

**Regional Connectors Study**  
**Joint Steering (Policy) Committee & Working Group Meeting Minutes**  
**June 16, 2023, 1:00 pm**

**Steering (Policy) Committee**

The following voting members attended the meeting (alphabetically by city):

Donnie Tuck (HA)  
Martin Thomas (NO)  
Shannon Glover (PO)  
Mike Duman (SU)  
Robert Dyer (VB)

The following voting members were absent from the meeting (alphabetically by city):

Rick West (CH)  
Phillip Jones (NN)

**Working Group**

The following voting members attended the meeting (alphabetically by city):

Troy Eisenberger (CH)  
Jason Mitchell (HA)  
Jason Souders (SU)

The following voting members were absent from the meeting (alphabetically by city):

Bryan Stilley (NN)  
Deborah Mangiaracina (NO)  
James Wright (PO)  
Ric Lowman (VB)

## Others

The following others attended the meeting (alphabetically by last name):

Dorian Allen (Norfolk)  
Rob Case (HRTPO)  
Rob Cofield (HRPDC/HRTPO)  
Robert A. Crum, Jr. (HRPDC/HRTPO)  
Mitzi Crystal (VDOT)  
Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)  
Kyle Gilmer (HRTPO)  
Michael King (US Navy)  
Sandra Kochersperger (VDOT)  
Karen McPherson (McPherson Consulting)  
Barbara Nelson (VPA)  
Keith Nichols (HRTPO)  
Todd Nichols (HRMFFA)  
Kevin Page (HRTAC)  
Lorna Parkins (Michael Baker Intl.)  
Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)  
Paul Prideaux (Michael Baker Intl.)  
Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Project Coordinator)  
Lisa Simpson (Newport News)  
Dale Stith (HRTPO)  
Joe Strange (Michael Baker Intl.)  
Eric Stringfield (VDOT)  
Jeff Swallow (USACE)  
Cathie Vick (Port of Virginia)

The following others were viewing the meeting online near the meeting end (by last name):

Brandon Irvine  
Claudette Lajoie  
Naomi Stein  
Bill Thomas  
Allison Van Twisk

## **1. Call to Order**

Steering committee chair Mayor Robert Dyer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

## **2. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, did a roll call of both the Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group.

## **3. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **4. Minutes**

The February 13, 2023, minutes were approved with Mayor Glover (Portsmouth) making the motion and Mayor Tuck (Hampton) seconding the motion.

## **5 and 6. Phase 3 – Step 3: Congestion Evaluation and Economic Impacts of Tier I (item 5) and Tier II Segments; Traffic Operations Analysis (item 6)**

Lorna Parkins (MBI) and Paul Prideaux (MBI), RCS Project Co-Managers, presented slides summarizing overall project accomplishments and covering these congestion/economics and operations topics.

The voting members approved the results of Scenario Planning, Congestion Benefits, and Economic Impacts of Bundles B, C, and D (item 5); and the results of the Traffic Operations Analysis (item 6) with Vice-Mayor Thomas (Norfolk) making the motion and Mayor Duman (Suffolk) seconding the motion.

## **7. Phase 3 – Public Engagement Plan**

Lorna Parkins (MBI) presented slides reviewing completed meetings—Public Meetings (Round 1), January-March 2023; and Regional Connectivity Symposium, May 25, 2023—and upcoming meetings—Public Meetings (Round 2), Summer 2023.

Chair Dyer (Virginia Beach) commented on the importance of the study to plan for potential growth in the region. Chair Dyer also indicated how congestion could impact military readiness. He stressed as we move forward there is a need to make the military a focal point.

Mayor Glover (Portsmouth) agreed with the importance of the study to reduce congestion but reminded the members of the adverse impacts of some of these regional projects/tolls have had on the city of Portsmouth. He reminded the leaders to be mindful and fair in the process as we move forward.

Bob Crum (HRTPO) indicated as the recommended projects are being sent forward to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) process, the HRTPO will consider all the public comments, issues and comments discussed today by the members.

## **8. For Your Information**

The RCS Diary of Key Decision Points was attached to the agenda.

## **9. RCS Next Meeting**

The next meeting is planned for October 2023 with date/time TBD.

## **10. Other Items of Interest**

No items were presented.

## **11. Adjournment**

Chair Dyer adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

A recording of the meeting is available on the HRTPO [website](#).