



Agenda

Regional Connectors Study

Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

9:30 AM

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 the working group members, staff, and the general public, the **Regional Connectors Study Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group** meeting will be held electronically. This electronic meeting is required to complete essential business on behalf of the region.

1. **Call to Order, Declaration re: Purpose of Meeting, and Roll Call**
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Public Comment Period** - Comments submitted and received by noon on October 26, 2020 will be provided to the Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group in time for the meeting and included in the official record.

Members of the public are invited to address the RCS Joint Steering (Policy) and Working Group Meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interested persons may submit comments in advance of the meeting by email to kmiller@hrtpo.org or phone (757) 366-4370. Each comment is limited to three minutes.

4. **Minutes (Actions Requested)**
 - A. Summary Minutes from November 5, 2019 Steering (Policy) Committee Meeting
Attachment 4A
 - B. Summary Minutes from October 8, 2020 Working Group Meeting
Attachment 4B

Recommended Actions:

- 4A – Steering Committee approval of the minutes of the 11/5/19 meeting.
- 4B – Working Group approval of the minutes of the 10/8/20 meeting.

**5. Regional Connectors Study: Phase 2 Status Report - (Action Requested)
Craig Eddy (MBI) and Consultant Team**

Mr. Craig Eddy, Project Manager, and the Consultant Team will provide the Committee and Working Group with an update of Phase 2 RCS tasks.

In the past several months, the Consultant Team has been working to finalize land-use modeling, the scenario planning process, and travel demand modeling adjustments and calibrations. These tasks have been presented to the Working Group throughout the year 2020 (see Attachment 5).

The briefing will include the following:

- Recap of Phase 2 Tasks
- Update on the scenario planning process, land use model, and travel demand model (TDM)
- Results of TDM validations and calibrations for 2017 (Existing), 2045 Base, and three 2045 Greater Growth Scenarios
- Model results on selected performance measures – Congestion, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), vehicle hours traveled (VHT), delay, average free-flow speed, and average congested speeds for regional roadway network and harbor crossings.

The primary purpose of this agenda item is to seek concurrence by the Steering Committee that there is adequate differentiation between the three 2045 Growth Scenarios and, therefore, no need to revisit the 8% increase in employment growth (over the HRTPO approved 2045 Base employment growth) that was used for each of the Growth Scenarios. Assuming this concurrence, the Steering Committee will be asked to approve the completion of Phase 2 of the RCS.

At its October 8, 2020 meeting, the RCS Working Group recommended approval of Phase 2 scenario planning, travel demand modeling, and completion of this phase of the study.

Attachment 5

Recommended Action:

Steering Committee approval of Phase 2 completion, including Greater Growth Scenario Planning differentiation and Travel Demand Modeling Performance Measures.

6. Regional Connectors Study: Mandated SEIS Segments and Other Potential Segments – (Action Requested)
Craig Eddy, MBI

According to the Phase 3 Scope of Work, a maximum of ten preliminary alternatives will be developed. They will include the following combinations of (see Attachment 6A):

- Five mandated segments (from HRCS SEIS):
 - I-664
 - I-664 Connector
 - I-564 Connector
 - VA 164
 - VA 164 Connector

- Other potential segments (from RCS Stakeholders Survey and Interviews):
 - Improving Route 17
 - Separate/adjacent tunnel for traffic out of NIT
 - New crossing just east of Williamsburg with connection to US 17, I-664, or US 460/17 on southside
 - Ferry Service – Hampton, Norfolk, Newport News connections
 - I-87 to NC
 - Western extension of proposed I-664 Connector to US 17

This item was thoroughly discussed during the March 2020 and October 2020 Working Group Meetings. At the October 8, 2020 meeting, the Working Group passed a motion recommending that the RCS move forward with studying alternatives comprised of the five mandated segments and modifications of the five.

Mr. Craig Eddy (MBI), Project Manager, and the Consultant Team will provide a briefing on this item.

To better facilitate the discussions, the following documents are attached (or link provided) for your use:

- Attachment 6A - Map of Mandated and other Potential Segments
- Attachment 6B – Constraints
- Attachment 6C - Navy Craney Island Fuel Depot Image
- Attachment 6D- US Army Corps of Engineers: June 29, 2016 Letter to VDOT re: HRCS SEIS Alternatives
- Attachment 6E – Navy Comment letter on Draft HRCS SEIS, September 9, 2016
- SEIS-Summary of Alternatives Report
<https://connectorstudy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SEIS-Summary-of-Alternatives-20-04-06-Draft-Final-1.pdf>

Recommended Action:

Steering Committee selection of segments to be carried forward for evaluation in the Phase 3 Alternatives Development Task

7. For Your Information

- A) Status of Deliverables – Will be provided at the October 27, 2020 Meeting
- B) Revised Schedule for Phase 3 - Attachment 7B

8. RCS Next Scheduled/Planned Meetings for 2020

- November 12, 2020 – 1:30 PM: Working Group Meeting
- December 10, 2020 – 9:30 AM: Working Group Meeting
- Week of December 7, 2020 – **Tentative** Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group Meeting – Date TBD

9. Other Items of Interest

10. Adjournment