

## **ITEM #17: APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

### **A. MINUTES**

Minutes of the HRTPO Board meeting held on November 16, 2017 are attached.

Attachment 17-A

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the minutes.

## **Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board Summary Minutes of November 16, 2017**

The Hampton Roads TPO Board Meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. in the Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

### **HRTPO Voting Members in Attendance:**

Thomas Shepperd, Jr. Chair (YK)  
Rick West (CH)  
Barry Cheatham (FR)  
Rex Alphin (IW)  
Michael Hipple (JC)  
McKinley Price (NN)\*  
Kenneth Alexander (NO)\*  
Herbert Green (Alternate, PQ)

Barry Porter (SH)  
William Sessoms (VB)\*  
Scott Foster (WM)  
William Harrell (HRT)  
Zach Trogdon (WATA)  
Dawn Odom (VDOT)  
Cheryl Openshaw (DRPT)  
Delegate David Yancey (GA)

### **HRTPO Nonvoting Members in Attendance:**

James Baker (CH)  
Mary Bunting (HA)  
J. Brent Fedors (GL)  
Randy Martin (FR)  
Randy Keaton (IW)  
Cynthia Rohlf (NN)  
Doug Smith (NO)  
Randy Wheeler (PQ)  
Michael W. Johnson (SH)

Patrick Roberts (SU)  
Dave Hansen (VB)  
Neil Morgan (YK)  
Marvin Collins (WM)  
Col. Herbert Joliat (Langley-Eustis)  
Commander Susanne Wienrich (U.S. Navy)  
Capt. Richard Wester (U.S. Coast Guard)  
Ron Broughton (CTAC)

### **HRTPO Executive Director:**

Robert A. Crum, Jr.

### **Other Participants:**

Ella Ward (Alternate, CH)  
Vincent Jones (PO)

Kit Chope (VPA)

### **HRTPO Voting Members Absent:**

John Rowe, Vice Chair (PO)  
Phillip Bazzani (GL)  
Donnie Tuck (HA)  
Eugene Hunt (PQ)  
Linda T. Johnson, (SU)  
Paul Freiling (WM)  
Jennifer Mitchell (DRPT)

John Reinhart (VPA)  
James Utterback (VDOT)  
Senator Mamie Locke (GA)  
Senator Frank Wagner (GA)  
Delegate Chris Stolle (GA)  
James Utterback (VDOT)

**HRTPO Nonvoting Members Absent:**

Bryan Hill (JC)

Lydia Pettis-Patton (PO)

Jeffrey Breeden (FAA)

Jessie Yung (FHWA)

Terry Garcia Crews (FTA)

Art Moye (FTAC)

Robert Bowen (Norfolk Airport)

Randall P. Burdette (VDOA)

John Malbon (CTB)

**HRTPO Staff:**

Rob Case

Shirley Core

Andrea Gayer

Mike Kimbrel

John Mihaly

Kendall Miller

Keith Nichols

Dale Stith

Camelia Ravanbakht

**Others Recorded Attending:**

Jeffrey Raliski, Thelma Drake, Wynter Benda (NO); Michael King (US NAVY); Tom Phillips (Lane Construction); Bob Baldwin (PO); Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky (Portsmouth City Watch.org); Scott Lovell (WSP); Brian Smith (HRT); John Gergely (NN Citizen); Bryan Stille (NN); Donna Sayegh (Citizens for Self-Government); Paula Miller (VDOT); Dianna Howard (CTAC); Kevin Page (HRTAC); Keith Cannady, Nancy Collins, Sharon Lawrence, Mike Long, Joseph Turner, Mike Long, Chris Vaigneur (HRPDC Staff).

**Secretary of Transportation Briefing**

The Honorable Aubrey L. Layne, Jr. participated via conference call. He expressed gratitude for all the cooperation he and his office have received over the last four years.

Secretary Layne also congratulated the HRTPO Board on all the success in the region. He noted HRTAC was not previously in place and is now supplying the needed funding to move projects forward. He stated under SMART SCALE, \$397 million is the most money any specific region has received. He announced a ribbon cutting ceremony for Segment 1 of the I-64 Peninsula Widening would be held in December and more information would be forthcoming. He reported HOT Lanes are scheduled to come online in December and testing is underway. He announced the Governor plans to restore a member from the Eastern Shore or Hampton Roads on the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the announcement should happen this week. He noted the member would be a rural at-large. He stated the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) procurement was going well and congratulated the Board and the Region on the unanimous selection of the HRBT project, stating that it took over 30 years to move the project forward.

Mayor Sessoms asked the Secretary about the Governor's commitment to get I-64 complete all the way to Richmond. Secretary Layne responded that the first segment from I-295 to Bottoms Bridge is slated to start construction, and future SMART SCALE projects will need to be considered to connect the two regions.

HRTPO Chair Shepperd and HRTAC Chair Hipple thanked Secretary Layne for his service to Virginia and Hampton Roads.

*\*Mayor Alexander and Mayor Price arrive*

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chair Shepperd welcomed new HRTPO voting member, Mayor Rick West, City of Chesapeake.

Chair Shepperd asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Alphin Moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Mayor Sessoms. The Motion Carried.

### **Executive Director Report**

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, directed members to his report included in the agenda package and asked if there were any questions. He called their attention to a handout consisting of the 2018 Legislative Priorities for the upcoming General Assembly session. He noted the Board could request addendums and additions as needed.

### **Workshop Agenda**

#### **Commonwealth Transportation Board Member Comments and Updates**

There was no representative from the CTB in attendance.

#### **Virginia Department of Transportation**

Ms. Dawn Odom, VDOT Hampton Roads District Planning and Investment Manager, announced the ribbon cutting for Segment 1 of the I-64 Peninsula Widening project would be held December 1st at 9am at the New Industrial Park Bridge located at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Industrial Park Drive in Newport News. She noted an e-vite would be forthcoming. She indicated Segment 3 of the I-64 Peninsula Widening project will be awarded at the December CTB meeting to the same firm completing Segment 1, Shirley Construction. She reported VDOT is currently testing the HOT Express Lanes hoping to have verification complete in December. She noted drivers may see periodic flashing and strobe lights during the testing phase; however no tolls are being charged during this time.

#### **Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation**

Ms. Cheryl Openshaw, DRPT Deputy Director, reported that in August, DRPT completed its study regarding the probable costs and potential funding sources for the Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for higher speed passenger rail between Hampton Roads and Richmond. DRPT briefed the HRTPO Rail and Public Transportation Task Force (RPTTF) on the results of this study in September, including an approximate cost of \$24 million, FY 2018 dollars. She indicated that funding is constrained at both the federal and state levels and it is not known when any funds will be appropriated for the Tier II. She

noted that DRPT will continue to work with HRTPO staff on pursuing other funding options to move this effort forward.

Ms. Openshaw stated that ridership for the current Norfolk AMTRAK service has increased by six percent, attributed mainly to the regional marketing effort that was put forth by Hampton Roads. She noted that there is \$15 million in the Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) for Norfolk Trains 2 and 3, to begin operation in 2019 and 2022, respectively. She commented that the five-year anniversary for the first Norfolk train will occur on December 12th and DRPT is working with the City of Norfolk to celebrate the event.

She noted that DRPT recently welcomed Mr. Michael McLaughlin as Chief of Rail Transportation.

### **Virginia Port Authority Update**

Mr. Kit Chope, VPA Vice President, Sustainability, reported that the General Re-evaluation report for the Norfolk Harbor Deepening report is available for public review and comment until December 10, 2017. He stated that the Norfolk Harbor will be dredged to the depth of 55 feet with some widening that will allow for the accommodation of larger ships in a safe and expeditious fashion. He stated the Virginia International Gateway Expansion project in the City of Portsmouth is moving forward, as is the \$350 million Norfolk International Terminals Optimization program in the City of Norfolk which will break ground in January 2018. The I-564 Intermodal Connector will open soon in limited fashion that will allow direct access to the North Gate complex.

### **HRT and WATA Updates**

Mr. William Harrell, HRT President, reported that HRT is continuing with the Peninsula Corridor Study and expressed appreciation to the Hampton and Newport News City Councils for their Resolutions of Support. HRT plans to move forward with a baseline of environmental work for the bus rapid transit project, with two or three possible alignments, so that if and when funding becomes available, HRT will be able to proceed. He noted that HRT plans to reprogram some of its planning money to aid with its fleet state of good repair.

Mr. Zach Trogdon, WATA Executive Director, reported that WATA is currently preparing its FY 2019 budget to send to the localities. WATA is working on outstanding capital projects, including fleet replacement and shelter improvements. He noted that WATA plans to implement a system that will provide more accurate data on ridership and passengers, and also review a project that will re-power some of its CNG fleet. He stated that WATA is looking forward to conversations with the HRTPO's RPTTF regarding transit service in the area.

### **Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Update**

Mr. Ron Broughton, CTAC Vice-Chair, reported that CTAC did not meet this past month. He requested that since CTAC has officially changed its name from the Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) to the Community Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), that this change be reflected in the next agenda.

## **Military Liaisons Comments and Updates**

Colonel Herbert Joliat of Joint Langley Eustis had no comments.

Captain Rick Wester of the U.S. Coast Guard reported that the Coast Guard has advised mariners of the geotechnical boring operations occurring at the HRBT 24-7 until February 28, 2018. He stated that maintenance on the James River Bridge is complete with openings now back on schedule. He noted that the Dismal Swamp Canal, damaged by Hurricane Matthew last year, has re-opened. Captain Wester referred back to Mr. Chope's comments regarding the widening of the Norfolk Harbor and stated that the deepening will also assist coal ships, as with the deeper channel, more coal can be loaded onto the vessels. He commented that the Coast Guard is also advising mariners of the altered operating schedule for the I-64 High-Rise Bridge due to maintenance.

Commander Susanne Weinrich of the U.S. Navy had no comments.

## **2017 Audited Financial Statements**

Mr. Michael Garber, Partner, PBMares, briefed the Board on the annual review of the financial statements of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). He stated that there were no material weaknesses or deficiencies identified in any of the internal controls or processes of the financial activity, and all information was free of any material misstatements. He noted that while there were findings in 2016 there were no repeat findings in 2017.

Mr. Michael Hipple, Joint HRPDC and HRTPO Personnel and Budget (P&B) Committee member, stated that P&B accepted the 2017 Audited Financial Statements.

This item was included in the meeting agenda for approval under Item #19-C.

## **HRTAC 2040 Long-Range Plan of Finance Update**

Mr. Kevin Page, Executive Director, HRTAC, briefed the Board on the HRTAC 2040 Long-Range Plan of Finance. In September, HRTAC adopted its 2040 Long Range Plan of Finance Update. He noted a Public Hearing was conducted on July 20, 2017 and no comments were received. He reported minor adjustments have been made to the proposed plan to reflect updated project estimates and obligations of both HRTAC and VDOT. He thanked HRTPO staff for the SMART SCALE funding received. The Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) will be complete in 2024 with toll revenues to HRTAC. He pointed out that there are assumptions on tolling and SMART SCALE funds.

## **Proposed 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment**

Ms. Dale Stith, HRTPO Principal Transportation Planner, noted the current 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan was adopted in July 2016 and will be effective through July 2021. The plan requires amendments to reflect cost estimates and opening year information for regional priority projects. This proposed amendment reflects updated revenue assumptions received from both VDOT and HRTAC. In September 2017, VDOT

updated the long-range forecast and projected a decrease in HRTF funds from the previous estimate of \$6 billion to \$5 billion. This amendment reflects the updated project cost estimate from HRTAC funding \$8.48 billion, less than the long-range HRTAC revenue forecast of \$8.56 billion.

This item was included in the meeting agenda for approval under Item #19-D.

### **Moving the Economy**

Dr. Robert Case, HRTPO Principal Transportation Engineer, presented Moving the Economy. This report measures how well the Hampton Roads transportation system serves, the region's key economic sectors. He noted the economic vitality of the Hampton Roads region is tied to three main economic sectors: the Port, Military and Hospitality. Staff compared the port to three other Mid-Atlantic ports using the following four measures: service area provided by the highway, time necessary to travel first 30 highway miles from Port, Class I Railroads serving the Port, and channel depth and bridge restriction from ocean to port. The Hampton Roads highway system allows the Port of Virginia to serve more population within eight highway hours than any other east coast port. Due to sensitivity and security issues HRTPO staff has placed the Military comparison in an internal performance memo reviewed by a technical panel. Hospitality was analyzed using the following measures: bike and pedestrian friendliness, time necessary to travel first/last thirty highway miles, presence/absence of special public transit for visitors, accessibility and level of service of the Airport, accessibility and level of service of Amtrak. This report is available for review on the HRTPO website.

This item was included in the meeting agenda for approval under Item #19-E.

### **Meeting Agenda**

#### **Public Comment Period**

Ms. Donna Sayegh, Portsmouth Citizen, expressed concern regarding the allocation of tax dollars at various governmental levels.

Mr. John Gergley, Newport News Citizen, expressed concern that the HOT Express Lanes will disadvantage low-income earners.

*A transcription of the public comments made orally during HRTPO Board meetings will be included in the HRTPO Agenda each month. The transcript will also be posted on the HRTPO website when available.*

#### **Submitted Public Comments**

Chair Shepperd reported there were no submitted public comments in the Agenda packet.

## **Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda is as follows:

### Approval of Consent Items

- A. Minutes
- B. HRTPO Financial Report
- C. 2017 Audited Financial Statements
- D. Proposed 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan Amendment
- E. Moving the Economy: How Well the Transportation System of Hampton Roads Serves Three Key Economic Sectors – Port, Military, and Hospitality: Final Report
- F. FY 2018-2021 TIP Amendment – DRPT
- G. FY 2018-201 TIP Amendment - HRT

Mayor Sessoms Moved to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Mayor Alexander. The Motion Carried.

## **HRTPO Board Three-Month Tentative Schedule**

Chair Shepperd outlined the HRTPO Board three-month tentative schedule in the Agenda Packet, noting the Board will not meet in December.

## **Minutes of HRTPO Advisory Committee Meetings**

Chair Shepperd noted there were summary minutes from the HRTPO Advisory Committee meetings included in the Agenda packet.

## **For Your Information**

Chair Shepperd highlighted the items in the For Your Information section of the Agenda packet.

*\*Mayor Sessoms departs*

## **Old/New Business**

Chair Shepperd thanked Mr. Rex Alphin for his service to Isle of Wight County and the HRTPO Board.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Hampton Roads TPO, the meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

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Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.  
Chair

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Robert A. Crum, Jr.  
Executive Director/Secretary