

**Summary Minutes of the HRPDC/HRTPO
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting
August 14, 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 Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, VA.

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)

Maleah Amos (PO)

Sharon D. Anderson (PO)

Frank Cotrupi (NN)

Brad Martin (VB)

Travis Davidson (NO)

Anthony Piglowski (SU)

CAC Members Absent

HRPDC/HRTPO Staff

Quan McLaurin

Robert A. Crum, Jr.

Whitney Katchmark

Matt Klepeisz

Partner Agencies

Damon Pauly, VDOT

Jo Ann Short, Planning Council

Veleka Gatling, ODU

Mariah David, VDOT

Keith Moore, VWU

Keisha Wilkins, VDOT

Additional Attendees

Daniel Ogunyemi, VIMS

Michael Evans, HRA

Shelby Dell, On Point PR

Rodney Nickens

Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Portsmouth

William Webb, Suffolk

Destini Harrell, The Blessed Rogue

Cierra Lewis, YWCA

Josh Sterling, HRA

Michael Evans, HRA

Herby DeGroft, Isle of Wight

Tom Finderson, Isle of Wight

Nancy Gardn, Norfolk Innovation Corridor

Thomas Dudley II, The Planning Council

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.

Mrs. Lauren Carter made a motion to approve the agenda as is. Ms. Sharon Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

- Mr. Herb DeGroft shared excerpts of the recently published article “Nonprofits supporting seniors need support, opportunity” and implored the CAC to remember to support the senior members within the Hampton Roads community.
- Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky shared a public comment imploring the public to be aware of air quality issues and how they impact health. He advised members and their communities to wear N95 masks outdoors when the air quality level is 50 and above, especially for joggers, bicyclists, or fast walkers, to protect lung health.

Membership Approval – Quan McLaurin, Civil Rights & Community Engagement Liaison

- Quan McLaurin provided an update on expanding the CAC to be representative of the 17 localities, emphasizing the benefit of diverse perspectives
- The membership subcommittee reviewed applications over several months.
- A list of prospective members was presented for approval to become full-fledged voting members of the CAC.

Carolyn White	Suffolk	Committee Member	2 vacancies (3)
Tiaira Walker	Norfolk	Committee Member	3 vacancies (5)
Daniel Ogunyemi	Yorktown	Committee Member	2 vacancies (2)
Todd DuRose	Chesapeake	Committee Member	5 vacancies (5)
Rodney Nickens	Chesapeake	Committee Member	5 vacancies (5)

Shelby Dell	Virginia Beach	Committee Member	6 vacancies (7)
Josh Sterling	Virginia Beach	Committee Member	6 vacancies (7)
Shannon Sorrell	Virginia Beach	Committee Member	6 vacancies (7)
Destini Harrell	Virginia Beach	Committee Member	6 vacancies (7)
Michael Evans, Hampton Roads Alliance	Chesapeake	Partner Agency	

- Many prospective members have already been attending meetings and engaging with the committee.
- Lauren Carter motioned that the CAC approve the membership recommendations presented by the CAC Membership Subcommittee. Sharon Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no opposition or abstentions.
- Prospective members were welcomed, and further onboarding information will be sent.

Start in Hampton Roads – Lauren Roberts Carter, CAC Chair and Hampton Roads Chamber

- Mrs. Carter provided an overview of "Start in Hampton Roads," a pilot program aimed at attracting and retaining talent. It is a partnership between the Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable, the Workforce Council, and the Hampton Roads Chamber.
- The initiative grew out of the Fahrenheit study, which identified an out-migration challenge in the region, particularly among younger, non-military remote workers without children.
- **Goal:** Attract and retain top talent through paid and earned media strategies that promote the region's assets.
- **Key Audiences:** The campaign targets job seekers in key industries, "quality of life chasers," and transitioning military veterans.
- **Factors Driving Out-Migration:** Cost of living (perception of affordability), safety concerns, job and career opportunities, and availability of healthcare.
- **Regional Identity:** The region still faces a "regional identity crisis," and this pilot hopes to evolve into a broader regional marketing initiative.
- **Landing Page:** The initiative's landing page is www.startinhamptonroads.com.
- **Timeline:** The pilot program runs through December 2025, after which the region will take over the initiative.
- **Call to Action:** CAC members were asked to share the landing page, embed it in their own marketing materials, and share positive regional news and events that the campaign can highlight.
- Rodney Nickens expressed excitement about the initiative and its alignment with retaining young people in the region

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Update – Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer

- Ms. Katchmark provided an update on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which is being revised as the "Beyond 2025" agreement.
- A recent scientific review (the Caesar report) concluded that while progress has been made, the 2025 goals for nitrogen reduction will not be met. It also found a disconnect between water quality efforts and the health of living resources like fish and grasses.
- The new draft agreement consolidates 31 outcomes into 21 and focuses on four areas: habitat, clean water, healthy landscapes, and engaged communities.
- The HRPDC's comments on the draft will encourage linking actions to funding, improving local government engagement, and adapting to new challenges like sea-level rise and emerging contaminants.
- **Call to Action:** A 60-day public feedback period on the draft agreement is open until September 1, 2025. CAC members were strongly encouraged to submit comments and share the opportunity within their communities.

Regional Legislative Agenda – Robert A. Crum, Jr., Executive Director HRPDC & HRTPO

- Mr. Crum presented the emerging priorities for the 2026 Regional Legislative Agenda. The agenda requires unanimous support from the 17 member localities.
- **Primary/Secondary Road Funding:** The top priority is a request to increase the regional sales tax from 0.7 cents to a whole penny to generate an additional \$85 million annually for local road and bridge projects. A similar bill passed the General Assembly in the last session but was vetoed.
- **Transit Funding:** Advocate for increased state transit funding to support the regional backbone bus system and the maintenance needs of The Tide light rail.
- **Flood Prevention:** Continue to advocate for at least \$200 million in the state's Community Flood Preparedness Fund and seek state assistance with the required local match for federal flood protection projects.
- **Trail Funding:** Seek state funding to build out the regional trail network, which is a key quality-of-life amenity for attracting and retaining talent.
- **Emergency Management:** Request state assistance to improve regional sheltering capabilities and provide more sustainable funding for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM).
- **Other Priorities:** Included securing a reliable energy supply for economic growth, improving passenger rail service, mitigating toll impacts at the Downtown/Midtown Tunnels, and maintaining existing infrastructure.
- **Call to Action:** CAC members were asked to engage with their state legislators on the issues they are passionate about and to use their role on the committee to build relationships with elected officials.
 - Discuss these legislative priorities with state legislators, especially if there's a particular passion (e.g., transit, bike paths, toll relief).
 - Share the slides and information with communities and organizations.
 - Connect with elected leaders (who will vote on the agenda) to provide input.

- Bob offered to arrange meetings with general assembly members for CAC members interested in specific items.
- An app called "Virginia Public Access (VPAP)" can be downloaded to find contact information for general assembly members.
- Members were encouraged to form relationships with representatives before making asks.

Next Meeting

Mr. McLaurin shared that the next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2025.

Old/New Business

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Roberts Carter adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.