

**Summary Minutes of the HRPDC/HRTPO
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
April 10, 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 Nauticus in the Nauticus Conference Room 2nd floor at 1 Waterside Dr. Norfolk, VA 23510.

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)

Maleah Amos (PO)
Frank Cotrupi (NN)

CAC Members Absent

Anthony Piglowski (SU)
Travis Davidson (NO)

Brad Martin (VB)

HRPDC/HRTPO Staff

Quan McLaurin
Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Pavithra Parthasarathi

John Mihaly
Rob Case
Robert Cofield

Partner Agencies

Mitzi Crystal (VDOT)
Todd Nichols, HRMFFA

Larry Belcher, VWU
Keith Moore, VWU

Additional Attendees

Michael McKendall, Sentara
Ray Amoruso, HRT
Todd DuRose, SBDC
Shelby Dell, On Point Trans.
Nate Sandel, Nauticus
Josh Sterling, HRA
Shannon Sorrell, Dominion Energy
Daniel Ogunyemi, VIMS

Sherri Dawson, HRT
Michael Glover, Truist/VAPC
Kelsey Backt, WHRO
Cat Taterway, Nauticus
Patricia Gibson, ULHR
Michael Evans, HRA
Jimmy Fay, State Farm

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.

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, Lauren Roberts Carter, asked the committee if there were any requested modifications or discussions surrounding the approval of the February CAC 2025 minutes. There was no additional discussion or requested modifications.

Maleah motioned to approve the minutes. 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 for the April 2025 Commission meeting, current HRTPO public notices, and the regional Great American Cleanup.

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

Cat Taterway welcomed the CAC and thanked the group for holding the CAC meeting at Nauticus. Ms. Taterway then provided an overview of Nauticus and shared updates related to Nauticus, including recent renovations. Nauticus is currently trying to see how the organization can be more engaged with Norfolk’s important conversations, such as sea level rise and the proposed floodwall. Ms. Taterway then shared updates related to the Half Moon cruise terminal and how it is growing and expanding, and the city of Norfolk is invested in its success.

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

Mr. Ray Amoruso shared about the latest Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) improvements to HRT. Mr. Amoruso began by reinforcing the importance of public transit for socially vulnerable populations. In regards to funding, HRT is funded by the Hampton Roads Regional Transportation Fund (HRRTF) (approximately \$31 million/year in perpetuity) from the General Assembly. This has provided the funding needed for the 757 Express, which provides a core “backbone” of routes that run in 15 minute intervals throughout the region.

Three of the 757 Express routes have been deployed (route 112, 114, 20). They are all on primary travel pathways in proximity to employment and population centers. In addition, other HRT updates include capital improvements (passenger amenities, maintenance facilities), support for commuter service, the purchase of 48 new buses, investment in real-time bus information via mobile devices and QR codes at stops, conversion of fareboxes to allow for mobile ticketing.

Additionally, HRT has a goal of equipping 650 more stops with shelters, benches, ADA compliant accommodations, lighting, and waste receptacles. There is a long term goal of 2,700 stops. Additionally, there are terminal upgrades being planned in Virginia Beach, Hampton, and Chesapeake as well as a new Southside bus maintenance facility.

Mr. Amoroso shared that there is a bus operator shortage that is causing significant challenges to HRT.

The CAC discussed creating an “Adopt a Stop” program which could consist of potential partnership with businesses, colleges, and community groups to fund and enhance bus stops.

Elizabeth River Trail – Kindra Greene, Executive Director

Ms. Kindra Greene provided the CAC with an overview of the Elizabeth River Trail (ERT). It is a 10.5-mile existing trail from near Norfolk State University (NSU) to the Port of Virginia. It is 97% off-road, aiming for a completely off-road protected trail. The ERT connects 30 neighborhoods and major anchor institutions (Port of Virginia, NSU, Old Dominion University, EVMS/Sentara Complex, CHKD). The trail serves as recreation and transportation infrastructure, connecting to light rail and HRT stops. There is even a conceptual “Blue Way” or water trail with kayak launches. The trail was formed in 2016 as a 501c3 spinoff of Greater Norfolk Corporation. Their mission is to plan, program, and advocate for the ERT, with the goal to connect Naval Station Norfolk to the Virginia Beach Trail.

Ms. Greene reviewed some of the ERT accomplishments including installing 500+ wayfinding signs, developing Plum Point Park trailhead with various amenities, installation of the “Glow Line” in Jeff Robertson Park, development of the Water Street Resilience Park with porous asphalt and living shoreline, widening the East End trail section, numerous public art installations (approx. 12 pieces), and over 100 free programs annually.

An economic impact study showed an \$18.7 million dollar impact to Norfolk. ERT is a line item in the Norfolk’s budget (\$150,000), providing a 4-to-1 ROI. The current proposed city budget includes continued funding at the same level. The trail had over 672,000 trail interactions in 2024.

Future plans include connecting to St. Paul’s Greenway, integrating the trail with the upcoming flood wall project, and connecting to the Virginia Beach Trail.

There was a call to action for advocacy for trail funding and volunteer support.

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

Mr. McLaurin provided the CAC with an update about the CAC Membership Subcommittee. The subcommittee has been meeting to review applications and onboard new members. Mr. McLaurin and Ms. Roberts Carter encouraged members to refer prospective members from their respective communities, and for current members in attendance to engage with one another.

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

Mr. McLaurin invited members to report out any updates. Kelsey Backt from WHRO highlighted their newsroom and daily newsletter encouraging organizations to send press releases.

Next Meeting

Mr. McLaurin shared that the next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025, at Virginia Wesleyan University's Greer Environmental Center.

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.