

PLEASE RSVP BY COB MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

March 13, 2019

Memorandum #2019-44

TO: Rail and Public Transportation Task Force

BY: Robert Crum, Executive Director

RE: Rail and Public Transportation Task Force Meeting, March 20, 2019

The **Rail and Public Transportation Task Force** will hold a meeting on **Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms D&E, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, VA.**

JR/ka

Rail and Public Transportation Task Force – Members

Rick West (CH)	Thomas Shepperd (YK)
Earl Sorey (CH)	Timothy Cross (YK)
Benjamin Camras (CH)	Meredith Parrish (Amtrak)
Phillip Bazzani (GL)	Randy Marcus (CSX)
Michael Hayes (HA)	Ray Amoroso (HRT)
Jamie Oliver (IW)	Brian Smith (HRT)
Paul Holt (JC)	John Edwards (Norfolk Southern)
McKinley Price (NN)	John Friedmann (Norfolk Southern)
Jackie Kassel (NN)	Jennifer Mitchell (DRPT)
Amy Inman (NO)	Cheryl Openshaw (DRPT)
James Wright (PO)	Neil Sherman (DRPT)
Carl Jackson (PO)	Jeremy Latimer (DRPT)
Leroy Hansen (SU)	Jennifer DeBruhl (DRPT)
Brian Solis (VB)	Eric Stringfield (VDOT)
Tara Reel (VB)	Zach Trogdon (WATA)
Andrew Trivette (WM)	
Carolyn Murphy (WM)	

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Rail and Public Transportation Task Force – Copy Group

Courtney Bujakowski, DRPT

Kevin Carroll, USCG

Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRTPO

Theresa Brooks, HRTPO

Rob Case, HRTPO

Rob Cofield, HRTPO

Capt. Richard Hayes, Navy

Jeffrey Raliski, HRTPO

Anne Ducey-Ortiz, GL

Jamie Jackson, HRT

Amanda Jarratt, FR

Michael Johnson, SH

Pat Jones, CH

Brian Lewis, GL

Michael King, Navy

Christopher Lowie, FWS

Sharon Lawrence, HRTPO

John Mihaly, HRTPO

Kendall Miller, HRTPO

Capt. Michael Moore, Navy

Dawn Odom, VDOT

Leo Pineda, HRTPO

Robert Ruhl, VB

Don Schwab, FWS

Dale Stith, HRTPO

Col. Ed Vedder, Langly-Eustis

Agenda
HRTPO Rail and Public Transportation Task Force
March 20, 2019

Call to Order 1:30 p.m.

The Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia

1. Call to Order
 2. Public Comment Period (Limit 3 minutes per individual)
 3. Submitted Public Comments
 4. Approval of Agenda
 5. Approval of Minutes
 6. Task Force Update
 7. Marketing of Amtrak Services - Chris Smith (DRPT)
 8. Newport News Transportation Center Project Update – Vince Urbano (NN)
 9. Old/New Business
- Adjournment

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order by the Rail and Public Transportation Task Force Chair at approximately 1:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public are invited to address the Rail and Public Transportation Task Force. Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

AGENDA ITEM #3: SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no written public comments. Any new written public comments will be distributed as a handout at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Members are provided an opportunity to add or delete items from the agenda. Any item for which a member desires an action from the Rail and Public Transportation Task Force should be submitted at this time, as opposed to under “Old/New Business”.

AGENDA ITEM #5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BACKGROUND:

Minutes from the Rail and Public Transportation Task Force meeting held on December 7, 2017.

Attachment 5

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the minutes.

**Summary Minutes of the
HRTPO Rail and Public Transportation Task Force Meeting
December 7, 2017**

The HRTPO Passenger Rail Task Force Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in Rooms D/E at The Regional Building, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

Members:

Benjamin Camras (CH)	Brian Solis (VB)
Porter Stevens (HA)	Carolyn Murphy (WM)
Paul Holt (JC)	Tom Shepperd (YK)
Jackie Kassel (NN)	Tim Cross (YK)
Thelma Drake (NO)	Jamie Jackson (HRT)
Jeffrey Raliski (NO)	Brian Smith (HRT)
Leroy Hansen (SU)	Josh Moore (WATA)

Members Absent:

Rick West (CH)	Andrew Trivette (WM)
C. Earl Sorey, Jr. (CH)	Jay McArthur (Amtrak)
Garrey W. Curry, Jr. (GL)	Randy Marcus (CSX)
Jamie Oliver (IW)	Ray Amoruso (HRT)
McKinley Price (NN)	William Harrell (HRT)
James Wright (PO)	John Edwards (Norfolk Southern)
Mark Shea (VB)	John Friedmann (Norfolk Southern)
Susan Wilson (PO)	Jennifer Mitchell (DRPT)
Marvin Collins (WM)	Cheryl Openshaw (DRPT)

HRTPO Executive Director

Robert A. Crum, Jr.

HRTPO Staff:

Camelia Ravanbakht	John Mihaly
Rob Case	Leonardo Pineda, II
Steve Lambert	

Other Participants:

Steve Froncillo (CH)	Ben Goodill (WATA)
Paul Fillion (NO)	Zach Trogdon (WATA)
Maria Ptakowski (SU)	Jitender Ramchandani (DRPT)
Tara Reel (VB)	Emily Stock (DRPT)
Lee Cochran (Norfolk Southern)	

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Submitted Public Comments

There were no submitted public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. There were no objections to the agenda. Mr. Brian Solis Moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Leroy Hansen. The Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, reported that the summary minutes of the September 26, 2017 meeting of the HRTPO Passenger Rail Task Force were included in the agenda. He asked for corrections or amendments to the minutes.

Ms. Thelma Drake Moved to approve the minutes as is; seconded by Mr. Brian Solis. The Motion Carried.

Suffolk Transit Operations Overview

Mr. Leroy Hansen provided the group with an overview of Suffolk's Transit Operations. Mr. Hansen went over Suffolk Transit's routes, services, and funding sources. He also informed the group of opportunities and projects in the future, and that Suffolk has begun the process of applying for federal transit assistance.

Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) Operations Overview

Mr. Zach Trogdon and Josh Moore provided the group with an overview of WATA's Transit Operations. This covered the infrastructure they currently have in place and the services they provide. They also shared their methodologies for deciding stops and amenities, recommended changes, and system-wide guidelines. They concluded their presentation by informing the group of their upcoming activities.

Hampton Roads Regional Transit Concept (Group Discussion)

The group discussed the idea of updating the Hampton Roads Regional Transit Vision Plan, which was adopted February 2011. It was suggested by the group to explore that option and create a working group to begin that process. Mr. Jitender Ramchandani, DRPT, reminded the group that the time to apply for grant funding is between December and February. Mr. Robert Crum proposed that the working group bring back ideas to the RPTTF to begin outlining a path forward.

Old/New Business

No old/new business was discussed.

Adjournment

There being no more business before the Rail and Public Transportation Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

AGENDA ITEM #6: TASK FORCE UPDATE: *Bob Crum, HRTPO*

BACKGROUND:

Since the task force has not met since December 2017, general membership and organizational discussions are appropriate at this time to address the following:

- Confirmation and updated membership to the task force by jurisdictions/agencies as appropriate.
- Consideration of selecting a chairperson; HRTPO staff members have previously managed this role for the group.
- Possible agenda topics and issues to be considered in the near term.
- Preferred meeting schedule frequency going forward.

Membership changes will be requested from subject localities.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.

AGENDA ITEM #7: MARKETING OF AMTRAK SERVICES: *Chris Smith, Department of Rail and Public Transportation*

BACKGROUND:

The recent addition of a second daily Amtrak train serving Norfolk simultaneously initiated optimized schedule changes to and from both Norfolk and Newport News stations. In addition to the second departure and arrival to Norfolk, Newport News customers will also have the benefit of an earlier morning departure and a later evening arrival, providing all Hampton Roads customers additional daily options to get to Washington, D.C. and back. The new Hampton Roads train service schedule also creates new service and connection options at the Ettrick (Petersburg) and Richmond’s Main Street and Staples Mill Stations in the Commonwealth. Accordingly, successfully promoting and marketing these new passenger rail options in order to maximize service use and benefits is a key initiative for the State and its local partners.

Mr. Chris Smith, DRPT, will brief the Task Force on this item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.

AGENDA ITEM #8: NEWPORT NEWS TRANSPORTATION CENTER PROJECT
UPDATE: *Vince Urbano, City of Newport News*

BACKGROUND:

The City of Newport News is currently constructing a new multimodal transportation center off Bland Boulevard between Warwick Boulevard and Interstate 64 to replace the existing Amtrak station at Warwick Boulevard and South Avenue. The new facility is designed to accommodate passenger rail, local Hampton Roads Transit buses and Amtrak regional buses, airport shuttle, and taxis.

Mr. Vince Urbano (Newport News) will present an overview of the project and anticipated schedule for completion.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.

AGENDA ITEM #9: OLD/NEW BUSINESS