

**AGENDA ITEM #6: MINUTES**

Summary minutes of the TTAC meeting held on February 4, 2015 are attached.

Attachment 6

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the minutes.

## **Summary Minutes of the HRTPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) Meeting February 4, 2015**

The HRTPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) Meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. in the Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

### **TTAC Voting Members in Attendance:**

Robert Gey (Chair, VB)	Tammy Rosario (JC)	Phil Pullen (VB)
Steve Froncillo (CH)	Britta Ayers (NN)	Brian Solis (VB)
Steve Lambert (CH)	Jackie Kassel (NN)	Reed Nester (WM)
Earl Sorey (CH)	Bryan Stilley (NN)	Tim Cross (YK)
Garrey Curry (GL)	Jeff Raliski (NO)	Chris Arabia (DRPT)
Lynn Allsbrook (HA)	Susan Wilson (PO)	Julie Timm (HRT)
Keith Cannady (HA)	James Wright (PO)	Dawn Odom (VDOT)
John Yorks (HA)	Sherry Earley (SU)	Eric Stringfield (VDOT)
Jamie Oliver (IW)	Robert Lewis (SU)	Jeff Florin (VPA)
Michael Stallings (IW)	Scott Mills (SU)	Jamie Jackson (WATA)
Paul Holt (JC)		

### **TTAC Voting Members Absent:**

Anne Ducey-Ortiz (GL)	Ellen Roberts (PQ)	Steve Martin (WM)
Emily Gibson (GL)	Debbie Vest (PQ)	J. Mark Carter (YK)
Peter Stephenson (IW)	Kevin Wyne (PQ)	Al Maddalena (YK)
Allen J. Murphy, Jr. (JC)	Daniel Clayton (WM)	Stephen Rowan (VDOT)
Robert Brown (NO)		

### **TTAC Nonvoting Members in Attendance:**

Rhonda Murray (NAVY)

### **TTAC Nonvoting Members Absent:**

Tony Cho (FTA)                      Ivan Rucker (FHWA)

### **HRTPO Staff:**

Sam Belfield	Jimmie McNamara	Camelia Ravanbakht
Rob Case	John Mihaly	Seth Schipinski
Kathlene Grauberger	Kendall Miller	Dale Stith
Theresa Jones	Keith Nichols	Chris Wichman

### **Others Recorded Attending:**

Robert Brown, Frank Papcin, Donna Sayegh (Citizens); Joe Howell (NO); Toni Alger, Mark Shea (VB); Karen McPherson (McPherson Consulting); Philip Rinehart (HNTB); Rich Clifton (American Infrastructure); Sachin Katkar (RK&K); Ray Amoruso, Keisha Branch, Joe Dillard, Jr., Sam Sink (HRT); Angela Biney, Shelley Bogue, Ray Hunt, Carl Jackson, Darryll Lewis, Jay Neider, Jim Ponticello, Matt Shaver, Christopher Voigt (VDOT); Mike Long, Chris Vaigneur (HRPDC Staff)

## **Introductions**

Mr. Jeff Florin introduced himself as the newest TTAC member representing the Virginia Port Authority, replacing Mr. Kevin Abt, who recently retired.

Dr. Camelia Ravanbakht announced that HRTPO Transportation Planner Chris Wichman would be relocating to Richmond at the end of the month. She expressed her appreciation for his contributions to the HRTPO.

## **Public Comment Period**

Ms. Donna Sayegh, Portsmouth Citizen, stated this was her first TTAC meeting and noted that she plans to become more involved. She indicated she is for limited government.

Mr. Robert Brown, Chesapeake Citizen, addressed the TTAC regarding the Third Crossing.

Mr. Frank Papcin, Virginia Beach Citizen, addressed the TTAC regarding transportation priorities.

## **Submitted Public Comments**

There were no submitted public comments in the agenda packet.

## **Comments and Updates from State and Federal Agencies and the Military**

Ms. Dawn Odom reported that VDOT will be hosting a local transportation workshop on March 26, 2015 at a yet-to-be-determined location in Hampton. Dr. Camelia Ravanbakht indicated that HRTPO staff will transmit the VDOT announcement to all TTAC members when available.

Mr. Chris Arabia reported that DRPT is currently reviewing Transit and Demand Management applications. He provided the website address ([www.dc2rvarail.com](http://www.dc2rvarail.com)) for the Washington D.C./Richmond High Speed Rail Corridor.

There were no comments from FHWA.

Mr. Jeff Florin announced the retirement of Mr. Kevin Abt from the Virginia Port Authority and stated the Port received a State grant to study channel deepening. He noted that this study is underway.

There were no comments from the Navy.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Chair Gey asked for additions or deletions to the TTAC Agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Lynn Allsbrook Moved to approve the agenda as written; seconded by Mr. Phil Pullen. The Motion Carried.

## Summary Minutes

Chair Gey reported that the TTAC summary minutes from the January 7, 2015 meeting were included in the February 4, 2015 TTAC Agenda Packet. Chair Gey asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Tim Cross Moved to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Allsbrook. The Motion Carried.

### **FY 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: HRT**

Ms. Keisha Branch reported that HRT is requesting to amend the Hampton Roads FY 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to revise the funding information for fourteen projects and add five new projects.

The TIP amendment has been made available for public review and comment. The public review period began on January 28, 2015 and runs through February 11, 2015.

Mr. Brian Solis Moved to recommend HRTPO Board approval of the TIP Amendment; seconded by Mr. Earl Sorey. The Motion Carried.

### **FY 2015-2018 TIP – CMAQ & RSTP TRANSFER REQUEST: WATA & HRT**

Dr. Camelia Ravanbakht reported that the Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) and Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) are requesting to transfer Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds between several projects in order to make use of available FY 2012 CMAQ funds returned from the HRTPO High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail project (UPC 102728), which funded a series of studies related to high-speed and intercity passenger rail. WATA has requested additional funds for its Administration and Operations Facility project (UPC T11932). Because the project is an RSTP project and has not been through the CMAQ project selection process, WATA coordinated with Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) on the possibility of exchanging the available CMAQ funds for an equivalent amount in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds.

The Transportation Programming Subcommittee (TPS) discussed this request during its meeting on January 23, 2015 and has recommended approval of the CMAQ and RSTP funding transfers as documented in the WATA request letter.

This request has been made available for public review and comment. The public review period began on January 28, 2015 and runs through February 11, 2015.

Mr. Jeff Florin Moved to recommend HRTPO Board approval of the fund transfers and associated TIP Amendment; seconded by Mr. Solis. The Motion Carried.

## **HRTPO CMAQ/RSTP Project Selection Process 2014 Report**

Mr. John Mihaly, HRTPO Transportation Analyst, reported that the HRTPO, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Hampton Roads area, is responsible for project selection and allocation of funds under two federal funding programs – the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program and the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP). The process used by the HRTPO to select projects to receive funds from these two programs is referred to as the CMAQ/RSTP Project Selection Process. The project selection process is conducted annually, normally beginning in July and running through December.

He stated that the completed report summarizes the work of selecting CMAQ and RSTP projects during the 2014 CMAQ/RSTP Project Selection Process. He noted that the CMAQ and RSTP projects and allocations were approved by the HRTPO Board on November 20, 2014.

Mr. Phil Pullen Moved to recommend HRTPO Board approval of the *HRTPO CMAQ/RSTP Project Selection Process 2014 Report*; seconded by Mr. Bryan Stilley. The Motion Carried.

## **HB2 Statewide Transportation Prioritization Process**

Mr. John Mihaly, HRTPO Transportation Analyst, reported that House Bill 2 (HB2), signed into law in 2014, directs the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop and use a prioritization process to select transportation projects. The legislation is intended to improve the transparency and accountability of project selection, as well as improve stability in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). The process is to score projects based on an objective analysis and provide guidance to the CTB for project selection and funding.

He stated that at this stage of development, the Secretary's Office has requested input on the following:

- Project Submission
- Funding
- Measures to be used in the evaluation of each of the following criteria (the legislation requires that the statewide prioritization process be based on an objective, quantifiable analysis that considers, at a minimum, the following factors relative to the cost of the project or strategy):
  - Safety
  - Congestion Mitigation
  - Accessibility
  - Environmental Quality
  - Economic Development
  - Land Use & Transportation Coordination
- Weighting of the criteria listed above for different area types
- Other issues

He indicated that a Transportation Programming Subcommittee (TPS) meeting was held on January 23, 2015 for the purpose of compiling a set of HRTPO recommendations regarding the HB2 prioritization process to be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation.

He outlined the draft set of recommendations produced by the TPS and noted that these recommendations will be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation.

Chair Gey commented that it is the function of the HRTPO Board to transmit any HB2 recommendations to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation; however, the February HRTPO Board meeting was cancelled due to the HRPDC Annual Retreat, and input must be received by February 28, 2015. Therefore, the TTAC is responsible for approving and submitting the HB2 recommendations. Dr. Ravanbakht requested that TTAC members inform their HRTPO Board members of the submittal of recommendations.

After a lengthy discussion and revision of several recommendations, Mr. Sorey Moved to approve the amended recommendations for submission to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation; seconded by Ms. Julie Timm. The Motion Carried.

### **Urban Development Areas (UDAs) Update**

Mr. Seth Schipinski, HRTPO Transportation Engineer, reported that in 2007, UDAs were authorized by the General Assembly as a requirement for certain high growth localities to designate areas “sufficient to meet projected residential and commercial growth in the locality for an ensuing period of at least 10 but not more than 20 years”. In 2012, however, UDAs were defined more broadly and made optional.

Mr. Schipinski indicated that currently, Hampton Roads has five UDAs in the localities of Gloucester, Isle of Wight County, and Virginia Beach. He noted that HB2 requires that candidate projects for the statewide prioritization process be screened “to determine whether they are consistent with...improvements to promote urban development areas”.

He stated that the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) recently announced a grant program that will offer professional planning consultant assistance to local governments and regional entities interested in designating or updating at least one UDA to serve as an HB2 screening criterion.

### **Analyzing and Mitigating the Impact of Tolls at the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels: Part II**

Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO Senior Transportation Engineer, reported that on December 5, 2011, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) signed a comprehensive agreement with Elizabeth River Crossings (ERC) for construction of an additional two-lane tube at the Midtown Tunnel (MTT), rehabilitation of the Downtown Tunnel (DTT), and extension of the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Freeway to I-264 – including the tolling of the MTT, DTT, and MLK Freeway extension. Tolling began at the DTT and MTT on February 1, 2014. In FY 2013, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) staff began a multi-year study comparing the “before” and “after” traffic conditions to discover the impact of tolling.

Mr. Nichols stated that Part I of this study, presented at the January TTAC and HRTPO Board meetings, included an analysis of traffic queues and queue clearance times during peak hours along the Midtown and Downtown Tunnel approaches and alternate routes “before” and “after” toll implementation using photos and videos collected by HRTPO staff. It also included an analysis of HRT bus and ferry ridership for selected routes “before” and “after” toll implementation.

He indicated Part II of the study included “before” and “after” traffic volume analysis of:

- Weekday Volumes
- Peak vs. Off Peak Volumes
- Weekend Volumes
- Truck Volumes

He noted that Part III of the study is scheduled for the March TTAC meeting and will include a “before” and “after” analysis of INRIX segment travel time/speed data as well as study recommendations. In addition, the draft report will be available for review in March 2015.

### **Connect Hampton Roads – Six Pillars: HRT**

Mr. Ray Amoruso, HRT Chief Planning and Development Officer, reported that Connect Hampton Roads, an initiative by Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), is an effort to shape a new plan to support economic prosperity for the communities across Hampton Roads by improving regional mobility.

After summarizing the initiative’s six goals, he provided the Six Pillars to improving regional mobility as follows:

- Enhance Bus Networks and Transit Hubs
- High-Capacity Transit Network (Fixed Guideway Investments)
- Park-and-Rides
- Transit/Passenger Facilities and Amenities
- Active Transportation – Complementary transportation investments integrating modes of travel
- Transit Service Facilities, Rolling Stock, Security, Information Technology

Mr. Amoruso concluded by outlining the next steps through the Summer of 2015.

### **U.S. Route 460 Recommended Preferred Alternative: VDOT**

Mr. Jay Neider, VDOT Hampton Roads District Megaprojects Director, reported that on January 12, 2015, it was announced that VDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identified a recommended Preferred Alternative to improve the U.S. 460 corridor in southeastern Virginia, noting that this alternative appears to be the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) for the project.

Mr. Neider outlined the project's Purpose and Need as such:

- Roadway Classification – address roadway deficiencies
- Safety
- Mobility & Evacuation
- Accommodate Freight Traffic

He indicated that the original preferred alternatives were not affordable, and even if funds were available, the wetland impacts of the complete Building Alternatives were too great.

He noted that the recommended Preferred Alternative would improve 17 miles of U.S. 460 from Suffolk to west of Zuni. A new four-lane divided highway would be built from the U.S. 460/58 interchange in Suffolk to west of Windsor. From west of Windsor to west of Zuni, the existing U.S. 460 would be upgraded to a four-lane divided highway and include a new bridge across the Blackwater River to eliminate long standing flooding problems.

### **FY 2015-2018 TIP: Quarterly Snapshot**

Mr. Chris Wichman, HRTPO Transportation Planner, reported that the HRTPO FY 2015-2018 TIP was approved by the FHWA and the FTA and became effective on October 1, 2014. He stated the October – December 2014 data becomes the baseline for future quarterly snapshots.

He indicated that eight CMAQ and RSTP projects showed no expenditures during the past two quarters, including:

- 3 completed/cancelled projects awaiting financial close
- 2 active projects with delayed or unknown status
- 3 newly active projects awaiting first expenditure

He noted that 12 previously flagged CMAQ/RSTP projects not included in the FY 2015-2018 TIP will be suggested to VDOT for financial closeout.

Next steps include:

- Coordinate with CMAQ and RSTP project sponsors to determine reasons for stalled projects
- Continue working with VDOT on improving data exchange and financial closeouts

### **Correspondence of Interest**

Chair Gey noted the items in the Correspondence of Interest section of the Agenda packet.

### **Three-Month Tentative Schedule**

Chair Gey outlined the Three-Month Tentative Schedule for TTAC.



## **For Your Information**

Chair Gey summarized the items in the For Your Information section of the Agenda packet.

## **Announcements**

Chair Gey announced that the LRTP Subcommittee will meet directly after TTAC in Conference Room D.

## **Old/New Business**

There was no new or old business.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Hampton Roads Transportation Technical Advisory Committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.