

ITEM #15: APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

A. MINUTES

Minutes of the HRTPO Board meeting held on January 15, 2015 are attached.

Attachment 15-A

Recommended Action:

Approve the minutes.

Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Board Summary Minutes of January 15, 2015

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:

McKinley Price, Chair (NN)	Herbert Green (Alternate, PQ)
Linda T. Johnson, Vice-Chair (SU)	Barry Porter (SH)
Alan P. Krasnoff (CH)	William D. Sessoms (VB)
Ella Ward (Alternate, CH)	Thomas Shepperd (YK)
Barry Cheatham (FR)	Cheryl Openshaw (Alternate, DRPT)
George Wallace (HA)	William E. Harrell (HRT)
Dee Dee Darden (IW)	Dawn Odom (Alternate, VDOT)
Mary Jones (JC)	Cathie France (Alternate, VPA)*
Paul D. Fraim (NO)	Kevan Danker (WATA)
Kenneth I. Wright (PO)	

HRTPO Nonvoting Members in Attendance:

James E. Baker (CH)	Selena Cuffee-Glenn (SU)
Randy Martin (FR)	James K. Spore (VB)
Mary Bunting (HA)	Jackson C. Tuttle, II (WM)
Anne Seward (IW)	J. Mark Carter (YK)
Paul Holt (Alternate, JC)	Shepelle Watkins-White (CTAC)
Marcus Jones (NO)	Ivan Rucker (FHWA)
Nita Mensia-Joseph (Alternate, PO)	Capt. Robert Clark (US Navy)
Michael Johnson (SH)	

HRTPO Interim Executive Director:

Camelia Ravanbakht

CTB Participant

John Malbon

Other Participants:

Peter Huber (Willcox & Savage)

HRTPO Voting Members Absent:

John C. Meyer (GL)	Delegate Chris Stolle (GA)**
W. Eugene Hunt (PQ)	Senator Frank Wagner (GA)**
Clyde Haulman (WM)	Delegate David Yancey (GA)**
Jennifer Mitchell (DRPT)	James Utterback (VDOT)
Senator Thomas Norment (GA)**	John Reinhart (VPA)

HRTPO Nonvoting Members Absent:

Brenda Garton (GL)

Bryan Hill (JC)

James Bourey (NN)

John Rowe (PO)

J. Randall Wheeler (PQ)

Jeffrey Breeden (FAA)

Irene Rico (FHWA)

Tony Cho (FTA)

Reginald Lovelace (FTA)

Arthur Moye (FTAC)

Col. John Allen (Langley-Eustis)

Col. William Galbraith (Langley-Eustis)

Wayne Shank (NAA)

Ken Spirito (PAC)

Randall P. Burdette (VDOA)

* Late arrival or early departure

** Absent due to the 2015 General Assembly Session

Others Recorded Attending:

Frank Papcin, Donna Sayegh (Citizens); Earl Sorey (CH); Brian DeProfio (HA); Jamie Oliver (IW); Britta Ayers, Cynthia Rohlf, Bryan Stilley (NN); Brittany Forman, Joe Howell, Jeff Raliski, Ron Williams (NO); Eric Nielson (SU); Louis Jones (VB); Ellis W. James (NEC and Sierra Club Observer); David Forster (Virginian-Pilot); Karen McPherson (McPherson Consulting); Tracy Baynard (McGuire Woods Consulting); Dennis Heuer (RK&K); Rhonda Murray (US Navy); Mark Geduldig-Yatrosky (Portsmouthcitywatch.org); Rich Clifton (American Infrastructure); Diane Kaufman (Regional Director – Senator Kaine’s Office); W. Dewey Hurley (Branscome, Inc.); David White (FTAC/Virginia Maritime Association); Kerry Kennedy, Colonel Paul B. Olsen (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers); Cathy Davison (Albemarle Commission COG); Angela Welsh (Albemarle Rural Planning Organization); Tony Gibson, Paula Miller, Eric Stringfield (VDOT); Cathy Aiello (Aiello Enterprises); Sam Belfield, Rob Case, Kathlene Grauberger, Theresa Jones, Michael Kimbrel, Jimmy McNamara, John Mihaly, Brian Miller, Keith Nichols, Joe Paulus, Seth Schipinski, Dale Stith, Chris Wichman (HRTPO Staff); Kelli Arledge, Melton Boyer, Jennifer Coleman, Nancy Collins, Whitney Katchmark, Randy Keaton, Mike Long, Joe Turner, Chris Vaigneur (HRPDC Staff)

Approval of Agenda

Chair McKinley Price asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mayor Paul Fraim Moved to approve the agenda as written; seconded by Mayor Linda Johnson. The Motion Carried.

Workshop Agenda**Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Member Comments and Updates**

Mr. John Malbon, CTB Member, reported the CTB discussed the proposed new alignment for Route 460 and indicated it will be voted upon at the February CTB meeting. He noted the CTB amended the Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) to include Preliminary Engineering (PE) for the High Rise Bridge and the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Third Crossing.

He stated the CTB also took action to allow the VDOT Commissioner of Highways to decide project agreements in coordination with the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) for the High Rise Bridge PE, the Third Crossing SEIS, and the PE and Acquisition for the I-64/I-264 Interchange

Virginia Department of Transportation Comments and Updates

Ms. Dawn Odom, VDOT District Planning and Investment Manager, had no comments.

Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Comments and Updates

Ms. Cheryl Openshaw, DRPT Deputy Director, reported that DRPT is currently accepting applications for the FY 2016 Transit and Rail Grant Programs, including the Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital (IPROC) fund. She noted that DRPT is continuing to advance the Tier II EIS for the Washington D.C./Richmond Higher Speed Rail project, as well as a purpose and needs statement and a design document. She indicated DRPT received nearly 2,000 public comments on the project which are being incorporated into the document.

Military Liaisons Comments and Updates

Captain Robert Clark of the U.S. Navy had no comments.

Chair Price introduced Colonel Olson of the Army Corps of Engineers and expressed his gratitude for his service.

FY 2016 UPWP Planning Priorities: Draft

Mr. Mike Kimbrel, HRTPO Principal Transportation Engineer, reported that the HRTPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describes the transportation planning work and associated funding for the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). In addition to detailing the work associated with HRTPO core functions – the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Congestion Management Process (CMP), and Public Participation – federal regulations state that the UPWP shall include a discussion of the planning priorities facing the MPA. It is in the determination of these planning priorities that the HRTPO Board ensures its vision and goals are carried forward in the UPWP.

He indicated the draft FY 2016 UPWP Planning Priorities are as follows:

- Transportation Programming
- Strengthening Multimodal Planning
- Congestion Relief, Safety, and Security
- Public Transportation Funding
- Transportation Legislation and Policy

He noted the draft planning priorities for the FY 2016 UPWP are currently undergoing public review. The TTAC was recently briefed on the priorities and HRTPO staff will also present to the CTAC later this month. Anticipated final approval of the FY 2016 UPWP is expected in April 2015.

Mr. Tom Shepperd suggested HRTPO staff brief the HRTAC on the relationship between the HRTAC and the HRTPO planning activities. He noted there are some members of the HRTAC who do not participate in the HRTPO and may not realize how the HRTPO prioritization tool feeds into the HRTAC process. After further discussion, Mayor Alan Krasnoff indicated a new member orientation would be scheduled for the newest HRTAC members.

(Ms. France arrives)

FY 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: HRTAC Projects

Dr. Camelia Ravanbakht, HRTPO Interim Executive Director, reported an HRTPO FY 2015-2018 TIP Amendment is necessary based upon the action taken by the HRTAC at its January 8, 2015 meeting. Details of the TIP Amendment are as follows:

- I-64/I-264 Interchange (UPCs 17630 & 57048)
 - Total Hampton Roads Transportation Fund (HRTF) Allocation: \$69,663,639
 - Will fund project through the Right-of-Way phase
- Hampton Roads Third Crossing (UPC 106724)
 - Total Hampton Roads Transportation Fund (HRTF) Allocation: \$5,000,000
 - Will fund reevaluation of the Environmental Impact Statement
- I-64 Southside Widening & Replace High Rise Bridge (UPC 106692)
 - Total Hampton Roads Transportation Fund (HRTF) Allocation: \$20,000,000
 - Will fund project through the Preliminary Engineering phase

After further discussion, Dr. Ravanbakht indicated that the FY 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: HRTAC Projects is for HRTPO Board consideration under the Meeting Agenda, Item #13.

Midtown and Downtown Tunnels Toll Survey Part 2: Post-Tolling Findings

Dr. Quentin Kidd, Chair of the Department of Government and Director of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University (CNU), reported that the goal of the survey was to assess the public's views and behavior post implementation of tolling on the Midtown and Downtown tunnels. He stated the data and analysis focused on:

- Commuting Experiences
- Knowledge and Views of Tolls on the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels
- Changes to Commuting Patterns
- Knowledge and Use of the E-ZPass System

Dr. Kidd indicated that the survey was conducted using random telephone data of 629 residents from the Cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach, including landline and cell phones between the dates of November 6-17, 2014.

He summarized the key findings as follows:

- Progress on Traffic Management – Residents report fewer delays; Increase in daily tunnel usage and decrease in occasional tunnel usage
- Views on Tolls – Support for tolls has dropped while opposition has increased; tolls remain preferred method for paying for transportation; more residents think a \$1.00 toll is reasonable
- Knowledge of Tolls – Residents are largely unaware of actual toll rates
- Some Behavioral Changes – Some changes in commuting habits and routes, but not as many as predicted
- Issues Related to E-ZPass – Some residents have not opened E-ZPass accounts for financial or knowledge/understanding reasons

Analyzing and Mitigating the Impact of Tolls at the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels: Part I

Mr. Sam Belfield, 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. He indicated that tolling began at the DTT and MTT on February 1, 2014 and in FY 2013, HRTPO staff began a multi-year study comparing the “before” and “after” traffic conditions to discover the impact of tolling.

Mr. Belfield stated that HRTPO staff performed one to four vehicle travel runs along the study roadways during AM and PM rush hours “before” and “after” toll implementation with the primary goal of capturing the recurring traffic congestion experienced by commuters every day.

He presented videos illustrating two of the vehicles runs, demonstrating that:

- Traffic queues improved at the tolled tunnels and their approaches but did not go away completely
- Traffic queues worsened at other water crossings and alternate routes

He commented that transit ridership remained relatively constant after tolling began and increased after service improvements were implemented in July 2014. He noted that Part II of the study will be presented in March, along with the publication of the draft report.

Mayor Paul Fraim requested an update by Elizabeth River Crossings (ERC) regarding the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels. He questioned whether more toll relief could be provided by the Governor or HRTAC.

Regular Agenda

Public Comment Period

Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Portsmouth Citizen, addressed the HRTPO Board regarding the reduction of tolls at the Midtown/Downtown Tunnels.

Mr. Frank Papcin, Virginia Beach Citizen, addressed the HRTPO Board regarding the Midtown and Downtown Tunnel tolls and how it has affected area businesses. He also discussed financial conflict of interest pertaining to HRTPO Board members.

Ms. Donna Sayegh, Portsmouth Citizen, addressed the HRTPO Board with regards to HRTAC issues.

A transcription of the public comments made orally during this HRTPO Board meeting is posted on the HRTPO website with the January 15, 2015 agenda materials.

Submitted Public Comments

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

FY 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: HRTAC Projects

Mayor William Sessoms Moved to approve the TIP Amendment; seconded by Mr. William Harrell. The Motion Carried.

Approval of Consent Items

- Minutes
- HRTPO Financial Statement
- FY 2015 Budget Amendments
- HRTPO Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC): Membership

Mayor Johnson Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written; seconded by Mr. Herbert Green. The Motion Carried.

HRTPO Board Three-Month Tentative Schedule

Chair Price outlined the HRTPO Board three-month tentative schedule, including the cancellation of the February HRTPO Board meeting due to the HRPDC Annual Retreat.

Correspondence of Interest

Chair Price highlighted the Correspondence of Interest section in the Agenda Packet.

Minutes of HRTPO Committee Meetings

Chair Price noted that there were summary minutes from both the TTAC and CTAC included in the Agenda packet.

For Your Information

Chair Price noted the items in the For Your Information section of the Agenda packet and stated there was one additional item pertaining to proposed legislation from the Virginia General Assembly 2015 Session included as a handout at the table.

Old/New Business

Mr. David White, representing the HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC), informed the HRTPO Board that on December 18, 2014, the FTAC approved a Resolution “in support of securing a future interstate designation for the Hampton Roads to Raleigh Highway Corridor and requesting the completion of its Corridor Master Plan via Virginia’s Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment.”

Ms. Dee Dee Darden of Isle of Wight County read the following statement:

The County was disappointed to see the VDOT release on Monday as we have worked diligently the last few months through-out the SEIS process to communicate with the project team, express our concerns, and collaborate on a successful solution. Not only have our meeting requests to VDOT since the November public meetings been ignored, but now an alternative that we knew nothing about has been released—with no backup data or mapping for us to examine prior to the expected CTB vote in February.

*VDOT’s environmental staff finally responded to us Monday morning to say that our comments **from November**, won’t be addressed until the final SEIS **after** the CTB vote in Feb.*

We have reviewed the VDOT worksession presentation on the CTB’s website and found it sorely lacking in data analysis and there was absolutely no responsiveness to our narrative comments in it at all. It simply compared this new alternative to a NO BUILD option—there was no comparison to the other 5 alternatives which the communities involved had previously commented on.

The County would like to request that the wetlands impacts, crash rates, traffic volumes, speed projections, cost estimates, etc. for this 17 mile stretch FOR ALL 5 ALTERNATIVES be presented to the public for review and consideration significantly PRIOR to the CTB meeting so that the public has time to formulate informed comments at the public hearing.

The County would also like to request that VDOT staff meet with County staff to answer questions and provide information PRIOR to the CTB hearing so that our community can have responsive, reasonable, and valuable comments to provide at the hearing.

As far as we can tell from the low-resolution image that was provided from VDOT, this new alternative is going to be a \$500 million road which is going to displace our businesses and residents, rip away prime agricultural lands from our economy, plow over top of our local land use plans, AND WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS IT, because our interchange may have been removed from the plans. And our detailed comments regarding these impacts and possible mitigation measures won't be addressed until after it's been approved.

The County would like for the TPO to support our position and request by letter to the CTB.

After discussion, Ms. Mary Jones Moved to approve an HRTPO letter, to be transmitted to the CTB, in support of Isle of Wight County's efforts to communicate with VDOT regarding the Route 460 project; seconded by Mr. Shepperd.

Mr. Malbon stated it was his understanding that VDOT planned to meet with County Officials next week to discuss the matter.

Dr. Ravanbakht indicated that VDOT staff will brief the TTAC in February regarding the new alternative.

Chair Price restated the Motion on the Floor as "support of this body that communication between Isle of Wight County and the State occur in as quickly as possible". The Motion Carried.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Hampton Roads TPO, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Mayor McKinley Price
Chair

Camelia Ravanbakht
Interim Executive Director