

**Regional Connectors Study  
Joint Steering (Policy) Committee & Working Group Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2022 – 9:30 am**

Steering (Policy) Committee

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

Rick West (CH)  
Donnie Tuck (HA)  
McKinley Price, Chair (NN)  
Martin Thomas (NO)  
Michael Duman (SU)

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

Shannon Glover (PO)  
Robert Dyer (VB)

Working Group

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

Troy Eisenberger (CH)  
James Mitchell (HA)  
Bryan Stilley (NN)  
Amy Inman (NO)  
James Wright (PO)  
Jason Souders (SU)  
Mark Shea (VB)

Others

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

Rob Cofield (HRTPO)	Keith Lockwood (USACE)
Robert A. Crum, Jr. (HRTPO/HRPDC)	Keith Nichols (HRTPO)
Lesley Dobbins-Noble (USACE)	Kevin Page (HRTAC)
Rick Dwyer (HRRFMA)	Lorna Parkins (Michael Baker Intl.)
Kathlene Grauberger (HRTPO)	Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)
Carl Jackson (Portsmouth)	Paul Prideaux (Michael Baker Intl.)
Lynne Keenan (HA)	Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator)
Michael King (US Navy)	Eric Stringfield (VDOT)
Phil Lohr (HNTB)	

## **1. Call to Order**

Chair McKinley Price called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

## **2. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, conducted a roll call for attendance purposes and requested other attendees introduce themselves.

## **3. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **4. Minutes**

Chair Price asked for additions or corrections to the June 30, 2021 minutes. Hearing none, Mayor Donnie Tuck Moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mayor Mike Duman. The Motion was Carried.

## **5. Regional Connectors Study (RCS): Scope of Work and Schedule Update**

Ms. Lorna Parkins, RCS Co-Project Manager, reported that the consultant team has updated the scope of work and schedule associated with the RCS. Ms. Parkins stated that the updated methodology approved by the Steering Committee at the October 21, 2021 meeting will be used to evaluate and sort the RCS segments into chronological tiers based on readiness and known challenges associated with construction and permitting. She noted that segments will be divided into the following three tiers:

- Tier 1
  - Favorable constructability and permitting
  - Favorable readiness
- Tier 2
  - Favorable or mixed constructability and permitting
  - Less favorable readiness
- Tier 3
  - Currently challenged for constructability and permitting
  - Higher degree of uncertainty/requires additional information

The updated Study process will consist of four steps:

- Step 1 – Draft Segment Tiering (3 months)
  - Qualitative assessment of construction, permitting, and readiness
- Step 2 – Final Segment Tiering (3 months) – to include updating the RCS 2045 Baseline Network
  - Congestion reduction evaluation
  - Revised design and cost estimation
- Step 3 – Full recommendations to the HRTPO (6 months)
  - Scenario analysis
  - Traffic operations analysis
- Step 4 – Final Report (4 months)
  - Public engagement and documentation

Ms. Parkins stated that the consultant team will come back to the Joint RCS at the beginning of Step 2 to determine if any projects need to be added to the base network. She noted that although the schedule is tight, the consultant team should be able to make the original study completion date of June 2023.

Mr. Carl Jackson asked whether the Joint RCS was being asked to consider approving the updated study process or the baseline network. Ms. Parkins replied that the Joint RCS will be asked to vote on the updated study process.

Mayor Donnie Tuck stated that there were possible funding earmarks that may be brought forth from Congress and inquired to the status of the earmarks. Mr. Kevin Page, HRTAC Executive Director, replied that he was unaware of any federal funding at this time.

Mayor Rick West Moved to approve the revised RCS Scope of Work and Schedule; seconded by Mayor Donnie Tuck. The Motion Carried.

## **6. Regional Connectors Study: Draft Evaluation Measures for Segment Tiering**

Ms. Lorna Parkins stated that as noted in her previous presentation regarding the revised scope of work, the mandated RCS segments will be evaluated utilizing the following criteria:

- Permitting Issues
- Construction Complexity
- Project Readiness
- Congestion Relief

Ms. Parkins noted that the consultant team has developed a series of draft measures and factors for evaluating the mandated segments on the first three criteria. She summarized each criterion and stated that this evaluation will provide a comprehensive understanding

of the mandated segments including impacts to community residents and businesses, environmental justice populations, regional economic drivers, and the environment. She indicated that the outcome of this evaluation will provide logical information, supported by qualitative and quantitative observations, which will support the initial draft designation of the mandatory segments into three tiers as described in the revised scope of work.

Ms. Amy Inman inquired as to the quality of evaluating the segments with these measures based on unknown traffic impacts. Ms. Parkins acknowledged that there are unknown factors; however, the impacts on the segment alignments will be initially based on the current level of engineering.

Mayor Rick West Moved to approve the draft Evaluation Measures; seconded by Mayor Donnie Tuck. The Motion Carried.

## **7. For Your Information**

Mr. Robert Crum highlighted the item in the For Your Information section of the Agenda packet.

## **8. RCS Next Meeting**

Mr. Robert Crum stated that the next meeting of the Joint RCS Steering Committee and Working Group will tentatively be held in April.

## **9. Other Items of Interest**

There were no other items of interest.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.