

**Joint Meeting – Regional Connectors Study  
Steering Committee and Working Group  
Minutes of February 13, 2019**

The Joint meeting of the Regional Connectors Study (RCS) Steering Committee and Working Group was called to order at 10:02 a.m. in the Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

**Steering Committee Members/Working Group:**

James Baker (CH)	James Wright (PO)
Early Sorey (CH)	Rob Lewis (SU)
Rick West (CH)	Jason Souders (SU)
Brian DeProfio (HA)	Robert Dyer (VB)
Angela Rico (HA)	Tara Reel (VB)
McKinley Price (NN)	Ivan Rucker (FHWA)
Bryan Stilley (NN)	Rick Dwyer (HRMMFA)
Christine Armstrong (NO)	Craig Quigley (HRMMFA)
Brian Fowler (NO)	Kevin Page (HRTAC)
Amy Inman (NO)	Michael King (US Navy) – via telephone
Martin Thomas (NO)	Robin Grier (VDOT)
Bob Baldwin (PO)	Christopher Hall (VDOT)
Carl Jackson (PO)	John Reinhart (VPA)
John Rowe (PO)	Barbara Nelson (VPA)

**HRTPO Executive Director:**

Robert A. Crum, Jr.

**RCS Project Coordinator**

Camelia Ravanbakht

**RCS Consultant Team:**

Craig Eddy  
Beth Drylie  
Lorna Parkins

**HRTPO Staff:**

Michael Kimbrel	Dale Stith
Kendal Miller	Kathlene Grauberger
Keith Nichols	

**Others Recorded Attending:**

Keith Cannady (HRPDC); Jason Flowers (US Army Corp. of Engineers)

## Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, stated that Mayor Linda Johnson and City Manager Patrick Roberts planned to attend the meeting, but had to return suddenly to Suffolk; however, he noted that Suffolk staff was in attendance.

## Public Comment Period (Limit 3 minutes per individual)

There were no public comments.

## Minutes

Mr. Crum reported that the summary minutes from the January 29, 2019 meeting of the RCS Joint Steering Committee and Working Group were included in the February 13, 2019 Agenda Packet. He asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, Mayor John Rowe Moved to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Mayor McKinley Price. The Motion Carried.

## RCS and Relationship with 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Mr. Crum stated that to-date, the timelines of the RCS and the 2045 LRTP have been synchronized; however, concerns have grown that more time is needed to conduct the RCS, and it has been suggested to pursue a second option. The options for discussion are as follows:

- Option 1: RCS Concurrent with the 2045 LRTP Schedule
- Option 2: RCS Separate Path from the 2045 LRTP Schedule

Mayor John Rowe expressed support for Option 2 and stated that the RCS should be decoupled from the LRTP since the LRTP is a fiscally constrained document. He noted that in the 2030 LRTP, adopted by the HRTPO Board in March 2007 (sic), no State highway construction funds would be available by 2018; therefore the projects in the 2030 plan were either pared down or tolled. He indicated that the LRTP was flawed in concept and should reflect the region's vision without the restrictions of fiscal constraint.

Mayor Rowe Moved to decouple the timelines of the RCS and the 2045 LRTP; seconded by Mayor McKinley Price.

Roll call vote by locality:

Portsmouth:	Yes
Norfolk	Yes
Virginia Beach	Yes
Suffolk	Yes
Hampton	Yes
Chesapeake	Yes
Newport News	Yes

The Motion Unanimously Carried.

## **RCS Draft Scope of Services for Phase 2**

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, reported that the RCS Phase 1 Scope of work was complete with approximately \$500,000 expended. He stated the consultant needs direction with the next scope of services and noted that the Phase 2 Scope was presented at the Joint meeting on January 29, 2019.

Mr. Crum noted that after receiving technical feedback from members, it may be best to continue vetting those comments at the Working Group level, while the Consultant moves forward with an abbreviated \$1 million scope of work to continue their efforts regarding scenario and base work planning. He indicated the abbreviated Phase 2 Scope of work would be presented to the HRTPO Board at its February 21, 2019 meeting for approval consideration.

Mr. Amy Inman requested to view the abbreviated scope of work before it was brought forth to the HRTPO Board. Mr. Crum replied that Mr. Eddy of the Consultant Team would transmit the scope of work via email after the meeting.

Mayor John Rowe Moved to refer the Phase 2 Scope of Work technical comments to the Working Group for review and to recommend HRTPO Board approval of the \$1 million Phase 2 abbreviated scope of work; seconded by Mayor Rick West. The Motion Carried.

## **Schedule and Next Meetings**

Dr. Camelia Ravanbakht, RCS Project Coordinator, stated that Ms. Lorna Parkins of the Consultant Team would be presenting a Scenario Planning Webinar on February 14, 2019 in order to provide an update on the status regarding the collection of land use and planning data. The webinar will be from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and will be recorded for future viewing.

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, stated that the RCS website is now live. Mr. Craig Eddy noted that the website is user friendly and equipped to upload agendas, minutes, reports, the stakeholder survey, and various other items. He indicated that many stakeholders have asked to add the RCS website link to their own website homepage.

Mr. Carl Jackson requested that the website include the Scopes of Work and any comments regarding these documents. Mr. Eddy replied affirmatively.

Dr. Ravanbakht stated that the abbreviated scope of work would be emailed to the members and noted that the Working Group should expect an email from HRTPO staff regarding the next meeting.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Joint Meeting of the RCS Steering Committee and Working Group, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.