

Action Summary
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization Board Meeting
February 17, 2022

The Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:33 a.m.

A quorum was not yet achieved; therefore, the meeting continued with non-action agenda items.

2. Public Comments

There were no in-person public comments or submitted public comments.

3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, introduced new HRPDC employees Jaquil Tatum, Accounting Manager, and Dmitry Rekhter, IT Manager.

Mr. Crum provided a summary of current work activities of the HRTPO, and stated that he attended a community meeting with Senator Lionell Spruill, Sr. and Mr. Scott Smizik of VODT regarding the Bowers Hill Interchange. An overview was provided regarding not only the Bowers Hill Interchange, but also the various transportation investments currently happening in the region.

Mr. Crum introduced Mr. Bryan Stephens, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, who briefed the Board on the 2022 Leadership Exchange to be held June 22 – 25, 2022 in Charlotte NC. Mr. Stephens provided a handout pertaining to the Exchange and noted that all were invited to attend.

A quorum was achieved and the meeting continued.

4. Approval of Agenda [Action Requested]

The HRTPO Board unanimously approved the agenda as written.

5. Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Members Update

Mr. Frederick Stant, III, CTB member, reported that the Virginia General Assembly (GA) is in session and the CTB will convene once the GA weighs in on the various bills currently moving through the legislature. He noted that he conversed with Secretary of Transportation W. Sheppard Miller who plans to address the I-64 Gap between Hampton Roads and Richmond.

6. Virginia Department of Transportation Update

Mr. Christopher Hall reported that work continues on the I-64 Widening, including the High-Rise Bridge project, and indicated that the bridge is scheduled to open to traffic in late April or early May 2022. He stated that the Notice of Intent for the Bowers Hill Interchange is due to be posted which will be the first milestone for the Study. He noted that VDOT staff will brief the HRTPO Board on the Study in the near future.

7. Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Update

Ms. Jennifer DeBruhl stated that DRPT presented several amendments to the CTB regarding its Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) pertaining to updated revenue forecasts and additional funding to HRT, WATA, and Suffolk Transit. She noted that DRPT's draft SYIP will be released in April and DRPT will hold in-person public meetings this year.

8. Virginia Port Authority (VPA) Update

There was no representative in attendance from the Port.

9. HRT and WATA Updates

Mr. Ray Amoruso reported that HRT is graduating a large class of bus operators and noted that several transit services should be reinstated in May 2022.

Mr. Zach Trogdon reported that WATA is moving forward with the design of its administrative and operations facility with the contract to be awarded in September 2022 and construction scheduled for completion in December 2023. WATA is currently seeking consulting services for its Transit Strategic Plan, required by DRPT.

10. Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) Update

Mr. Robert Eveleigh stated that FTAC will hold its next meeting in March 2022.

11. Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Update

Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, CAC's new Chair, stated that the CAC looks forward to advising the HRTPO Board on community sentiment at future meetings.

12. Military Liaison Updates

Mr. Michael King, representing the U.S. Navy, expressed his appreciation to the Board for including the Navy.

13. Airport Representatives Update

There were no representatives in attendance from the respective airports.

14. Naval Station Norfolk Transit Corridor Project

Mr. Ray Amoruso, HRT Chief Planning and Development Officer, reported that the purpose of the Naval Station Norfolk (NSN) Transit Corridor project is to provide greater and more equitable transportation options, improve access between activity centers, and provide a fast, reliable, flood-resilient, and cost-effective alternative to automobiles. The study, which began in late 2019, is ongoing, and included in that process is:

- *A two-tier evaluation process to identify an initial recommended alternative*
- *A thorough environmental review of the local recommended alternative*
- *A formal selection of the locally preferred alternative and preparation for design and grant funding*

As a result of HRT's two-tiered evaluation process, two phases were recommended to move forward to the Norfolk City Council:

- *Phase 1 – 2.2-mile Tide Extension to Military Circle Redevelopment Area*
- *Phase 2 – Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to NSN*

The general timeline for Phase 1 is as follows:

- *Spring and Summer 2022 – Action by the City of Norfolk and submittal of a SMART SCALE application*
- *March 2023 – Locally Preferred Alternative*
- *2024 and 2025 – Solidify Funding Plan and complete engineering*
- *2028 – Begin construction*

The general timeline for Phase 2 is as follows:

- *2022 and 2023 – Chesapeake Study*
- *2024 – 2026 – Federal Transit Administration (FTA) project development with an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*
- *2028 and 2029 – Preliminary Engineering (PE) and FTA grant application*
- *2030 – Final design and construction through 2033*

15. Regional Transit Advisory Panel (RTAP) Update

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, reported that during the 2020 General Assembly session, the Legislature passed House Bill 1726 and Senate Bill 1038 which created the Hampton Roads Regional Transit Fund (HRRTF). As part of this action, the General Assembly included the following provision:

“That the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization shall establish a regional transit advisory panel composed of representatives of major business and industry groups, employers, shopping destinations, institutions of higher education, military installations, hospitals, and healthcare centers, public transit entities, and any other groups identified as necessary to provide ongoing advice to the regional planning process required pursuant to § 33.2-286 of the Code of Virginia on the long-term vision for a multimodal regional public transit network in Hampton Roads.”

Mr. Crum stated that in order to address this requirement, HRTPO staff worked with the HRTPO Board and Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) staff to appoint the Regional Transit Advisory Panel (RTAP). The RTAP held its first meeting on November 18, 2020, and met eight times between November 2020 and November 2021. The Panel formed nine working groups to develop recommendations to enhance transit efforts in Hampton Roads.

The RTAP working groups each met several times over a three-month period and reported their recommendations back to the full RTAP membership. After reaching a consensus on additions/revisions to the recommendations, the RTAP endorsed a full list of recommendations for advancing and strengthening transit in the Hampton Roads region. More information on the categories discussed by the working groups and the top recommendations identified by the Panel under each category are highlighted in the RTAP Recommendations Brochure at the direct link below:

https://www.hrtpo.org/uploads/docs/RTAP_Brochure_1_2022_Final.pdf

Mr. Crum also briefed the Board on the first Hampton Roads Regional Transit Advocacy Day which was held in Richmond, VA with the Virginia General Assembly on February 3, 2022.

16. Approval of Consent Items [Action Requested]

The HRTPO Board unanimously approved the Consent Items as written.

17. HRTPO Board Three-Month Tentative Schedule

This item was for informational purposes.

18. Minutes of HRTPO Committee Meetings

This item was for informational purposes.

19.

For Your Information

This item was for informational purposes.

20. Old/New Business

There was no old/new business.

ADJOURNMENT