

**Regional Connectors Study
Working Group Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2021, 1:30 pm**

Pursuant to the declared state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the public health and safety of the members, staff, and general public, this meeting was held electronically via Webex. These electronic meetings are required to complete essential business on behalf of the region. A recording of the meeting will be available on the website.

The following voting members attended the web meeting (alphabetically by city):

Troy Eisenberger (Chesapeake)
Lynne Keenan (Hampton)
Angela Rico (Newport News)- came late
Brian Fowler (Norfolk)
Carl Jackson (Portsmouth)
Jason Sounders (Suffolk)
Ric Lowman (VB)

The following voting members were absent (alphabetically by city):

Jason Mitchell (Hampton) [Lynne Keenan represented Hampton]
Bryan Stille (Newport News) [Angela Rico represented Newport News]
James Wright (Portsmouth) [Carl Jackson represented Portsmouth]

The following others attended the web meeting (alphabetically by last name):

Rob Case (HRTPO)	Debbie Mangiaracina (Norfolk)
Anthony Donald (Michael Baker Intl.)	Barbara Nelson (POV)
Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)	Keith Nichols (HRTPO)
Craig Eddy (Michael Baker Intl.)	Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)
Cole Fisher (Va. Beach)	Pamela Phillips (VDOT)
Tony Hofmann (Michael Baker Intl.)	Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator)
George Janek (US Army COE)	Evandro Santos (Norfolk)
Steve Jones (US Navy)	Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Michael King (US Navy)	Eric Stringfield (VDOT)
Claudette Lajoie (Solstice Environmental)	

1. Call to Order

Chair Bryan Stille (Newport News) being absent, Troy Eisenberger (Chesapeake) called the meeting to order at 1:33pm, and read a COVID-19 notice. Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO) read meeting rules.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator) called the roll.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Minutes

The Working Group approved the minutes of the January 14, 2021 Working Group meeting.

5. RCS: Phase 3, Task 2- Development of Preliminary Alternatives

Craig Eddy (MBI) presented slides discussing:

- June 29, 2016 letter from Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Hampton Roads Crossing Study (HRCS) highway segments
- Sept. 19, 2016 letter from Navy regarding the HRCS highway segments
- Map showing the RCS segments
 - Craig said that—given the proposed Portsmouth landfill expansion—the southern portion of the VA 164 Connector is not feasible.
- Raw 2045 model volumes (for 17 key segments) for three alternatives:
 - Alt. 2: I-664 and VA 164
 - Alt. 3: I-664 and VA 164 plus I-664 Connector and I- 564 Connector
 - Alt. 5: I-664 and VA 164 plus I-564 Connector and VA 164 Connector

Tony Hofmann (MBI) noted that the Hampton Roads Express Lane Network (HRELN) has not been fully represented in the “2045 Baseline” network.

The group noted several concerns:

- “Crossing Total” volumes show an illogical drop between “2045 Baseline” (302,243 vpd) and “2045 Unconstrained Alternative 2” (288,083 vpd).
- MMBT volumes showing a large drop between “2045 Unconstrained Alternative 2” (45,966 vpd) and “2045 Constrained Alternative 2” (66,446 vpd) implies that the Alternative 2 project may not have been given enough capacity.
- Likewise, I-564 and VA 164 Connector volumes showing a large drop between “2045 Unconstrained Alternative 5” (63,395 vpd) and “2045 Constrained Alternative 5” (12,735 vpd) implies that the Alternative 5 project may not have been given enough capacity.

Mr. Eddy started a group discussion of segment feasibility. Ms. Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator) said that improvement of I-664 is a prerequisite to building I-664 Connector + I-564 Connector. She asked the group to consider the northern portion of the VA 164 Connector (without the southern portion).

Mr. Eddy suggested that Alt. 5 be eliminated, and proposed Alt's 6 and 7:

- Alt. 6: Adding northern port access to Alt. 3
- Alt. 7: A modification of Alt. 3- Instead of the straight east-west connection, an S-shaped east-west connection that serves CIMT.

Mr. Eddy said that Alt. 7 could only be built after the Corps stopped using CIDMMA (planned for 2050, according to George Janek).

Carl Jackson moved (and Brian Fowler seconded) to:

- Drop Alt. 5
- Add Alt's 6 and 7

The motion passed.

George Janek said that the I-664 Connector + I-564 Connector would not have to wait for termination of CIDMMA, but there still may be some operational conflicts to work through.

Barb Nelson (POV) said that Alt's 6 and 7 meet the needs of the Port. She said the Port will continue to move forward with a non-freeway access from CIMT to VA 164.

6. For Your Information

The following information was attached to the agenda:

- A) RCS Diary of Key Decision Points
- B) Revised Schedule for Phase 3

Craig Eddy (MBI) presented slides with a list of tasks over the next 6 months, and a grid showing the Phase 3 Schedule.

7. Scheduled Working Group Meetings

- Mar. 11, 2021- 1:30pm
- Apr. 8, 2021- 1:30pm
- May 13, 2021- 1:30pm
- June 10, 2021- 1:30pm
- July 8, 2021- 1:30pm
- August 12, 2021- 1:30pm

8. Other Items of Interest

No other items were discussed.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.