DRAFT HRTO Subcommittee Minutes – February 12, 2019

HRTPO Offices, Chesapeake, VA

The meeting was chaired by Robert Lewis (Suffolk)

1. **Public Comment Period**
   - Nobody from the public requested to speak.

2. **Minutes** of the October 9th meeting were reviewed. Motion for approval was made by Jackie Kassel (Newport News) and seconded by Brian Fowler (Norfolk). The minutes were approved.

3. **HRTO Leadership**
   - Keith Nichols (HRTPO) introduced the topic by noting that Robert Lewis (Suffolk) and Mike Miller (VDOT) were appointed co-chairs of the HRTO Subcommittee in 2016. With their two-year terms expiring, HRTO Subcommittee co-chairs need to be appointed at this meeting. Keith wrapped up by noting that Robert and Mike have indicated a willingness to continue serving for another two-year term if it is so desired by the committee.
   - Jackie Kassel (Newport News) noted that they have done a wonderful job as committee co-chairs and she made a motion to reappoint Robert and Mike to another two-year term.
   - Mike Corwin (VDOT) thanked Robert and Mike for being willing to serve another term. He mentioned that as a former co-chair he knows that there are times when it can involve quite a bit of work.
   - Jackie added that the VDOT/locality combination as co-chairs works well.
   - Frank Hickman (Virginia Beach) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **VTTI Research on Emerging Technologies**
   - Reginald (Reg) Viray (VTTI) made a presentation on VTTI's Emerging Technology research efforts. Highlights of the presentation included:
     - Virginia Tech Transportation Institute
       - #1 largest transportation institute in the U.S., and #1 in federal grants and private-sector contracts
       - Largest group of driving safety researchers in the world
       - 100+ sponsors; 300+ projects, and 475 employees
       - 15 research centers, including Automated Vehicle Systems
     - Assets and Capabilities
       - Smart Road
       - Virginia Connected Corridors (VCC)
       - V2X Infrastructure
       - Connected Vehicles

- o Research projects
  - VCC – Communications Performance
  - VCC – Signal Phase and Timing
  - VCC – Position Correction
  - VCC – Signal Awareness Applications
  - VCC – Work Zone Safety
  - Driver and Vehicle Kinematic Behavior
- o Research Grant Opportunities
  - Two grant funding opportunities to research transportation safety: National University Transportation Center – Safety Through Disruption (Safe-D) and National Surface Transportation Safety Center for Excellence (STSCE).
  - Recently awarded funding to study use of intersection sensor data with the City of Virginia Beach on top 10 state of Virginia crash cluster locations.
  - Working with entities in the region to develop research proposals to study problem areas such as roadway flooding, impact of freight traffic, pedestrian safety, and work zones.
- After the presentation, Brian Fowler (Norfolk) mentioned that vehicles must drive in various area types – urban, suburban, rural. We need to get more research in challenging locations (i.e. near airports with frequency conflicts, downtown urban areas like Norfolk and Richmond, etc.), which is real life. Reg noted that spectrum is an issue, particularly around military bases.
- Robert Lewis mentioned that consultants look to help them all the time with information related to comm. Robert asked Reg if they also help them. Reg replied that they work with Qualcomm and Siemens.
- Reg mentioned that a big issue is who owns the data? The worry with 5G is that "they" own the data. With other technologies, you could own the data.
- Scott Cowherd (VDOT) mentioned that this data is provided out via SmarterRoads. There is a press release coming out soon that an auto company is using Virginia as their first state providing this SPaT info. Scott asked how other states are doing, and Reg replied that many other states (such as California and Florida) are moving along, but Virginia is up there with other states.
- Scott Cowherd added that they would like to get it down here in Hampton Roads, and that VDOT is currently writing standards for SmarterRoads version 3.0.
- Frank Hickman mentioned that Virginia Beach is getting ready to enter the SPaT Challenge. It includes 20 intersections on Virginia Beach Boulevard, and they can go 5G or DSRC. Robert Lewis added that Suffolk has been approached about installing a 5G site.

- Sam Belfield (HRTPO) said that this could include deploying sensors for flood levels and distributing information to website/cell phones via StormSense. Reg responded that that is being run by William & Mary, but could it be plugged into SmarterRoads?
- Mike Corwin (VDOT) mentioned that we struggle with pavement markings and bridge condition. Do we know where the funding for emerging technologies will come from? It'll take billions (or trillions) of dollars. Robin Grier (VDOT) added that some of this will be privately funded, and Reg mentioned that data exchange will be a part of the funding model.
- Robert Lewis said that we need to learn more on these technologies. It would be good to have opportunities to share knowledge with the profession, either in Blacksburg or throughout the state. Brian Fowler added that "real" knowledge is valuable to us, not what a firm is trying to sell. Reg responded that he would share this idea with others at VTTI.
- Finally, Mike Miller asked if there was any reason to question the use of fiber in the future since 5G has more bandwidth. Reg responded that 5G is a private investment. 5G could be limitless and handle all communication, but fiber allows you to control the data. 5G also could bring in more latency over fiber. Brian Fowler was concerned with 5G in an emergency situation like a hurricane or terrorist attack compared to fiber.

5. Hampton Roads Operations Strategy
- Mike Miller started the topic by noting that the committee has received two deliverables – the Corridors of Regional Significance memo and Regional TOC analysis. He added that he wanted to go over them with a broad brush today, and formulate a plan to move forward at the next meeting.
- Mike Miller wanted the group to think about the following questions:
    - Look at how the consultant portrayed the information. Is it all accurate?
    - What are we missing? "What else?"
    - What is our priority as we approach these tools?
- Mike started with the Corridors of Regional Significance (CoRS) document. Each corridor was hit with a broad brush, with information on high speed comm, traffic sensors, signal timings and coordination, and traveler information.
- Mike mentioned that there was not enough included on resource sharing. As comm networks become reality, broadband networks will only be part transportation. Frank Hickman added that the fiber network installed 10 years ago in the city was all transportation related. Brian Fowler noted that their needs were high speed comm, bandwidth, and redundancy.
- Mike Miller said that near term we may not need anywhere near as fast of network as we'll need in the long term with SPaT, CV, etc.
- Brian Fowler asked what the goal was. Does what we have out there meet our needs?
- Jackie Kassel mentioned that we all need to provide comments on the corridors. The committee noted that each locality was interviewed by the consultant. Frank Hickman added that we need to see how this matches up with the Regional Broadband Network.

- Mike Miller moved on to the Regional TOC Analysis.
- Frank Hickman brought up pages 8-9 – Individual vs. centralized TOCs. Mike Miller mentioned that FHWA says Hampton Roads doesn't need 11 TOCs, we really only need one, and will likely not to want to see a recommendation of 11 TOCs. Ken Coody (VDOT) added that he had trouble envisioning each city not having some sort of local TOC. While he likes the idea of a regional TOC, he doesn't see a regional TOC handing a small city event/incident. Robert Lewis said that as a region we don't need 24/7 individual TOCs, and Ken added that maybe the city would only handle issues between 8 am – 5 pm and the regional TOC would handle the rest of the time.
- Brian Fowler asked how does FHWA get involved with this? Mike Miller responded that FHWA is concerned about how funding is being spent. They want to be sure funding is not wasted. Mike added that there's a huge benefit/cost and efficiency to this. Same with doing the Common Controller platform as a region.
- Mike Miller noted that the consultant did a good job describing the three examples nationally. Each location did something completely different, but the Atlanta approach is probably the closest to where we are.
- Scott Cowherd mentioned that the Staunton and Salem VDOT Districts have redundancy, while NCDOT has one TOC for the entire state. There are different ways to handle it.
- Mike Miller wrapped up by asking to get comments back on both documents by the end of the month, and reiterating that the committee will discuss these extensively at the next meeting.

6. **HRTPO Update**
   - Sam Belfield (HRTPO) provided an update on the RCTO-TIM Committee. Highlights of the presentation include:
     - SHRP 2 "TIM" Training update – 6,050 total personnel trained since 2013.
     - VDOT TOC is planning a "TIM" Day Open House on 11-2-19 (Sat) 10-2pm with TOW equipment demos.
     - VDOT Incident Management Coordinator vehicles and/or VSP will be getting drone(s) to assist with accident reconstruction (mid to late summer 2019)
     - Enhanced Ramp Reference Marker pilot project (NC) presentation.
     - The next RCTO meetings will be 5/14/19 - Southside @ HRTPO 9:30 am-11:30 am and 5/15/19 – Peninsula @ James City County Fire Admin/Training Building in Williamsburg 9:30 am-11:30 am.

7. **For Your Information**
   - Robert Lewis mentioned that Suffolk is adding cyber locks to the city's signal cabinets. Other cities can piggyback on the city's contract, and Virginia Beach is looking into using Suffolk's contract. Suffolk can do a demo for other cities if so desired.

- Scott Cowherd mentioned that the RFI for the statewide 511 contract is coming out soon. The RFP will be coming out in August.
- Robert Lewis mentioned that the Virginia Logos contract is coming up soon.
- Brian Fowler mentioned that the Military CFI was recently completed. Information on the project is available at http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/hamptonroads/military_highway_continuous_flow_intersection.asp.

8. **Meeting Schedule**
   - Robert Lewis indicated that we need the HRTO to increase meetings to a monthly basis.
   - The committee decided to move HRTO meetings to the second Monday of each month. The meetings will continue to be held at 9:30 am and be full meetings, including agendas.
   - A motion for the changes was made by Brian Fowler and seconded by Scott Cowherd. The motion passed unanimously.