

MEETING MINUTES
HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
June 5, 2025, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

Mike Abbott, Hapag-Lloyd
Robert Eveleigh – Chair, Port City Transportation
Chad Gregg, Givens
Patrick Malloy, Colliers
David White – Vice Chair, Virginia Maritime Association

Other Participants:

Sam Belfield, HRTPO
Maria Burroughs, The Port of Virginia
Steve Djunaedi, Norfolk International Airport
Chris Gullickson, The Port of Virginia
Erik Johnson, VDOT (Virtual)
Karen McPherson, VHB
Keith Nichols, HRTPO
Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO (Virtual)
Amanda Rutherford, MARAD (Virtual)
Ivan Rucker, FHWA (Virtual)
Emily Stock, DRPT (Virtual)

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:03 am. A safety briefing followed.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

One change for the agenda was noted. Item #6 – Military Freight Transportation was postponed due to speaker availability.

No other changes were proposed.

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from December and March FTAC meetings were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Abbott and seconded by Mr. Gregg. The minutes were unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM #5: AIR CARGO TRANSPORTATION

Presenter: Steve Djunaedi, Chief Commercial Officer, Norfolk International Airport

Key highlights of Mr. Djunaedi's presentation included:

- Airport Overview: Norfolk International Airport (ORF) is a self-sustaining entity with no local tax support. Major revenue sources include parking, leases, and landing fees.
- Passenger Growth: ORF saw record-breaking passenger numbers in 2024 and continues to grow in 2025.
- International Service Goals: Efforts are underway to attract transatlantic flights. Business community support and incentives are critical.
- Air Cargo Trends:
 - Air cargo is growing globally, driven by e-commerce and supply chain shifts.
 - ORF handles limited air cargo, primarily via FedEx and UPS.
 - Richmond International Airport (RIC) has become the regional air cargo hub, especially with Amazon Air and USPS operations.
- Air Cargo Challenges:
 - ORF's cargo facility is outdated (1980s).
 - Amazon Air prefers RIC due to infrastructure and logistics efficiency.
- Future Plans:
 - Terminal modernization, new international arrivals facility, and expanded cargo ramp.
 - Potential for advanced air mobility and expanded logistics development on airport property.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY UPDATE

Presenter: Keith Nichols, HRTPO

Key highlights of Mr. Nichols' presentation included:

- Reviewed the updated draft of the Regional Freight Study.
- Emphasized importance of truck bottlenecks, regional gateways, and commodity flows.
- Highlighted the need for feedback from FTAC members and stakeholders.
- Approval of the final report is expected at the September FTAC meeting.
- Members discussed Route 13, I-87, and Route 58 as key freight corridors.
- More information will be added to the study related to air cargo and rail freight data.
- Suggestions included economic development incentives and freight-oriented development.

AGENDA ITEM #7: STATE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Presenter: David White, Virginia Maritime Association

Mr. White detailed the last State Freight Advisory Committee meeting, which was held on May 14, 2025. Highlights included:

- Discussed impacts of federal policy changes, including tariffs and staffing changes at USDOT.
- Emphasized the need for freight to have a stronger voice in state transportation planning.
- Encouraged members to engage with gubernatorial candidates on freight issues.

AGENDA ITEM #8: OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Eveleigh asked FTAC members to provide nominations for new members to fill vacancies.
- Mr. Abbott was recognized for his service and upcoming retirement. A motion was made to retain Mr. Abbott on the committee until a replacement is named, which was unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM #9: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

No items were discussed during this item.

AGENDA ITEM #10: NEXT MEETING

The next FTAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 10:00 am.

AGENDA ITEM #11: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.