

**Regional Connectors Study  
Joint Steering (Policy) Committee & Working Group Meeting Minutes  
April 26, 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)  
Shannon Glover (PO)  
Michael Duman (SU)  
Robert Dyer (VB)

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

Martin Thomas (NO)

Working Group

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

Troy Eisenberger (CH)  
Angela Rico (NN)  
Debbie Mangiaracina (NO)  
Carl Jackson (PO)  
Jason Souders (SU)  
Ric Lowman (VB)

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

James Mitchell (HA)

Others

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

Rob Case (HRTPO)	Barb Nelson (VPA)
Robert A. Crum, Jr. (HRTPO/HRPDC)	Keith Nichols (HRTPO)
Lesley Dobbins-Noble (USACE)	Kevin Page (HRTAC)
Rick Dwyer (HRFFMA)	Lorna Parkins (Michael Baker Intl.)
Kyle Gilmer (HRTPO)	Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)
George Janek (USACE)	Paul Prideaux (Michael Baker Intl.)
Steve Jones (Naval Station Norfolk)	Craig Quigley (HRMFFA)
Claudette Lajoie (Solstice Environmental)	Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Independent Coordinator)
Chris Largy (Michael Baker Intl.)	Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Karen McPherson (McPherson Consulting)	Eric Stringfield (VDOT)

## **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, asked attendees to introduce themselves.

## **3. Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments.

## **4. Minutes**

The January 11, 2022 minutes were approved.

## **5. Regional Connectors Study (RCS): Qualitative Evaluation of Segments and Bundles**

At the January 11, 2022 Joint Meeting, the Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group approved a four-step process for moving forward. Ms. Lorna Parkins, RCS Co-Project Manager (Michael Baker Intl.), presented the results of Step 1 “Qualitative Evaluation of Mandated Segments and Bundling of Segments”. Near the beginning of her presentation, she invited Dale Stith (HRTPO) to give a quick review of the HRTPO long-range planning process.

Ms. Parkins then described the assumed characteristics of the five mandated segments analyzed, and presented qualitative findings for each segment in these categories:

- Construction Complexity
- Permitting Issues and Key Environmental Impacts
- Project Readiness

Carl Jackson (Portsmouth) expressed concern about the possible undercounting of property takes for the VA 164 Widening segment. Concerning the I-664 Connector segment, Lesley Dobbins-Noble (COE) suggested a high impact rating due to the Section 408 process for Craney Island. Concerning the VA 164 Connector segment, Steve Jones (Naval Station Norfolk) asked whether it had been changed to at-grade where it crosses the fuel depot. Kevin Page (HRTAC) noted that a crash wall is not required in the 99-year railroad permit. He also suggested that the southern portion of the I-664 segment—included in HRTAC’s 2045 long-range plan of finance (to be approved by HRTAC in June) be considered “a given”, i.e. included in the study “baseline”. Ms. Parkins noted that that is one of the consultant team’s recommendations. Mayor Price (Newport News) mentioned that VDEQ is studying the air-quality effects of the coal piles which may be impacted by the widening of the northern portion of I-664.

Ms. Parkins presented recommended bundling of segments (into four bundles) to be used in the measurement of benefits, e.g. congestion relief, economic impacts, etc.

Recommendations up for approval:

- Placing the southern portion of the I-664 segment in the study “baseline”.
- Bundling segments into four bundles (A, B, C, and D, as described on the slides) for analysis of benefits.

Mayor Tuck (Hampton) moved to approve the above recommendations; seconded by Mayor Dyer (Va. Beach). The motion carried.

## **6. For Your Information**

The agenda referred to a Diary of key decision points included in the agenda packet.

## **7. RCS Next Meeting**

Ms. Parkins stated that the next meetings of the Joint RCS Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group will be held in June and July.

## **8. Other Items of Interest**

There were no other items of interest.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned approximately at 10:40 a.m.