTPO FY 2026 UPWP – PORT OF VIRGINIA SPECIAL STUDY

Mr. Nichols briefed the FTAC on the HRTPO's ability to incorporate special studies into their work program for Fiscal Year 2026. He added that the HRTPO received two requests for special studies, including one from the Port of Virginia. Mr. Gullickson summarized the special study request from the Port on the topic of intra-regional freight movement and truck parking. Mr. Nichols noted that a kickoff discussion for this study will occur at a future FTAC meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #9: HRTPO UPDATES

Mr. Nichols provided brief updates on the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study.

AGENDA ITEM #10: STATE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. White provided an update from the recent State Freight Advisory Committee meeting. This meeting included discussions on the National Multimodal Freight Network and recent efforts underway by the VEDP Supply Chain Management team to promote air freight opportunities through Dulles International Airport. This led to a discussion regarding air cargo operations in Hampton Roads.

AGENDA ITEM #11: FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTIONS

- A. 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Updates
- B. Air Freight Opportunities in Virginia
- C. Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study
- D. Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study
- E. HRPDC/HRTPO Legislative Agenda

AGENDA ITEM #12: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEM #13: NEXT MEETING

The remaining 2025 FTAC meetings are currently scheduled for June 5, September 11, and December 4.

AGENDA ITEM #14: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 am.