

**The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

**Certification/Compliance Review of the**

**Hampton Roads Metropolitan Area's**

**Transportation Planning and Programming Process**

U.S. Department **Federal Team Meeting with the 2024 Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**  
of Transportation

**Dates/Times:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Location:** The Regional Building  
723 Woodlake Drive  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**Background:** Every four years the FHWA and FTA conduct a Certification Review of the metropolitan transportation planning process that must include public involvement. Per federal statute and regulation, “in conducting a certification review, the FHWA and the FTA shall provide *opportunities* for public involvement within the metropolitan planning area under review. The FHWA and the FTA *shall consider the public input received in arriving at a decision on a certification action.*” (23 USC 134 (K)(6)(D), 23 CFR 450.336(b)(4))

The Certification formalizes continuing oversight and evaluation of the planning process by U.S. DOT to help ensure that the planning requirements of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303 to 5305 are being satisfactorily implemented in a nondiscriminatory manner.

The Certification provides an opportunity to provide advice and guidance to enhance the metropolitan planning process and improve the quality of transportation decisions. Although FHWA and FTA routinely interact with the metropolitan planning organization and its partner agencies in reviewing and approving planning products and providing technical assistance, this formal external review can be a catalyst to improve the effectiveness of the planning process and its ability to address major issues facing the metropolitan area.

**Purpose:** The Federal review team will participate in a meeting with the Hampton Roads CAC to better understand their role in the transportation planning and program development process for the Hampton Roads Metropolitan area. Our focus areas will include:

- Methods and procedures available for the public to participate.
- Public contributions to the transportation planning and regional decision-making process
- Opportunities for underserved communities to participate in the transportation decision-making process and how is their feedback is reflected in plans and programs
- Equity, environmental justice, and civil rights considerations

**CAC Format:** In advance of our meeting and to help guide our discussions, the Federal review team is providing the attached questions. The Federal Team will introduce each question and lead an informal discussion with CAC members.

For members who are not able to join in-person and choose to join virtually, the following link is being provided for you participation:

**Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)**

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Meeting ID: 289 707 173 374

Passcode: tbkzMe

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation

If you require assistance or additional accommodations to participate, please contact Quan McLaurin (qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov) by **Friday, August 2, 2024**.

### **Questions guiding the discussion with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Following introductions, the Federal team will use the following questions to guide our discussion.

1. Does the CAC have defined or documented processes/procedures for proactively seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services? As an advisory committee to the HRTPO and HRPDC, how are transportation related feedback from underserved populations communicated to you and how is that feedback communicated to the Boards.
2. State code required the HRTPO to establish a Regional Transit Advisory Panel (RTAP) composed of various stakeholders to provide ongoing advice to the regional planning process on the long-term vision for the multimodal regional public transit network in the Hampton Roads. With CAC members also being members of the RTAP, describe your role and the process for ensuring that the advice and recommendations from RTAP are communicated broadly to the Hampton Roads citizens and directly to the HRTPO?
3. Does the CAC have a process for engaging organizations that represent underserved communities in the Hampton Roads Region? Please describe.
4. Please describe situations where public involvement has had an impact on the planning and decision-making process. For example, consider how public involvement contributed to developing transportation priorities and strategies in the long-range plan, prioritizing and selecting investments to be programmed on the TIP, or any other activities.
5. How might the HRTPO and/or the HRPDC improve public involvement? For example, consider changes to the structure of advisory groups, use of media, use of facilitators, or efforts to reach a broader more diverse range of groups.
6. What methods to encourage public involvement are working and what are not? Please provide examples.
7. How does the CAC assist the region to reach consensus on difficult and controversial issues related to transportation?
8. How can public viewpoints successfully be communicated to decision-makers in an area as large and complex as Hampton Roads? What is the role of CAC in this process?
9. How has the CAC changed since the last compliance review (4-years ago)?
10. The CAC is referenced in the updated 2023 HRTPO and HRPDC Title VI compliance review reports. Have you reviewed the reports? Are you aware of any transportation related environmental justice or civil rights concerns based on your community engagement?