

**Summary Minutes of the HRPDC/HRTPO  
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting  
November 12, 2020**

The HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting was called to order at noon at the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia. 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 Committee members, staff, and the general public, the CAC Meeting was held electronically via Zoom. These electronic meetings are required to complete essential business on behalf of the region. A recording of the meeting is available on the website.

**HRPDC/HRTPO CAC Members in Attendance:**

Terry Danaher, Chair (PO)	Garry Harris (PO)
Carlton Hardy, Vice-Chair (NN)	George Mears (SU)
Cecil Jenkins (CH)	Dianna Howard (VB)
Cynthia Taylor (IW)	Brad Martin (VB)
Lamont Curtis (NN)	Waverly Woods (VB)
Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky (PO)	Henry Branscome (WM)
Delceno Miles (VB)	
Christian Strange (NO)	
Nina Britton (H)	
Brandon Carter (CH)	

**HRPDC/HRTPO CAC Members Absent:**

**HRPDC/HRTPO Staff:**

Robert A. Crum, Jr.  
Keith Cannady  
Mike Kimbrel  
Kendall Miller  
Robert Cofield  
Joe Turner  
Danielle Spach  
John Sadler  
Cynthia Mulkey

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Paula Miller (VDOT)  
Lisa Renee Jennings (LoveVA)  
Holly Christopher (VDOT)

## **Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments

## **Submitted Public Comments**

There were no submitted public comments.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Following Chair Terry Danaher's calling the CAC meeting to order, Ms. Kendall Miller, HRPDC/HRTPO Administrator, Office of Community Affairs and Civil Rights, read the HRPDC/HRTPO Electronic Meeting Policy Statement detailing the Commonwealth of Virginia Governor's ongoing declaration of the Commonwealth's state of emergency due to COVID-19, and its impact on public meetings.

Chair Danaher then asked for a motion to approve the September 10, 2020 agenda and added "New and Old Business" to the agenda. Ms. Waverly Woods moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Delceno Miles. The agenda was approved.

## **Summary Minutes of the September 10, 2020 CAC Meeting**

Chair Danaher asked for a motion to approve the September 10, 2020 summary minutes. Chair Danaher noted 2 errors (repetitive wording) in the summary minutes and asked that it be corrected. Ms. Delceno Miles Moved to approve the summary minutes of the September 10, 2020 CAC meeting as amended; seconded by Ms. Dianna Howard. The Motion Carried.

## **LoveVA Buy Local Campaign**

Ms. Lisa Renee Jennings, LoveVA Program Manager, briefed the committee on "Buy Local" month, occurring from November 15, 2020 to December 15, 2020. Emphasizing the importance of small businesses in Hampton Roads, Ms. Jennings outlined the way in which small businesses help to build and sustain the communities in which they function.

Ms. Jennings informed the CAC that in October of 2019, the HRPDC Board adopted a resolution declaring November 15, 2019 to December 15, 2019, "Buy Local" month and that a 2020 resolution supporting Buy Local month would be put before the HRPDC board for adoption at the November 19, 2020 HRPDC Board meeting.

Ms. Waverly Woods mentioned that when the Hampton Roads region engaged in large scale events, such as the Neptune Festival or the Virginia Beach Christmas Boardwalk Light Display, all efforts should be made by localities to award contracts to local vendors.

Ms. Jennings went on to describe the goals of the "Buy Local" campaign:

- Leveling the playing field by making "locally owned" a strong brand that can counter the advertising advantages the chains enjoy

- Engaging citizens in actively shaping the future economic development of Hampton Roads
- Influencing city officials and helping to shape policies that support local enterprise
- Stimulating more media coverage of the issues and providing a strong voice for independent businesses in local news stories
- Working with banks, developers, community organizations, and others through a highly visible educational campaign to create opportunities for local business development

The CAC received outreach and marketing materials to share with their respective communities, in support of “Buy Local” month.

### **Hampton Roads “It’s In Our Hands” Campaign**

Ms. Danielle Spach, HRPDC All-Hazards Emergency Management Planner, briefed the CAC on the recently launched regional “It’s in our Hands” campaign. She explained that the campaign was coordinated by the HRPDC, which established a workgroup consisting of HRPDC staff and each Hampton Roads locality Public Information Officer. The workgroup came together to create a campaign to promote behaviors to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Hampton Roads.

Ms. Spach went on to say that the Hampton Roads “It’s in Our Hands” campaign encourages residents of all ages that they are the keys to stopping the spread of the coronavirus and to keeping the Hampton Roads region open and thriving. The campaign reminds residents and visitors to follow essential behaviors such as wearing a mask, keeping 6 feet apart, washing hands, and sanitizing high-touch areas to help reduce the risk of coronavirus infection within our community.

Ms. Spach provided CAC members with a resource toolbox of graphics and templates that can be shared with the public. She also provided the CAC with the hyperlink located on the HRPDC website, that contained additional tools and graphics:

<https://www.hrpdcva.gov/departments/emergency-management/its-in-our-hands-tool-box>

### **Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Update**

Ms. Paula Miller, VDOT HRBT Communications Manager, gave the CAC an update on the HRBT and construction status.

She explained that a Comprehensive Agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and Hampton Roads Connector Partners was signed in April 2019, with a project cost of \$3.8 Billion. She said that in addition to bringing much-needed congestion relief and providing travel time reliability to the corridor, the expansion project is designed to enhance safety, improve hurricane evacuation routes, and ensure military and maritime readiness. She went on to say that most of the construction and tunneling will occur over a 55-month period between 2020 and 2025.

## **VDOT Office of Communications Review and Update**

Ms. Holly Christopher, VDOT Communications Officer, provided the CAC with a brief overview of the purpose and function of the Office of Communications. Ms. Miller reminded the CAC that although VDOT is very responsive to CAC members, all inquiries should be made to the HRPDC, and HRPDC staff will proceed to obtain the requested information for the CAC member.

## **New/Old Business**

Mr. Robert Crum, Jr., HRPDC/HRTPO Executive Director, gave the CAC an update on the sale of Skanska USA Inc., and Macquarie Infrastructure Partners II's stake in Elizabeth River Crossings to Spanish toll-road manager Abertis and Manulife Investment Management. Mr. Crum explained that Skanska USA and Macquarie Infrastructure Partners held 50% equity stakes in Elizabeth River Crossings and that under terms of the nearly \$2.4 billion deal, Skanska and Macquarie will each receive \$625 million. The new owners will also assume approximately \$1.13 billion in debt. Mr. Crum provided background on Elizabeth River Crossings, explaining that Elizabeth River Crossings was formed in 2012 when Skanska and Macquarie partnered with the Commonwealth of Virginia for a \$2.16 billion public-private partnership that rehabilitated the existing tunnel and surface transportation infrastructure and added a new, 3,800 foot long parallel tube to double the capacity of the Midtown Tunnel. In return, the consortium received an operations and maintenance concession that expires in 2070.

Mr. Crum shared that the Hampton Roads Region, along with the City of Portsmouth, was not a signatory to the original agreement the Commonwealth made with Skanska and Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, and that the agreement provided an allowance for a 3.5 percent increase in tolls each year through 2070. Chair Danaher added that annual toll increases could be higher than 3.5 percent due to language in the agreement that relates the increases to the Consumer Price Index.

Mr. Crum explained that due to concerns about the original Elizabeth River Crossing (ERC) Toll Agreement signed by the Commonwealth of Virginia and concessionaire, the HRTPO board formed the Elizabeth River Crossing Task Force. Based on comments received and expressed during task force meetings and throughout the Region, guiding principles have been prepared that express potential goals for the region to work towards to mitigate the impacts of tolls at the Downtown and Midtown Tunnels on the Hampton Roads region. He said that those guiding principles and goals would be considered by the HRTPO, HRPDC, and HRTAC Boards in a unified regional statement regarding this issue.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Danaher asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Carlton Hardy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Brad Martin. The Motion Carried.

With no further business to come before the HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.