

**HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 20, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**at the Virginia Port Authority**  
**World Trade Center 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 101 Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510**

**Members in Attendance:**

Mr. Robert Eveleigh, Port City Transportation (Chair)  
Mr. David White, Virginia Maritime Association (Vice-Chair)  
Mr. Mike Abbott, Hapag-Lloyd  
Mr. Rick Morris, Canon Virginia

**Members Not Present:**

Ms. Marcia Capelli, Newport News Shipbuilding  
Mr. Cannon Moss, NPBLR

**Other Participants:**

Mr. Carl Jackson, Portsmouth  
Mr. Bob Crum, HRTPO  
Ms. Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO  
Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO  
Ms. Dale Stith, HRTPO  
Mr. Sam Belfield, HRTPO  
Mr. Robert Case, HRTPO  
Ms. Barbara Nelson, The Port of Virginia  
Mr. Thomas Cross, The Port of Virginia  
Ms. Karen McPherson, The Port of Virginia

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.

The general public was provided an opportunity to comment on the agenda in advance of the meeting by two options:

1. Members of the public were invited to submit comments to the FTAC via email.
2. Members of the public were also invited to call into a dedicated phone line where comments could be recorded for the FTAC.

No comments were received via either option as of 48 hours before the meeting.

1. Everyone was asked to identify themselves by name and the locality or agency they represent when providing input, a motion, or second.
2. All votes taken must be made by roll call vote and recorded in the minutes.

### **AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Nichols, HRTPO Principal Transportation Engineer.

### **AGENDA ITEM #2: FTAC OFFICERS ELECTION**

Mr. White moved to nominate Mr. Eveleigh as Chair of FTAC. The committee voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Eveleigh as the new Chair and Mr. White as Vice-Chair.

### **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 AGENDA**

Mr. Eveleigh moved to approve the agenda with Mr. White seconding the motion. The agenda was approved.

### **AGENDA ITEM #5: MINUTES**

A summary of minutes from the FTAC meeting held on May 4, 2021 were made available. Mr. Eveleigh noted he would like to amend the minutes to refer to members by their legal first name and preferred salutation. The amended minutes were moved by Mr. White and seconded by Mike Abbott. The amended minutes were approved.

### **AGENDA ITEM #6: FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

Mr. Crum detailed ongoing discussions regarding the federal infrastructure bill and highlighted the collaboration and consensus among regional partners to identify infrastructure priorities for Hampton Roads. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act would provide additional funding for various transportation infrastructure projects including roads, bridges, rail, ports, airports, and transit. Mr. Crum emphasized that our collaboration has been our advantage when discussing the legislation with our federal representatives. Other regions throughout the U.S, including Nashville, TN and Austin, TX, have looked to learn more about how we have organized and positioned ourselves to take advantage of this legislation. If the legislation does pass, we're going to have to apply and compete for those available funds.

### **AGENDA ITEM #7: HRPDC/HRTPO LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Mr. Crum detailed the progress in cultivating a legislative agenda for the upcoming General Assembly session in January of 2022. He mentioned that when we speak in a unified voice it bodes well. Mr. Crum then detailed the formation of a joint TPO/PDC legislative committee and certain priorities the agenda will include like the commonwealth flooding board, offshore wind development fund, site-readiness for economic development, school construction, broadband, and specific transportation initiatives. The transportation initiatives specifically include finishing I-64 widening between Richmond and Hampton

Roads, the Elizabeth River Crossing and the tolls associated with it, as well as improved passenger rail service throughout the Commonwealth.

**AGENDA ITEM #8: HRTPO REGIONAL GATEWAY STUDY UPDATE**

HRTPO staff provided an update regarding the regional gateway. Mr. Crum emphasized the need to be strategic and focused on our particular region. Mr. Nichols mentioned that currently I-64 and Rt. 58 are #1 and #2 in terms of traffic and volume but it will be interesting to see what changes as improvements are completed on I-64 with the HRBT widening and Segments I, II, and III completed in the coming years. Ms. McPherson made the point that it's worth looking at where economic distribution centers are along the corridors to help make decisions. Mr. White mentioned it would be worth looking at safety improvements between corridors as well.

**AGENDA ITEM #9: STATEWIDE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

Mr. David White, Statewide FAC Chair, provided an update to the FTAC on this item. The last meeting was held on June 9, 2021. Topics included confirming the charter, which was tabled until a later date. The statewide FAC is not going to be considered a public body. Members learned more about freight planning from a federal perspective. Going forward, they will hear presentations from the railroads, look to approve the charter, and host a discussion regarding the re-designation of the primary highway freight system.

**AGENDA ITEM #10: PRIMARY HIGHWAY FREIGHT SYSTEM (PHFS) REDESIGNATION**

Mr. Keith Nichols briefed the FTAC on this item. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act designated the Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS), which is a network of highways intended to reflect the most critical highway portions of the U.S. freight transportation system. In Hampton Roads, the PHFS only includes portions of I-64, I-664, and selected Intermodal Connectors. Ms. Nelson mentioned that this was our opportunity for us to state what our needs are given our position as a freight advisory committee and that these designations determine where money is spent. Mr. White inquired whether there should be criteria towards economic contribution included given that 50% of traffic passing through Virginia contributes to economic well-being of VA. Mr. Eveleigh moved and Mr. Abbott seconded to recommend designating I-64 between Battlefield Boulevard and I-664/Bowers Hill and I-664 between I/64/Bowers Hill and Terminal Avenue as Critical Urban Freight Corridors and that if additional mileage becomes available that the VA-164 corridor from the Western Freeway to I-664 and US 58 corridor to be considered for CUFC designation to the statewide freight advisory committee. Additionally, Mr. Eveleigh moved and Mr. Abbott seconded that economic contribution be considered in evaluating each of these submissions. Both motions passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #11: HAMPTON ROADS 2045 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN: PLAN ADOPTION**

Ms. Dale Stith briefed the FTAC on this item. On June 17, 2021, the HRTPO Board adopted the Hampton Roads 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The 2045 LRTP was developed over a 5-year period through a collaborative process involving many regional

stakeholders, including FTAC, and the public to identify, prioritize, and fiscally constrain needed transportation investments. Using the Regional Scenario Planning Framework and the updated HRTPO Project Prioritization Tool, the 2045 LRTP identifies \$17 billion to maintain the existing transportation system and an additional \$13.7 billion for multimodal projects and studies that will help improve the movement of people and goods. The 2045 LRTP is documented through a series of reports, which are available on the 2045 LRTP webpage.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #12: FUTURE WORK EFFORTS OF FTAC**

Ms. Nelson briefed the committee on the potential plans for the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee. The FTAC will need to balance its work with future opportunities to bring awareness to policy makers while also getting behind certain priorities. The Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) was created by the HRTPO Board in 2009 to provide an opportunity for the freight industry to participate in and contribute to the regional transportation planning process. The Mission of the FTAC is to “Advocate on behalf of the systematic needs for the transport and movement of freight in the region. The committee will act as an advocate for freight issues and bring awareness of those issues to the public, key stakeholders and policy makers.” Mr. Eveleigh encouraged members to attend future HRTPO meetings to get a sense of how it works. He also encouraged us to recruit more members that have an interest in freight. Next meeting will be in December with a date TBD. Meeting adjourned.