

HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2021

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 HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) members, staff, and the general public, the FTAC meeting was held electronically via Webex with the following in attendance:

Members in Attendance:

David White, Virginia Maritime Association
Rick Morris, Canon
Mike Abbott, Hapag-Lloyd

Members Not Present:

Marcia Capelli, Huntington Ingalls
Larry Ewan,

Other Participants:

Bob Eveleigh,
Cannon Moss, NPBL
Ivan Rucker, FHWA
Carl Jackson, Portsmouth
Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO
Keith Nichols, HRTPO
Dale Stith, HRTPO
Sam Belfield, HRTPO
Barbara Nelson, The Port of Virginia

Ms. Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO Deputy Executive Director, stated that pursuant to the declared state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the health and safety of the Committee members, staff, and the general public, the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) meeting was being held electronically via Webex. These electronic meetings are required to complete essential business on behalf of the region.

Per the requirements of the Code of Virginia, the meeting agenda and all supporting documentation were posted on the HRTPO website for public review, and electronic copies of this information were provided to FTAC members and other interested parties. A recording of the meeting will be available on the HRTPO website. Additionally, the meeting was live-streamed and available for viewing on the Regional Connection YouTube channel.

The general public was provided an opportunity to comment on the agenda in advance of the meeting via two options:

1. Members of the public were invited to submit comments to the FTAC via email.
2. Members of the public were also invited to call into a dedicated phone line where comments could be recorded for the FTAC.

No comments were received via either option as of 48 hours before the meeting.

Ms. Parthasarathi reviewed a few important housekeeping rules in order for the FTAC meeting to run smoothly:

1. Everyone was asked to remain on mute before and after providing input.
2. Everyone was asked to identify themselves by name and the locality or agency they represent when providing input, a motion, or second.
3. All votes taken must be made by roll call vote and recorded in the minutes.

Ms. Parthasarathi thanked everyone for their cooperation and patience, and attendance was recorded by roll call.

I. CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTION

The February 23, 2021 meeting of the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) meeting was called to order by Keith Nichols, HRTPO Principal Transportation Engineer, at approximately 11:30AM and David White was appointed chair pro-temps due by motion of Rick Morris with a second by Mike Abbott; all ayes.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On a motion by Rick Morris with a second by Mike Abbott, the agenda was approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

December 18, 2019 summary minutes of the FTAC were approved as presented with a motion by Mike Abbott with a second by Rick Morris; all ayes.

V. FTAC MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Nelson, POV, provided an overview of the recent vacancies on the FTAC and introduced Mr. Bob Eveleigh, Chief Operating Officer of Port City Transportation, and Mr. Cannon Moss, President & General Manager of the Norfolk & Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad and president of the Virginia Railroad Association. Mr. Eveleigh and Mr. Moss are recommended by the port and HRTPO to fill existing vacancies on the FTAC.

Action: with a motion by Rick Morris and a second by Mike Abbott, to recommend HRTPO Board approval of the proposed membership changes. It is anticipated that this item will be placed on the April HRTPO Board agenda.

VI. 2045 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN – DRAFT PROJECT LIST

Ms. Dale Stith, HRTPO, provided an overview of the development of the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Over 250+ multimodal candidate transportation projects were scored and prioritized and the final prioritization scores and report were approved by the HRTPO Board at its January 21, 2021 meeting.

These scores, along with forecasted available transportation revenues, provide the inputs to revise the Fiscal Constraint Guiding Principles and develop a draft fiscally constrained list of projects for the 2045 LRTP.

A 30-day public review and comment opportunity is scheduled began on February 18th and the HRTPO is seeking input from its standing committees and the public. HRTPO staff will be seeking approval of the final list from the HRTPO Board during a special meeting on March 29.

Ms. Stith's presentation highlighted projects that would directly benefit the freight and intermodal needs in the region. With a motion by Mike Abbott and a second by Rick Morris action was taken to endorse a resolution supporting the draft fiscally constrained list of projects in the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

VII. STATEWIDE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Barbara Nelson, POV, provided an informational update on the effort at the state level to ensure that freight is considered continuously and comprehensively in Virginia's transportation planning and project development process. The input received from this new standing committee will be to achieve a dynamic transportation system to create economic opportunity for Virginia and the nation.

Under the direction of the Secretary of Transportation, a statewide freight advisory committee (FAC) is preparing for its initial organization meeting. A list of potential members has been provided to the Secretary representing the interests of freight and it is anticipated that up to four meetings will be held during the 2021 calendar year, including an annual freight forum. Invitations to members will be sent within the next 30 days.

Discussion included the HRTPO's role in being the first MPO in Virginia to integrate freight planning into the regional transportation planning process and as the only MPO with a standing freight advisory committee. MPO involvement will be included with the statewide freight advisory committee and it was agreed that Ms. Nelson would coordinate with the HRTPO on those participation opportunities.

VIII. HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL FREIGHT FACILITIES INVENTORY

Sam Belfield, HRTPO, provided an update on an HRTPO work effort to create a detailed data and mapping inventory of freight facilities in Hampton Roads. This inventory would include freight-generating facilities and other critical freight generators. The inventory will also include waterways, railroads, and highways that are critical to moving freight into, out of, and throughout the region. Information on truck bottlenecks and intermodal conflict points such as highway-rail crossings and moveable bridges.

The Hampton Roads Freight Facilities Inventory will be GIS or web-based and interactive, which will allow users to obtain detailed information on each freight facility.

Discussion included how this developing resource could be a model for Virginia to consider as it develops the freight component of the statewide long-range transportation plan, VTrans, and advances freight related planning efforts.

IX. FTAC BYLAWS

Keith Nichols, HRTPO, initiated a discussion with the FTAC on the proposed revisions to the FTAC bylaws. A discussion on updating the FTAC Bylaws was initiated at the September 2019 FTAC meeting and continued at the December 2019 meeting. Comments from both meetings have been incorporated into the attached updated draft set of Bylaws and each section was reviewed and comments discussed. The recommended changes will be incorporated and the FTAC will be asked to approve the Bylaws at the next meeting.

X. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTION ITEMS

Future meeting topics included in the agenda were discussed and it was agreed that the HRTPO would consider these topics in the development of the next agenda. Permitting trucks in HOT/Express Lanes was mentioned as an additional future meeting topic.

XI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business discussion.

XII. NEXT MEETINGS

The HRTPO will send out a poll for dates/times of the next meeting with a target of meeting quarterly in 2021.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10PM.