

**Summary Minutes of the HRPDC/HRTPO
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
June 12, 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 Greer Environmental Center at Virginia Wesleyan University located at 5817 Wesleyan Drive Virginia Beach, VA 23455

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)

Maleah Amos (PO)
Frank Cotrupi (NN)

CAC Members Absent

Anthony Piglowski (SU)

Travis Davidson (NO)

HRPDC/HRTPO Staff

Quan McLaurin
Kyle Gilmer
Sean Asbrand
Tho Tran
Matt Klepeisz

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Dale Stith
Keith Nichols
Eric Walberg
KC Filippino

Partner Agencies

Scott Miller, VWU
Damon Pauly, VDOT
Drew Lumpkin, HRER

Oge Nwandum-Vincent, VDOT
Jo Ann Short, Planning Council
Mariah David, VDOT

Additional Attendees

Shawn Tasch, GoCommute HRT
Destini Harrell, The Blessed Rogue
Josh Sterling, HRA
Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky
Dr. Maynard Schaus, VWU

Michael Evans, HRA
Cami Castleberry, CNU
Michael Evans, HRA
Tom Finderson, Isle of Wight

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.

Rail Crossing Study – Keith Nichols, HRTPO

Mr. Nichols briefed the CAC on the latest updates to the Rail Crossing Study, with which they had previously been engaged in 2024.

The study was created to address freight movement conflicts and leverage new federal and state funding for improvements. There are 619 rail crossings in the region; 473 are at-grade, and 307 are public and at-grade. Norfolk has the most public at-grade crossings (73).

Mr. Nichols then introduced and explained the prioritization methodology. Prioritization factors include traffic volume, safety (crashes, emergency response access), roadway characteristics (type, military importance, proximity to grade-separated crossings), train volumes, estimated delay, and area factors (sole access points, vulnerable communities). [\[31:37\]](#)

Mr. Nichols then discussed the top prioritized crossings: [\[36:15\]](#)

- #1: Hampton Boulevard at Terminal (Norfolk)
- #2: Granby Street (Norfolk)
- #3: Church Street near 20th (Norfolk)
- The top 25 list includes locations in Isle of Wight (US 258 at Route 460), Suffolk, and one on the Peninsula (Airport Road). [\[37:52\]](#)

Mr. Nichols then outlined the next steps in the study: [\[40:22\]](#)

- Analyze the top 25 crossings in detail to develop a candidate list of projects.
- Investigate federal and state grant programs.
- Engage with localities and railroads.
- Aim for a draft report by Fall/Winter 2025.

Mr. Nichols reiterated that the study addresses daily commutes, emergency response, and the economic impact of freight movement, and it prepares for future increases in rail freight. [42:34]

Hampton Roads Climate Action Plan Update – KC Filippino, HRPDC

Ms. Filippino provided the CAC with an update related to the administration of the HRPDC's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

Ms. Filippino shared that the goal of the grant is to develop a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region, funded by an EPA grant. [50:40] The planning area includes the HRPDC footprint plus three North Carolina localities and Mathews County. [51:20]

The overarching goals include: Cleaner air, job creation, lower energy costs, and community collaboration. The process has included several steps so far:

- A steering committee with diverse representation was formed. [52:18]
- A Priority Climate Action Plan (PECAP) is available online. [52:37]
- Consultants analyzed greenhouse gas emission sources. [52:48]
- Draft measures and actions have been developed. [53:36]

There are six focus sectors & draft actions:

- Industry: Support emission reductions, coordinate with healthcare, develop sustainability plans, explore innovative strategies (hydrogen, carbon capture). [55:10]
- Solid Waste & Wastewater: Decrease landfill waste, improve recycling, expand composting, support wastewater plant upgrades and innovative technologies. [56:10]
- Agricultural & Natural Lands: Preserve/increase forests and wetlands, support local food production, improve soil health and agricultural practices. [57:17]
- Transportation: Increase zero-emission vehicle adoption, improve EV charging, support port sustainability, reduce vehicle miles traveled, enhance public transit and cycling/pedestrian infrastructure. [58:38]
- Buildings: Monitor/lower energy usage, make buildings more energy-efficient, access funding for better-than-code construction. [59:38]
- Large-Scale Grid Energy: Grow solar programs, support grid-scale clean energy (wind farms), enhance grid resiliency. [01:00:23]

To ensure that the plan is reflective of community sentiment, there is a concerted public engagement effort associated with the plan. A webinar and public survey are being launched to prioritize draft measures.

Ms. Filippino asked CAC members to take the survey and share it within networks to gather broad community input, especially from vulnerable communities. [01:01:05]

Regional Strategic Planning – Eric Walberg and Tho Tran, HRPDC

Mr. Walberg and Mr. Tran provided CAC members with an overview of the development of the regional strategic planning efforts. The plan is required by the Code of Virginia, focuses

on the regional level, and builds on existing local, regional, and state plans. [01:12:59] The plan aims to improve quality of life, enhance regional competitiveness, integrate locality needs, and create a framework for long-term decision-making. [01:14:25]

The process included the following:

- Phase 1: Analysis of existing plans (over 50 reviewed using AI), stakeholder engagement, identification of regional priorities and metrics. [01:15:20]
- Phase 2: Focus on goals linked to priorities and create action plans for a subset.

The framework centers on Hampton Roads residents, aiming to attract visitors, investors, and talent, with six core dimensions: Economy, Visitor Appeal, Housing & Community Development, Residential Well-being, Infrastructure, and Natural Environment. [01:17:10]

Mr. Tran provided the group with Hampton Road's regional context.

- Aging population. [01:20:45]
- Slow aggregate population growth. [01:21:37]
- Changing development footprint (growth in greenfield areas, demand for warehouse space). [01:22:01]
- Rising diversity. [01:23:38]
- Increasing impacts of sea-level rise and changing precipitation patterns. [01:24:12]

CAC members were asked to participate in an interactive Menti poll and survey.

- Early survey results (staff & CAC) indicate Economy and Housing as top concerns. [01:25:30]
- The CAC Menti Poll showed the following economic feedback [01:26:57]
 1. Losing skilled workers/struggling to attract new talent.
 2. Lack of competitive wages.
 3. Slow private sector growth.
 4. Weak entrepreneurship and innovation.

CAC discussion highlighted interconnections (e.g., wages and talent retention), the need for an entrepreneurship-friendly culture, regional approaches to remove barriers, lack of venture capital, and the importance of site readiness for business attraction. [01:29:47]

- CAC Menti Poll showed the following infrastructure priorities feedback: [01:43:06]
 1. Limited public transit options.
 2. Traffic congestion.
 3. Insufficient funding for local road upgrades.
 4. Energy infrastructure lagging behind demand.

CAC discussion emphasized the need for better transit (learning from other cities) and the critical issue of energy infrastructure capacity for economic development, including the potential of small modular reactors (SMRs) and challenges with natural gas supply. [01:44:50]

Members were asked to continue to remain engaged in the strategic planning effort.

Next Meeting

Mr. McLaurin shared that the next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2025, at Brock Environmental Center.

Old/New Business

Lauren shared about the forthcoming Talent Attraction Pilot Program launching soon, run in partnership with the Hampton Roads Chamber and Executive Round Table. The program aims to showcase Hampton Roads, industry sectors, and housing options to retain and attract talent.

Adjournment

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