

HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2022
10:00 a.m.
at the Virginia Port Authority
World Trade Center 6th Floor, 101 W. Main Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Members in Attendance:

Mr. Mike Abbott, Hapag-Lloyd (America) LLC
Mr. Robert Eveleigh, Port City Transportation (Chair)
Mr. Rick Morris, Canon Virginia

Members Not Present:

Ms. Marcia Capelli
Mr. Mark Lamb, Superior Air Freight
Mr. Cannon Moss, NPBLR
Mr. David White, Virginia Maritime Association (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Lang Williams, Colliers International, Norfolk

Other Participants:

Ms. Barbara Nelson, The Port of Virginia
Ms. Karen McPherson, McPherson Consulting
Mr. Carl Jackson, City of Portsmouth
Mr. Eric Stringfield, VDOT – Hampton Roads District
Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO
Ms. Dale Stith, HRTPO
Mr. Keith Nichols, HRPTO
Mr. Sam Belfield, HRPTO
Mr. Uros Jovanovic, HRTPO
Ms. Theresa Brooks, HRTPO
Mr. Matthew Klepeisz, HRTPO
Mr. Matthew Harrington, HRTPO

Per the requirements of the Code of Virginia, the meeting agenda and all supporting documentation were posted on the HRTPO website for public review, and electronic copies of this information were provided to FTAC members and other interested parties.

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by FTAC Chairman, Mr. Eveleigh.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Due to a lack of quorum, the agenda was not approved.

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Public Comment Period (limit 3 minutes per individual)
There were no public comments offered.
- B. Submitted Public Comments
There were no public comments submitted.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 15, 2022, MINUTES

Due to a lack of quorum, the summary minutes of the FTAC meeting held on June 15, 2022 were not approved. Mr. Eveleigh requested that acronyms be spelled out in the minutes followed by the acronym in parentheses to promote clarity in communication.

AGENDA ITEM #5: HRPDC/HRTPO LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. Crum, HRTPO, provided an overview of the regional legislative priorities the HRPDC/HRTPO are considering for the region. Through an HRPDC/HRTPO appointed legislative committee, Mr. Crum indicated that the development of priorities was underway with a goal to reach consensus and finalize by October to carry these priorities forward to the upcoming General Assembly session. Mr. Crum highlighted the following priorities and efforts: a third passenger rail train to Norfolk, increased state funding for economic development, site readiness and broadband, toll relief, and real estate flood disclosure. Mr. Crum identified the following 2023 transportation-related priorities: fully funding the I-64 gap, reducing the Elizabeth River Crossings (ERC) toll impact, enhancing passenger rail service, the construction of the Virginia Capital Trail extension, and a regional funding mechanism for Hampton Roads Transit 757 Express.

AGENDA ITEM #6: 2050 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN KICKOFF

Ms. Stith, HRTPO, provided a presentation on the kick-off to the HRTPO 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which included an overview of the LRTP, plan development, regional collaboration and stakeholder input, timeline, and milestones. Ms. Stith stated that while the 2045 LRTP was just adopted in June 2021, the 2050 LRTP is on schedule to be adopted by June 2026. Ms. Stith indicated that the LRTP must be fiscally constrained and that various scenarios will be developed to address growth, equity and accessibility, and needs. Ms. Stith shared that the population and employment forecast will be presented to the HRTPO's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee in October and for approval by the HRTPO Board in November. Ms. Stith also noted that a public survey would be launched in October to obtain input on regional priorities to assist the HRTPO in defining the LRTP vision and goals.

Ms. Stith requested input from the FTAC on growth assumptions, truck volume forecasts, and data model input to ensure that freight would be well-represented in the vision and goals and project prioritization. A brief discussion ensued, which included travel patterns and behavior, populating truck zones, units of measure and capturing freight employment to better capture freight needs in the transportation system.

AGENDA ITEM #7: HAMPTON ROADS RAIL CROSSING STUDY

Mr. Nichols, HRTPO, briefed the Committee on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act freight transportation impacts and the significance of preparing a regional Rail Crossing Study to better position the region for new federal funding sources, including the Railroad Crossing Elimination discretionary grant program. After providing an overview of the grant program and grant requirements, there was a brief discussion on which projects met project readiness and what the study would include. Mr. Nichols indicated the results of the study would facilitate project prioritization, and a brief discussion followed, which included additional items to be documented in the report that included adjacent signalized intersections and their integration with the railroad crossing preemption, vertical clearances for railroad bridges which may create height restrictions for truck traffic, and crossings with signal equipment in the study inventory.

AGENDA ITEM #8: STATEWIDE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – UPDATE

Ms. Nelson, Port of Virginia, provided a summary of the August 10, 2022, statewide Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting, which included:

- Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment – SMART SCALE and its relationship to freight
 - VTrans eligibility
 - VTrans and Commonwealth Transportation Board update
- General Assembly
 - Federal mandate with Virginia Economic Development Partnership Inland Port Feasibility Assessment
- The Department of Rail and Public Transportation is developing the Virginia Statewide Rail Plan for 2022
 - To include a robust freight element
- Strategic planning efforts overview of past efforts and moving forward to include a more comprehensive study of the Route 164 Corridor.

Ms. Nelson indicated the next FAC meeting is scheduled for early November 2022 with the location to be determined, and that the agenda would include changes to the charter.

AGENDA ITEM #9: FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Nichols and Ms. Nelson provided a status update on the following:

- Regional Freight Facilities Inventory
- VDOT Truck Parking Study – Phase II
- ATCMTD Autonomous Truck Ready Study

- Port of Virginia Electric Dray Study
- Freight Delivery Vulnerabilities

AGENDA ITEM #10: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There were none.

AGENDA ITEM #11: NEXT MEETING

Mr. Eveleigh stated the next meeting of the FTAC is scheduled for December 8, 2022.

AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:26 a.m.