

**Regional Connectors Study
Working Group Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021, 1:30 pm**

See “Call to Order” for COVID-19 notice.

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

Troy Eisenberger (Chesapeake)
Lynne Keenan (Hampton)
Brian Stilley (Newport News)
Brian Fowler (Norfolk)
Carl Jackson (Portsmouth)
Ric Lowman (VB)- left early; replaced by Mark Shea (VB)

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

Jason Souders (Suffolk)

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

Rob Case (HRTPO)	Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)
Anthony Donald (Michael Baker Intl.)	Pamela Phillips (VDOT)
Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)	Robert Pruhs (US Army COE)
Craig Eddy (Michael Baker Intl.)	Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator)
George Janek (US Army COE)	Angela Rico (Newport News)
Steve Jones (US Navy)	Evandro Santos (Norfolk)
Michael King (US Navy)	Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Claudette Lajoie (Solstice Environmental)	Eric Stringfield (VDOT)
Gene Leonard (US Coast Guard)	Bill Thomas (Michael Baker Intl.)
Barbara Nelson (POV)	
Keith Nichols (HRTPO)	
Kevin Page (HRTAC)	

1. Call to Order

Chair Bryan Stilley (Newport News) called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO) read this COVID-19 notice:

“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 Regional Connectors Study Working Group members, staff, and the general public, today’s meeting is being held electronically via Webex. This electronic meeting is required to complete essential business on behalf of the region.”

Ms. Parthasarathi also read a statement concerning the agenda, the meeting recording, public comment, and housekeeping 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 February 11, 2021 Working Group meeting.

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

Craig Eddy (MBI) led a discussion of preliminary alternatives. First, he asked Bill Thomas (MBI) to present slides discussing 2045 modeling results (volumes, travel times, etc.) for four alternative project alignments:

Alt. 2: I-664, VA 164

Alt. 3: I-664, VA 164, I-664 and I- 564 Connectors (the East-West Connector)

Alt. 6: I-664, VA 164, I-664 Connector, I-564 Connector, and CIMT Connector

Alt. 7: Alt. 6 modified with a more southerly alignment for I-664 Connector

Kevin Page (HRTAC) suggested that toll rates approved by HRTAC be used in the modeling, and Mr. Eddy agreed.

Brian Fowler (Norfolk) questioned the tolls on the East-West Connector. Mr. Eddy said that tolls were added to the I-664 and I-564 Connectors due to that route competing with the Midtown Tunnel (the operator of which has an agreement with the state), as shown on slide 9.

Mr. Stillely facilitated the selection of up to 10 alternatives. Several speakers questioned the validity of Alt. 7. Mr. Eddy said that the I-664 Connector portion of Alt. 7 would not be built until the end of the usage of Craney Island for dredge spoil, forecasted for 2050.

Concerning the constructability of Alt. 7, Robert Pruhs (Army COE) indicated that:

- Craney Island cells are filled with saturated marine clays
- Craney Island berm height will change

The group conducted a long discussion of the appropriateness of running an alternative that excludes the VA 164 improvement, given the HRTPO Board's recent approval of a fiscally-constrained 2045 LRTP project list that includes a VA 164 improvement. Mr. Fowler said that the RCS will be input for the 2050 LRTP.

Mr. Stillely asked whether the group wanted to change the current baseline network (a version of HRTPO's Existing plus Committed network). There was no consensus to make a change.

Mr. Fowler moved that the following set of 10 alternatives be carried forward: five (5) alignments (Alt's 2, 3, 6, 7, 6modified[without VA 164 improvements]) and two (2) I-664 HOT design (2 or 4 lanes). Carl Jackson (Portsmouth) seconded. The working group voted to carry them forward.

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

7. Meetings/Events

- A. Scheduled Working Group Virtual Meetings:
 - May 13, 2021- 1:30pm
 - June 10, 2021- 1:30pm
 - July 8, 2021- 1:30pm
 - August 12, 2021- 1:30pm
 - September 9, 2021- 1:30pm
 - October 14, 2021- 1:30pm
- B. Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group Meeting:
 - Tuesday May 25, 2021 – 11am to 1pm

8. Other Items of Interest

No other items were discussed.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned approximately at 4:15 pm.