

**Regional Connectors Study
Working Group
Minutes of March 14, 2019**

The meeting of the Regional Connectors Study (RCS) Working Group was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Bob Crum (HRTPO) in the Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, with the following in attendance (alphabetically by last name):

Keith Cannady (HRPDC)
Rob Case (HRTPO)
Bob Crum (HRTPO)
Beth Drylie (Michael Baker Intl.)
Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)
Craig Eddy (Michael Baker Intl.)
Jason Flowers (USACE)
Brian Fowler (NO)
Carl Jackson (PO)
George Janek (USACE)
Mike Kimbrel (HRTPO)
Michael King (Navy)
Kendall Miller (HRTPO/HRPDC)
Keith Nichols (HRTPO)
Kevin Page (HRTAC)
Bridjette Parker (NN)
Lorna Parkins (M Baker)
Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Project Coordinator, by phone)
Tara Reel (VB)
Dustin Reinhart (Port of Va.)
Angela Rico (HA)
Earl Sorey (CH)
Bryan Stilley (NN)
Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Eric Stringfield (VDOT)
James Wright (PO)

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, welcomed the group and initiated the introduction of persons attending.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Organizational Structure

The group elected Brian Stilley (Newport News) as chair, and Earl Sorey (Chesapeake) as vice-chair.

Minutes

The minutes of the Feb. 13, 2019 joint meeting (Steering/Policy Committee and Working Group) were approved.

Craney Island Tour

Bob Crum introduced the idea of the group touring Craney Island. Brian Fowler (Norfolk) suggested that discussion of the tour be postponed until later in the meeting. Jason Flowers (USACE) said that it is vital to get “boots on the ground” to see the USACE, Navy, and Coast Guard facilities in the Craney Island area. Michael King (Navy) committed to coordinating with Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Project Coordinator) and Jason Flowers (USACE) on tour details (including candidate dates) for the tour.

Next Phase- Name and Scope

Mr. Crum reviewed the history of the RCS, including the approval of the Phase 2 (scaled down) scope by the HRTPO Board Feb. 21, 2019. Mr. Stilley led a discussion of the name and scope of the phase that will follow the approved Phase 2. Brian Fowler (Norfolk) suggested that the development of the scope for the next phase be postponed until after completion of Phase 2. Mr. Stilley stated a distaste for an open-ended process, and a desire instead for a blueprint for the total process. Ms. Lorna Parkins (Michael Baker Intl.) reviewed the tasks of Phase 2. Mike Kimbrel (HRTPO) stated a need for completion through Task 4.7 (“Evaluating the Scenarios”, proposed in, but deleted from the Phase 2 scope prior to Feb. 21, 2019 approval) by Jan. 2020 so that the scenario planning tools may be used in the development of the HRTPO’s 2045 Long-Range Plan (LRTP). Carl Jackson (Portsmouth) stated a desire that the RCS not be rushed to meet the LRTP schedule. Tara Reel (Va. Beach) concurred. Craig Eddy (Michael Baker Intl.) stated that keeping Phase 2 on-schedule is subject to the delayed receipt of the regional model from VDOT. Bob Crum suggested calling Phase 1 “Data Collection” and Phase 2 “Building the Scenario Planning and Traffic Model Tools”. Mr. Eddy said the next phase must include Tasks 4.5 thru 4.7 (in order to meet LRTP needs). Brian Fowler made a motion to request the consultant to create new language for Tasks 4.5 thru 4.7, less any reference to candidate projects, plus rewording of the portions of 4.3a and 4.3b which were deleted. The motion passed.

Schedule and Next Meetings

The next working group webinar is scheduled for March 15, 2019. Additional webinars will follow approximately every other week.

The working group will meet March 28, 2019.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned approximately at noon.