

REGIONAL CONNECTORS STUDY

Consultant Activity Report – December 2022

Date: January 23, 2023

Report Period: December 1 – December 31, 2022

This monthly report is intended to summarize current or recently completed activity on the Regional Connectors Study by the consultant team.

Work Activity This Period:

Execute Engagement Plan

- Continued to upload the project materials to the project website – agendas, meeting minutes and videos, monthly Consultant Activity reports, and project documents
- Continued preparation for upcoming public engagement. Public meeting dates and locations for meetings to be held from 5:30 to 7:30 PM are as follows:
 - February 1, 2023 – Pearl Bailey Library, Newport News
 - February 2, 2023 – Lambert’s Point Community Center, Norfolk
 - February 7, 2023 – Churchland Branch Library, Portsmouth
 - February 9, 2023 – VDOT Hampton Roads District Office, Suffolk

Evaluation of study segments on construction complexity, permitting challenges, project readiness and tiering

- Began incorporating decisions made by the Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group at the November 17th meeting into the RCS study process and associated materials for public outreach. As a reminder, the following was decided on November 17:
 - Tier I to remain unchanged – segments recommended for consideration in the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan
 - Tiers II and III are combined into one Tier (updated Tier II) – segments recommended for HRTPO to include in the 2050 Regional Transportation Vision Plan. (This maintains eligibility for further study of the segments.)
- The Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group approved the following:
 - Recommend I-664 widening and VA 164 widening for Tier I
 - Recommend VA 164 Connector, I-564 Connector, and I-664 Connector for Tier II

Scenario and Traffic Operations Analysis

- As decided at the November 17th Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group, the Consultant will select three bundles of Tier I and Tier II segments to be evaluated for the 2045 RCS Baseline and three Greater Growth scenarios, and that only Tier I segments will be evaluated in Step 3 traffic operations analysis. The Committees instructed the consultant team to select the most technically informative set of segment bundles to be processed through the Scenario Planning analysis.
- Based on the technical information and professional judgement, the Consultant selected and is moving forward with testing the following bundles (shown in graphics that follow):
 - Bundle B: I-664 widening and VA 164 widening
 - Bundle C: I-664 widening, I-664 Connector and I-564 Connector
 - Bundle D: I-664 widening, VA 164 widening, VA 164 Connector, and I-564 Connector
- The Consultant Team is advancing Step 3 activities including travel demand and economic modeling of the updated RCS 2045 Baseline network and selected segment bundles as well as operational modeling of the Tier I segments.

Prepare for and Attend Meetings

- Prepared for a January 18 meeting to be held between the study team and the City of Portsmouth to discuss the physical features, constraints, and assumptions surrounding the proposed VA 164 widening being studied.

Work Anticipated Next Period:

Execute Engagement Plan

- Continue to upload project materials to the project website – agendas, meeting minutes and videos, monthly Consultant Activity reports, and project documents
- Continue preparation for the outreach plan including development of meeting materials and discussing meeting content.
- Hold three pop-up events at select community locations to introduce the study, answer questions, and encourage people to attend the February open houses.

Scenario and Traffic Operations Analysis

- Continue advancing Step 3 activities such as modeling the updated RCS 2045 Baseline network as well as Tier I segments.

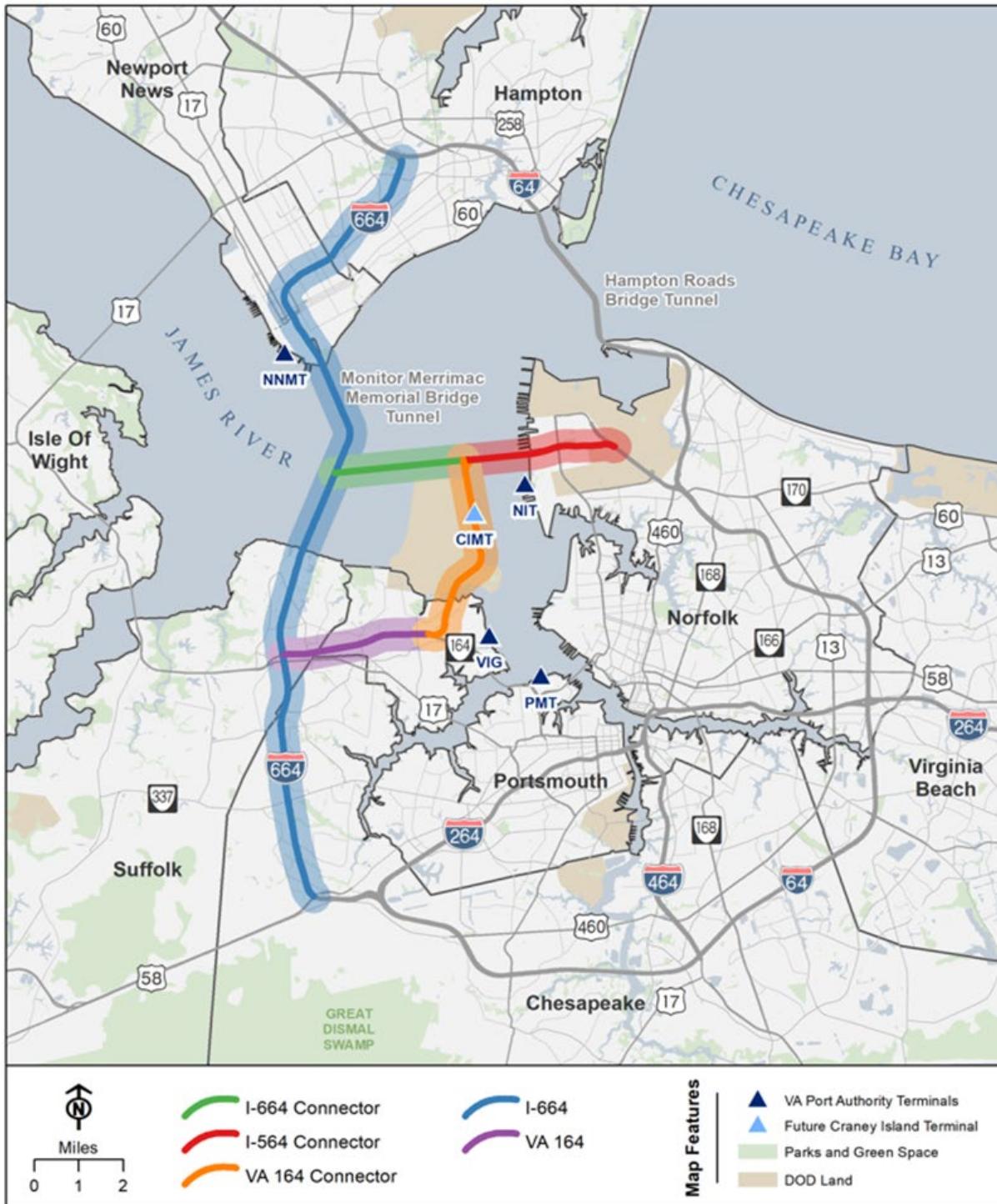
Prepare for and Attend Meetings

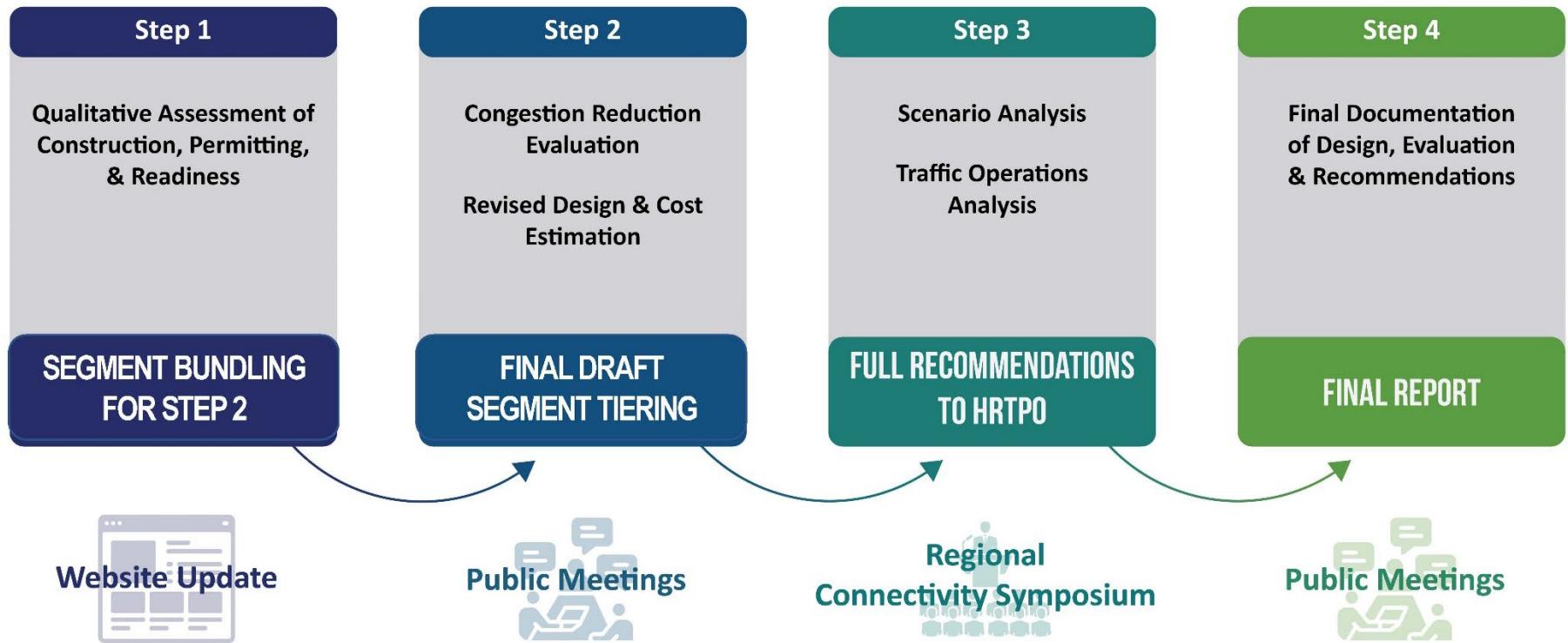
- Prepare for and attend a January 18 meeting to be held between the study team and the City of Portsmouth to discuss the physical features, constraints, and assumptions surrounding the proposed VA 164 widening being studied.
- Next meeting of the Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working group is scheduled for **Monday, February 13, 2023, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**. This meeting will be held **in person** in Board Room A/B of the Regional Building located at 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320
 - ⊖ Discussion material expected to include initial regional results of the scenario analysis, congestion, and economic benefits for the three segment bundles

Attachments:

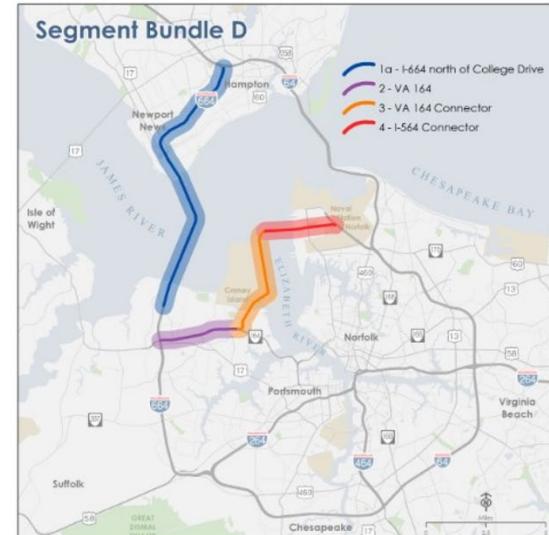
- Mandated Study Segments
- Phase 3 Process Graphic
- Segment Bundles for Scenario Analysis
- Phase 3, Step 2 Schedule – Note the dates for public meetings, all to be held 5:30-7:30 PM:
 - February 1, 2023 – Pearl Bailey Library, Newport News
 - February 2, 2023 – Lambert’s Point Community Center, Norfolk
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Mandated Segments





Segment Bundles Selected for Step 3 Scenario Analysis



Segment 1b (I664 South of College Drive) included in the 2045 RCS Baseline Network

Regional Connectors Study Project Completion Schedule (Steps 3 and 4)

Task	Step	Fall 2022	Winter 2022-2023	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
Code and run 2045 RCS Baseline Network for 4 Land Use Scenarios*	3				
Code and run up to 3 bundle networks for 4 Land Use Scenarios*	3				
Evaluate congestion and economic performance of all of the above	3				
Operational analysis - code/refine segments for analysis	3				
Operational analysis - analyze bundle networks and land use scenarios	3				
Finalize segment cost estimates	3				
Final documentation of study findings	4				
Steering Committee/Working Group Meetings		✓	✓	✓	✓
Public Engagement:					
Regional Connectivity Symposium	3				
HRTPO Community Advisory Comm. Meeting	3,4	✓	✓	✓	
Plan, restart, continue social media	3,4				
Draft promotion materials, promotion plan for public meetings	3,4				
Plan/attend pop-up event (2 locations)	3,4		TBD		TBD
Plan/Prepare/Publicize public meetings	3,4				
Hold public meetings	3,4		Feb. 1, 2, 7, 9		TBD