

June 24, 2021

Memorandum #2021-104

TO: Regional Connectors Study (RCS) Joint Steering Committee & Working Group

BY: Camelia Ravanbakht, RCS Project Coordinator

RE: Regional Connectors Study

Attached is the agenda for the **Joint Regional Connectors Study (RCS) Steering Committee and Working Group meeting** scheduled for **Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 1:00 PM.**

Given Governor Northam's declaration of a state of emergency due to COVID-19 and the remaining risk, the Joint RCS Steering Committee and Working Group meeting will be held by electronic communication means.

Members of the public are invited to address the Joint RCS Steering Committee and Working Group by submitting comments in advance of the meeting by email to kmiller@hrtpo.org or phone (757) 366-4370. All comments received 48 hours before the start of the meeting, will be provided to the committee and working group members and included in the official record.

Additionally, the meeting will be live-streamed and available for viewing on the [Regional Connection YouTube channel](#).

/cm

Attachments

RCS Steering Committee and Working Group Members

Voting Members:

Steering Policy Group

Rick West (CH)
Donnie Tuck (HA)
McKinley Price (NN)
Martin Thomas (NO)
Shannon Glover (PO)
Mike Duman (SU)
Robert Dyer (VB)

Working Group

Troy Eisenberger (CH)
Jason Mitchell (HA)
Bryan Stilley (NN)
Brian Fowler (NO)
James Wright (PO)
Jason Souders (SU)
Ric Lowman (VB)

Staff:

Bob Crum (HRTPO)
Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)
Keith Cannady (HRPDC)
Rob Case (HRTPO)
Greg Grootendorst (HRPDC)
Kendall Miller (HRTPO)
Keith Nichols (HRTPO)
Dale Stith (HRTPO)

Nonvoting Members:

Ivan Rucker (FHWA)
Craig Quigley (HRMFFA)
Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)
Kevin Page (HRTAC)
Jason Flowers (USACE)
George Janek (USACE)
Col. Patrick Kinsman (USACE)
Keith Lockwood (USACE)
Robert Pruhs (USACE)
Gregory Steele (USACE)
Tim Dolan (USCG)
Gene Leonard (USCG)
Michael King (USN)
Pamela Phillips (VDOT)
Jennifer Salyers (VDOT)
Chris Hall (VDOT)
Stephen Edwards (VPA)
Kit Chope (VPA)
Barbara Nelson (VPA)

Project Coordinator:

Camelia Ravanbakht

Project Consultants:

Craig Eddy
Lorna Parkins



Agenda

Regional Connectors Study

Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group Meeting

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Given Governor Northam's declaration of a state of emergency due to COVID-19 and the remaining risk, the Regional Connectors Study (RCS) Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group meeting will be held by electronic communication means.

- 1. Call to Order – Mayor Price: Chair**
- 2. Roll Call – Camelia Ravanbakht: RCS Coordinator**
- 3. Public Comment Period**

Members of the public are invited to address the RCS Joint Steering (Policy) and Working Group Meeting by submitting comments in advance of the meeting by email to kmiller@hrtpo.org or phone (757) 366-4370. All comments received 48 hours before the meeting will be provided to the committee and working group members and included in the official record.

4. Minutes [Action Requested]

Summary Minutes from June 22, 2021, Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group Meeting

Attachment 4

Recommended Action: Approval

**5. Regional Connectors Study: Phase 3- Preliminary Alternatives-
Craig Eddy (MBI), Project Manager [Action Requested]**

At the last Joint Meeting of June 22, 2021, the Consultant Team provided an update of activities conducted since the October 27, 2020, Joint meeting including:

- Investigation of the effectiveness of eight Alternatives based on the Five Mandated Segments
- Review of travel demand modeling results

- Development of typical sections of two design options for Monitor Merrimac Memorial Bridge Tunnel (MMMBT):
 - Option A: 6 General Purpose Lanes + 2 Managed Lanes
 - Option B: 4 General Purpose Lanes + 4 Managed Lanes
- The selection process used in screening down to four potential Preliminary Alternatives with both design options A and B

Mr. Craig Eddy reviewed Alternatives 1 through 8 as considered by the Working Group during the past several months. Mr. Eddy further indicated that the Working Group had eliminated Alternative 1 (high cost), Alternatives 4 and 5 (VA 164 Connector constraints and issues raised by the Navy, Army Corps of Engineers, and city of Portsmouth), and Alternative 7 (low estimated traffic volumes and design constraints). Lastly, Mr. Eddy shared with the members the four alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, 6, and 8) under two design options A and B that were recommended by the Working Group for the Steering Committee's approval.

Chair Price requested the members for a motion to approve the Working Group's recommended alternatives and design options. Mr. Thomas (Norfolk) indicated that a funding request has been submitted to Congress for the Craney Island Access Study. He further requested the Chair to include Alternatives 5 and 7 in the final list of Preliminary Alternatives. Following some discussions and the absence of several members of the Policy Committee, Chair Price directed the staff to schedule a 30-minute electronic meeting the following week for the joint group to reconvene and act on this one item: selection of Preliminary Alternatives.

Mr. Craig Eddy, Project Manager, will be available to brief the Joint Committee on this item.

Recommended Action: Discussion and Approval of Working Group Recommended Preliminary Alternatives (2, 3, 6, and 8) under Two Design Options (A and B) for the MMMBT.

Attachments:

- Attachment 5A – Five Mandated Segments
- Attachment 5B – Typical Sections for Design Options A and B
- Attachment 5C – Graphics of Alternatives 1 through 8
- Attachment 5D – VA 164 Connector Constraints Map
- Attachment 5E – Working Group Recommended Preliminary Alternatives 2, 3, 6, and 8 under both design options A and B

6. Adjournment

Regional Connectors Study
Joint Steering (Policy) Committee & Working Group Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2021, 9:30 am

Pursuant to the declared state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the public health and safety of the members, staff, and general public, this meeting was held electronically via Webex. These electronic meetings are required to complete essential business on behalf of the region. A recording of the meeting will be available on the website.

Steering (Policy) Committee

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

Rick West (CH)
Donnie Tuck (HA)
McKinley Price, Chair (NN)
Martin Thomas (NO)
Shannon Glover (PO) (absent for a portion of the meeting)

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

Michael Duman (SU)
Robert Dyer (VB)

Note that these cities were represented by members of the Working Group below.

Working Group

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

Troy Eisenberger (CH)
Lynne Keenan (HA) (replacing Jason Mitchell)
Brian Fowler (NO)
Bryan Stilley (NN)
Carl Jackson (PO) (replacing James Wright)
Jason Souders (SU)
Mark Shea (VB) (replacing Ric Lowman)

The following voting members were absent (alphabetically by last name):

Ric Lowman (VB) (replaced by Mark Shea)
Jason Mitchell (HA) (replaced by Lynne Keenan)
James Wright (PO) (replaced by Carl Jackson)

Others

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

Rob Case (HRTPO)	Barbara Nelson (VPA)
Robert A. Crum, Jr. (HRTPO/HRPDC)	Keith Nichols (HRTPO)
Anthony Donald (Michael Baker Intl.)	Kevin Page (HRTAC)
Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)	Lorna Parkins (Michael Baker Intl.)
Craig Eddy (Michael Baker Intl.)	Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)
Zach Harris (Michael Baker Intl.)	Craig Quigley (HRMFFA)
Amy Inman (Norfolk)	Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator)
George Janek (USACE)	Angela Rico (NN)
Steve Jones (Navy)	Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Michael King (Navy)	Eric Stringfield (VDOT)
Patrick Kinsman (USACE)	Bill Thomas (Michael Baker Intl.)
Claudette Lajoie (Michael Baker Intl.)	Cathie Vick (VPA)
Keith Lockwood (USACE)	

1. Call to Order

At 9:34 am, Bob Crum (HRPDC/HRTPO) read a COVID-19 notice.
Chairperson Mayor Price (Newport News) conducted the meeting.

2. Roll Call

Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator) called the roll (see attendance above).

3. Welcome and Introductions

No introductions were made.

4. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

5. Minutes

Mayor Tuck (Hampton) moved approval of the minutes of the October 27, 2020 Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group, and Martin Thomas (Norfolk) seconded. The motion was approved via roll call:

Steering (Policy) Committee

Richard West	Chesapeake	yes
Donnie Tuck	Hampton	yes
McKinley Price	Newport News	yes
Martin Thomas	Norfolk	yes
Shannon Glover	Portsmouth	yes

Working Group

Troy Eisenberger	Chesapeake	yes
Lynne Keenan	Hampton	yes
Bryan Stille	Newport News	yes
Brian Fowler	Norfolk	yes
Carl Jackson	Portsmouth	yes
Jason Souders	Suffolk	yes
Mark Shea	Virginia Beach	yes

6. RCS: Phase 3: Development of Preliminary Alternatives

Craig Eddy (MBI) provided the joint body an update of work conducted to analyze the various potential alternatives, including the determination that proximity to the proposed US Navy Fuel Depot Expansion and to the Portsmouth Landfill made the southern portion of the VA 164 Connector infeasible. Bill Thomas (MBI) presented results of the modeling of the potential alternatives including traffic volumes and other metrics (e.g. congested speed, average delay). Mr. Eddy stated that the Working Group recommended moving forward with the following preliminary alternatives: 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 6A, 6B, 8A, 8B.

Michael King (Navy) clarified that, with regards to the US Navy Fuel Depot, the Navy is simply implementing a long-planned construction rather than a proposed “Expansion”. Barb Nelson (Port of Virginia) stated that the Port supported alternatives 7A and 7B. She noted that 8A and 8B (which exclude widening of VA 164) are inconsistent with the approved 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) (which includes widening of VA 164). Carl Jackson (Portsmouth) noted that the RCS has been decoupled from the LRTP, and noted environmental justice impacts of a VA 164 widening.

Martin Thomas (Norfolk), noting that a funding request that has been submitted to Congress for the Craney Island Access Study, recommended that alternatives 5 and 7 be retained. Bryan Stilley (NN) stated that the working group believed that alternatives 5 and 7 had fatal flaws.

Mayor Tuck (Hampton) moved approval of the Working Group’s list of alternatives; Mayor West (Chesapeake) seconded. Mr. Martin offered a substitute motion including alternatives 5 and 7; no second was made. A roll call vote was taken on Mayor Tuck’s motion:

Steering (Policy) Committee

Richard West	Chesapeake	yes
Donnie Tuck	Hampton	yes
McKinley Price	Newport News	yes
Martin Thomas	Norfolk	no
Shannon Glover	Portsmouth	[temporarily absent]

Working Group

Troy Eisenberger	Chesapeake	yes
Lynne Keenan	Hampton	yes
Bryan Stilley	Newport News	yes
Brian Fowler	Norfolk	no
Carl Jackson	Portsmouth	yes
Jason Souders	Suffolk	yes
Mark Shea	Virginia Beach	yes

Asked by the Chair for clarification, Mr. Crum noted the lack of a majority of the seven voting members, stated that technically under Roberts Rules this motion would pass, but suggested—given the importance of the issue—that having four yeses would be appropriate.

While the group waited for Mayor Glover to return to the meeting, Cathy Vick (Port of Virginia)—noting that the Hampton Roads Infrastructure Coalition requested funding from Congress for a Craney Island Access Study—recommended postponing the issue to obtain input from the absent localities. Mr. Eddy presented Next Steps (as recorded under “For Your Information”).

Noting that Mayor Glover was not present for the discussion, Mr. Thomas requested postponement to a following meeting. Mayor Price asked staff to schedule a meeting next week to vote on the issue. Mayor Glover returned to the meeting. Mayor Price ruled that there will be a new meeting. Following Ms. Ravanbakht presenting “Next Meetings”, Mayor Price ended the meeting as shown under item 10 below.

7. For Your Information

Craig Eddy (MBI) provided an overview of the tasks planned for the next six months.

8. Next Meetings

Ms. Ravanbakht orally presented the proposed next meetings:

- July 8, 2021 – 1:30 PM: Working Group Meeting
- August 12, 2021 – 1:30 PM: Working Group Meeting
- September 9, 2021 – 1:30 PM: Working Group Meeting
- Fall: Joint Steering Committee and Working Group

9. Other Items of Interest

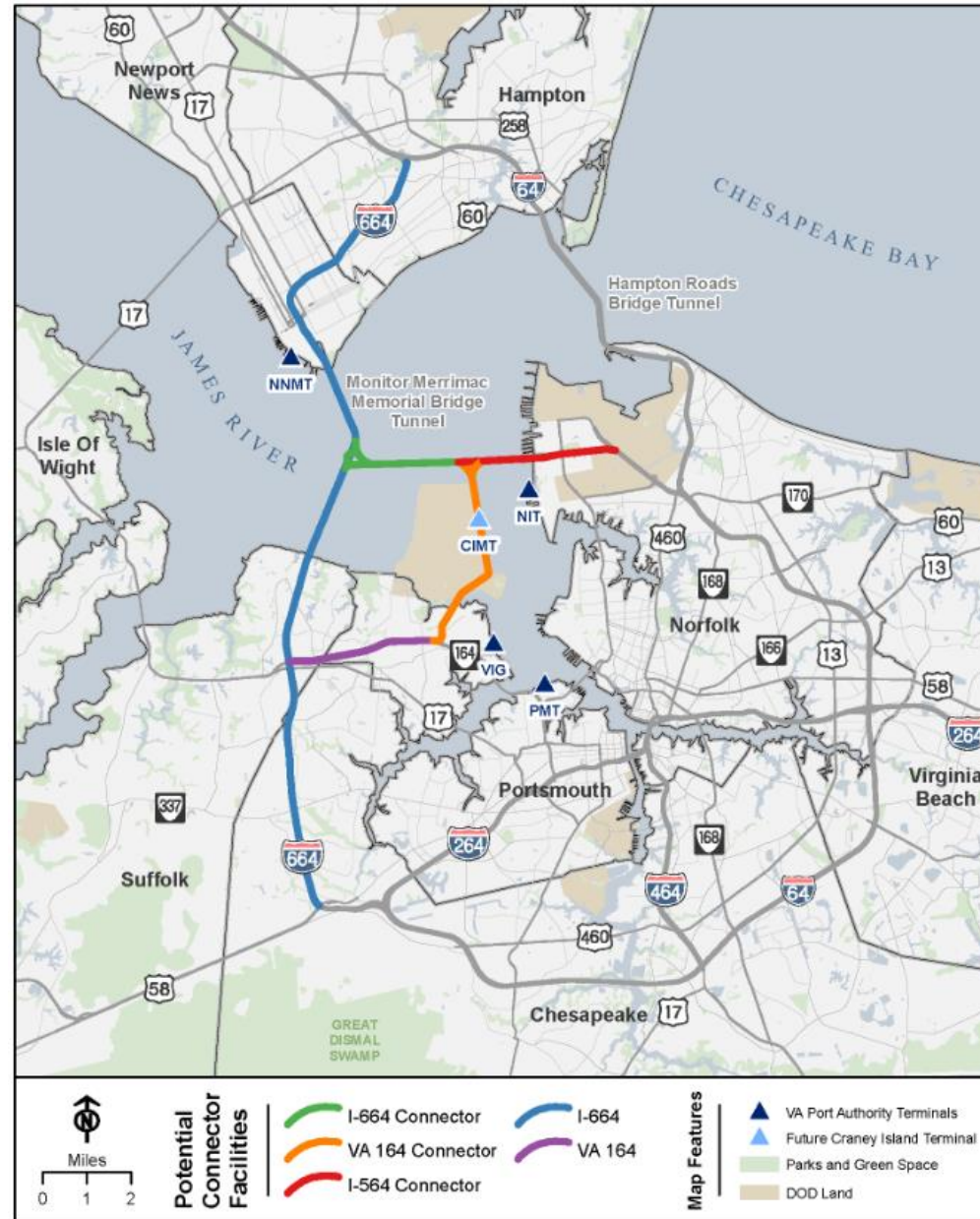
No other items were discussed.

10. Adjournment

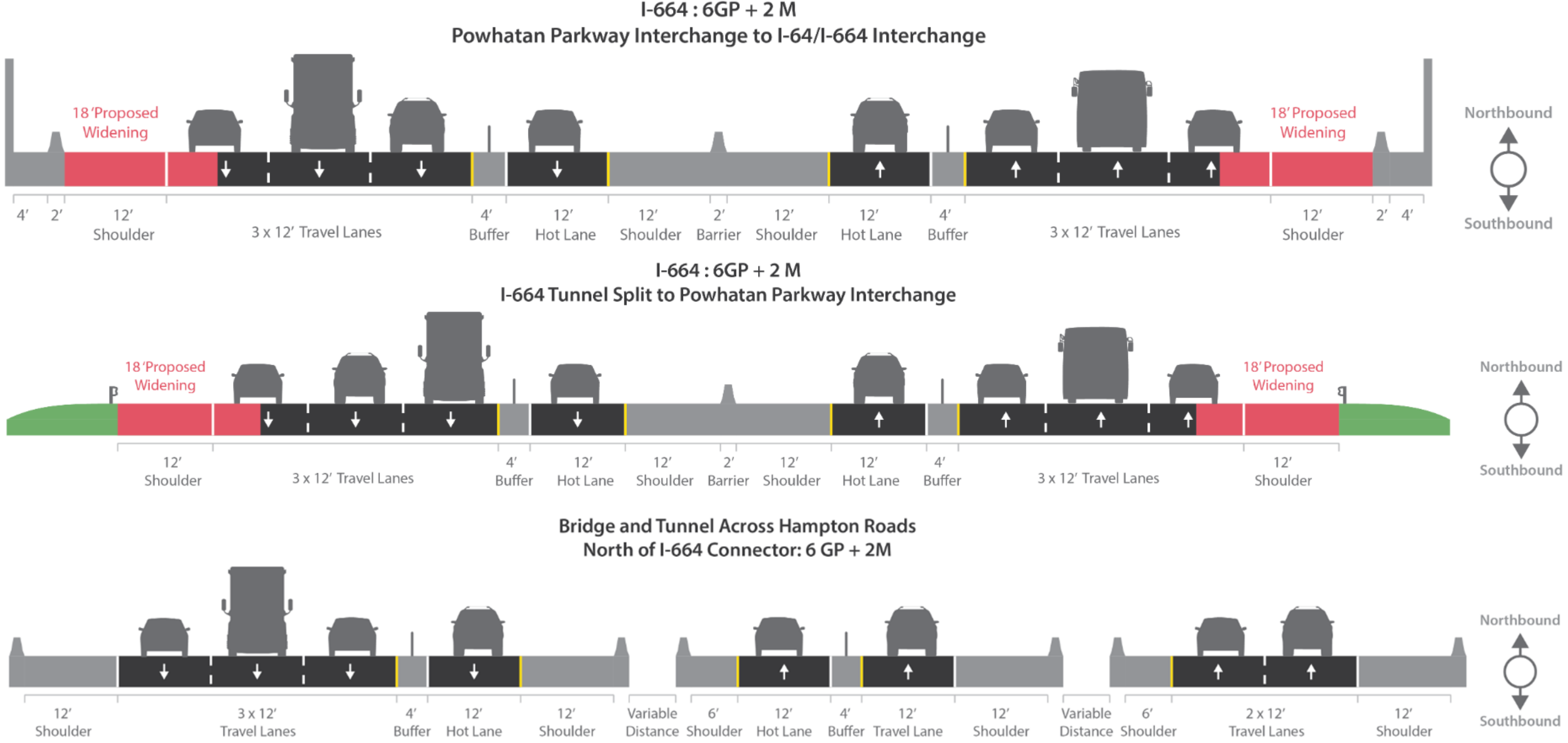
The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.

Attachment 5A

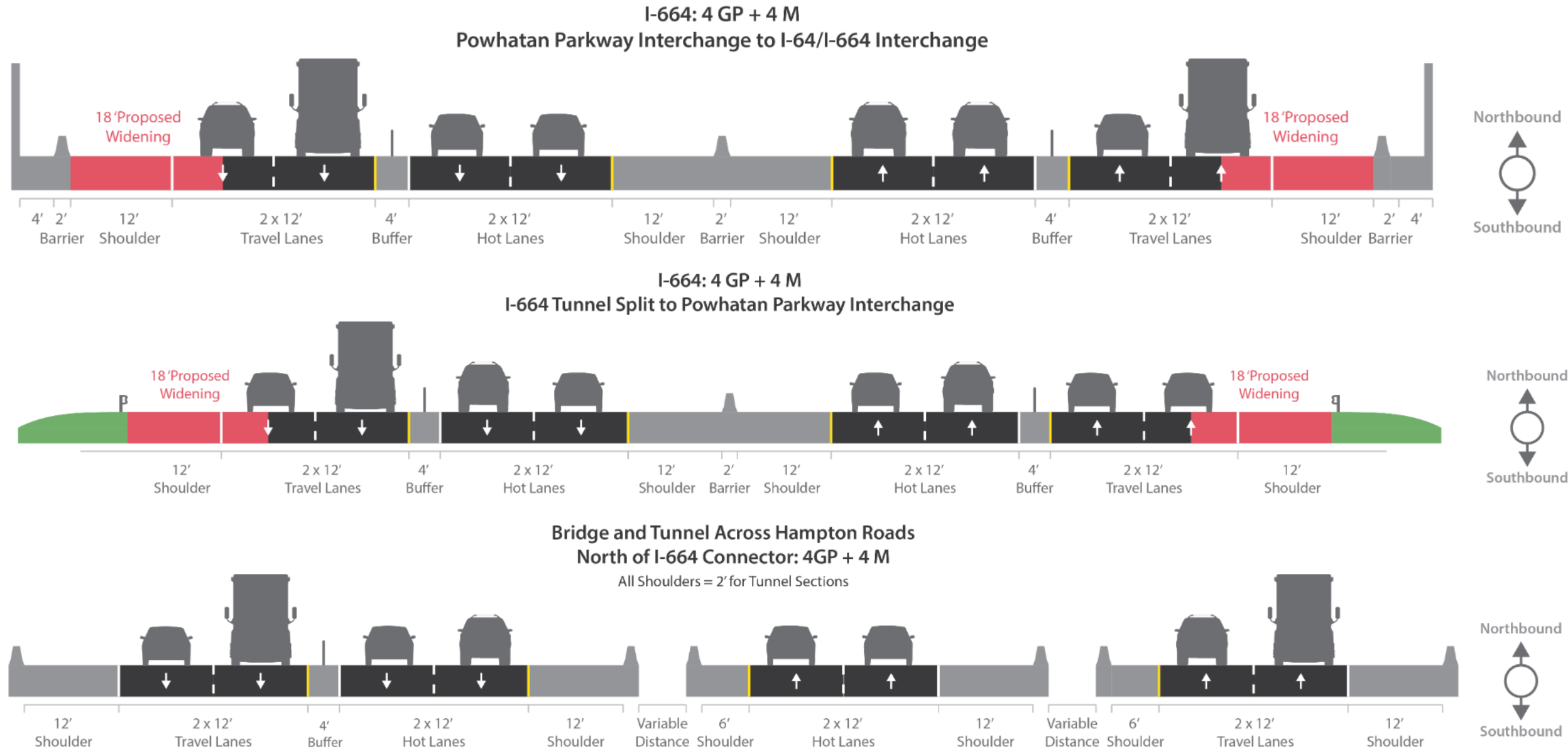
Mandated Segments



Attachment 5B - Typical Sections (MMMBT 6GP+2M Design Option)

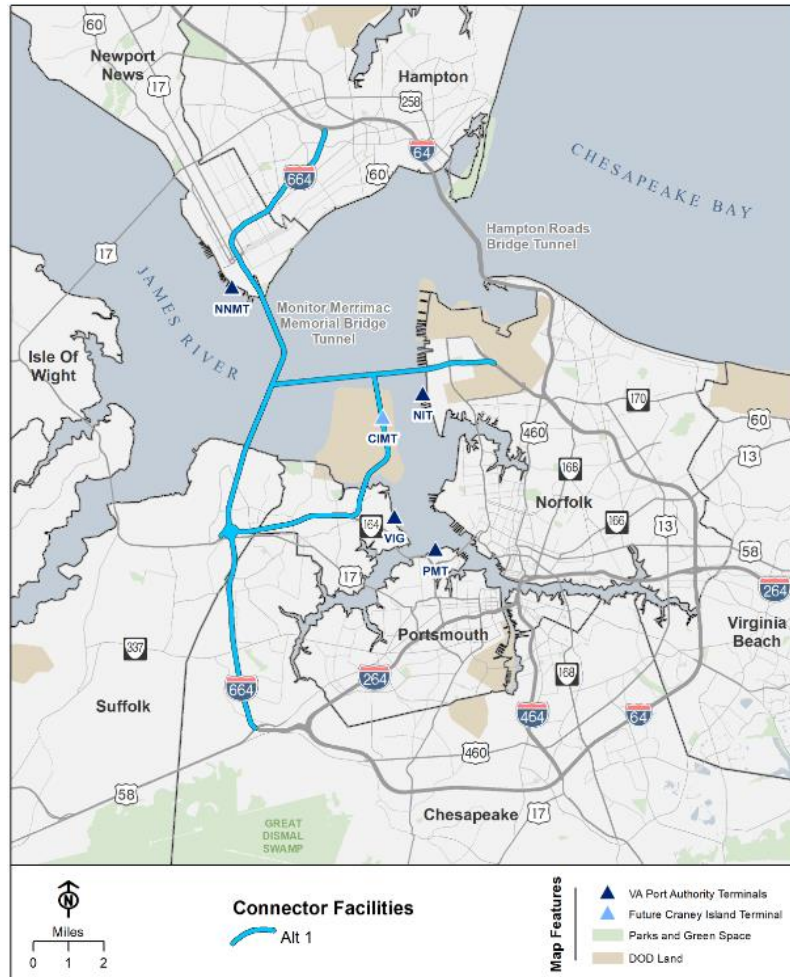


Attachment 5B (cont.) - Typical Sections (MMMBT 4GP+4M Design Option)

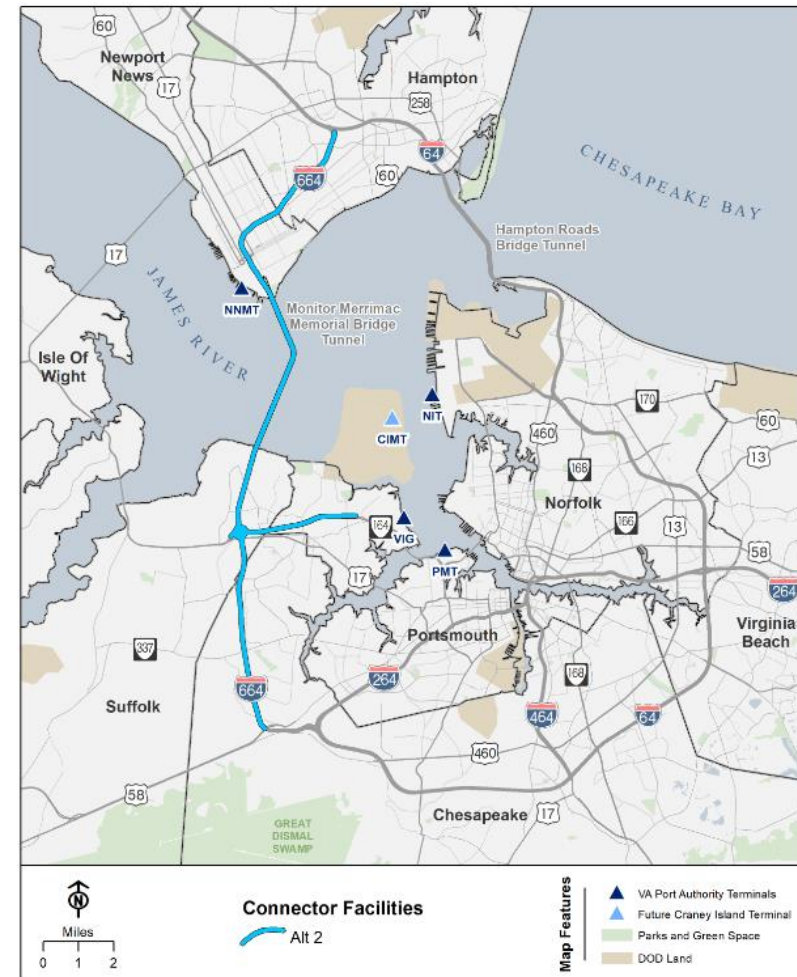


Attachment 5C

Alternative 1

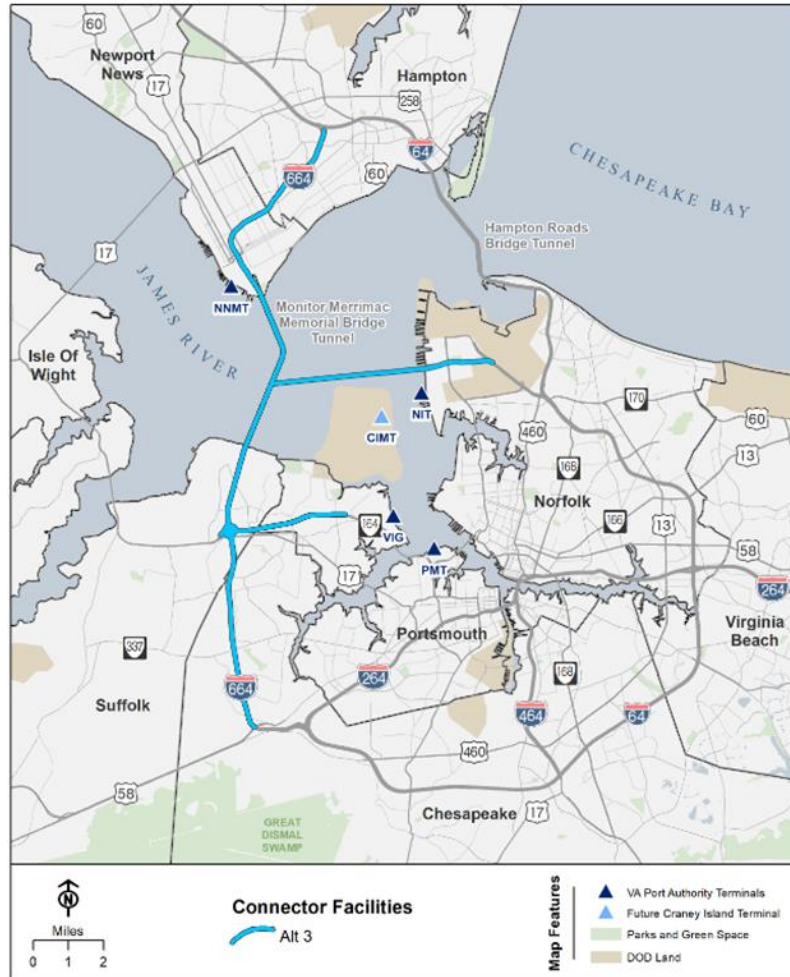


Alternative 2



Attachment 5C – Cont.

Alternative 3



Alternative 4

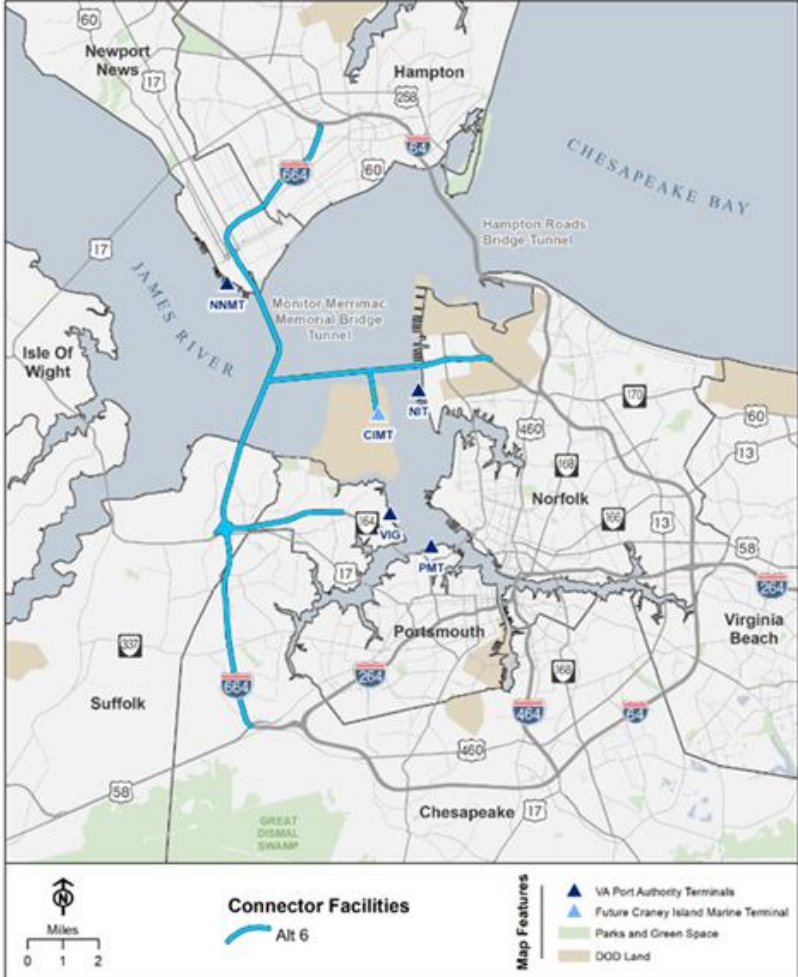


Attachment 5C – Cont.

Alternative 5

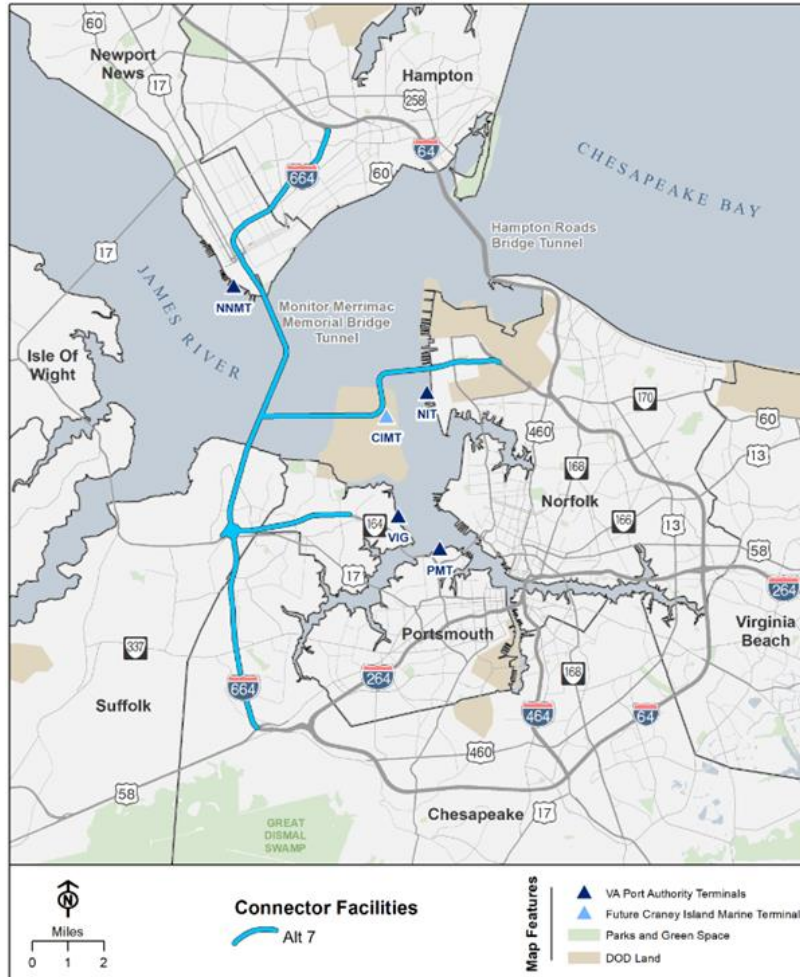


Alternative 6



Attachment 5C – Cont.

Alternative 7



Alternative 8



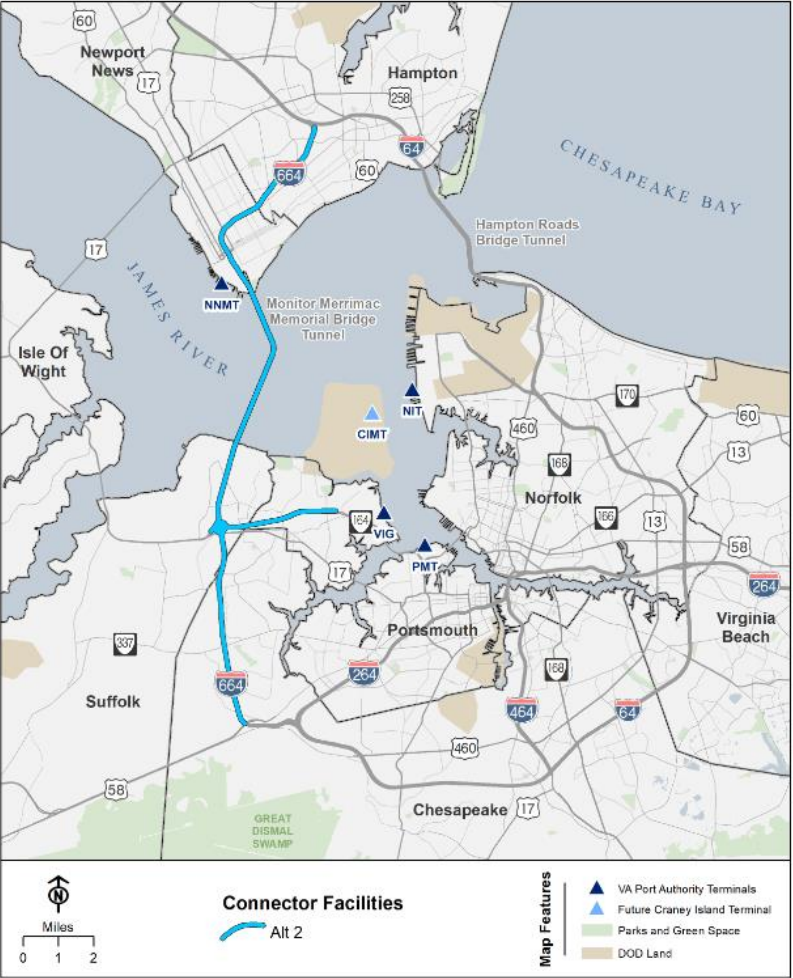
Attachment 5D

VA 164 Connector Constraints

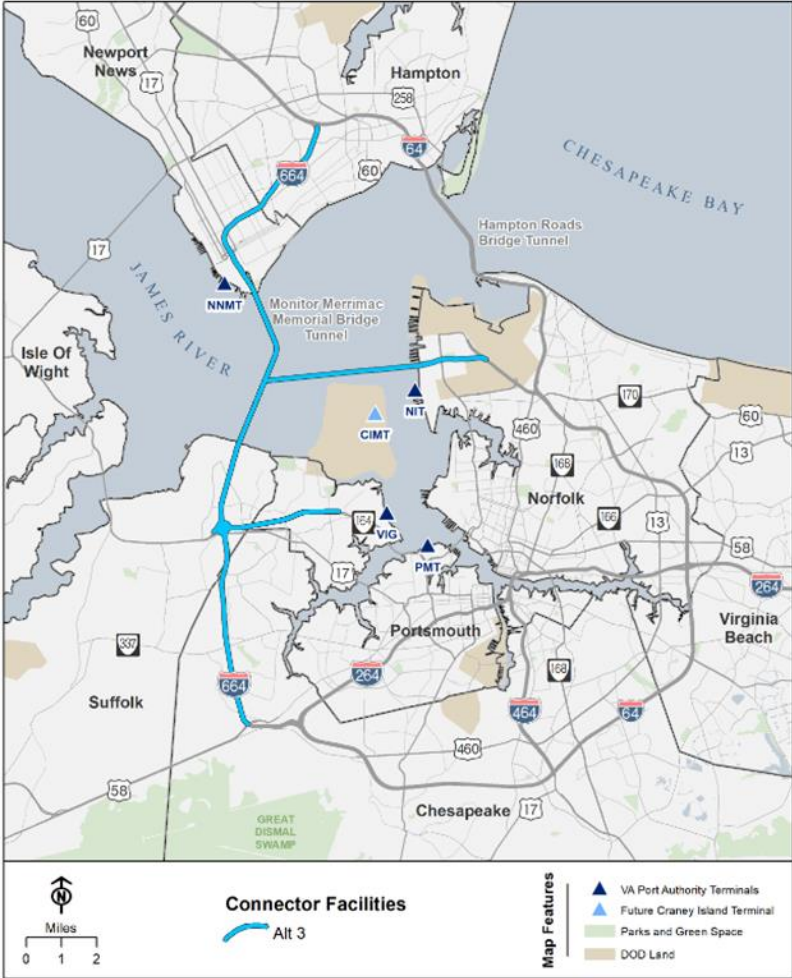


Attachment 5E

Alternative 2



Alternative 3



Attachment 5E – Cont.

Alternative 6



Alternative 8

