

HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2021
10:00 a.m.
at the Virginia Port Authority
World Trade Center 6th 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. Rick Morris, Canon Virginia
Mr. Cannon Moss, NPBLR
Ms. Diane Grigsby, Newport News Shipbuilding

Members Not Present:

Mr. Mike Abbott, Hapag-Lloyd

Other Participants:

Mr. Scott Smizik, VDOT
Mr. Andrew Pike, VDOT
Mr. Eric Stringfield, VDOT
Ms. Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO
Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO
Mr. Sam Belfield, HRTPO
Mr. Robert Case, HRTPO
Mrs. 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 via 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 FTAC Chairman, Mr. Robert Eveleigh.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Eveleigh moved to approve the agenda, the agenda was approved unanimously.

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: MINUTES

Summary minutes of the FTAC meeting held on September 20, 2021 were made available. Mr. White moved and Mr. Morris seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEM #5: BOWERS HILL INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS STUDY

Mr. Andrew Pike, VDOT, briefed the FTAC on this item. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), initiated the environmental review process for the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential transportation improvements at the Bowers Hill interchange in 2018. Following the issuance of the EA, the HRTPO, in consultation with HRTAC, VDOT, and FHWA, expanded the Bowers Hill Interchange Improvements study area to include a larger study area, including approximately seven additional miles north along I-664 to College Drive. Considerations also included how the study area would interact with Express Lanes that are under construction on I-64 to the east of the study area. This briefing covered the Bowers Hill Interchange Improvements Study background, concepts considered, alternatives retained, potential impacts, and a recommended preferred alternative. The HRTPO Policy Board is expected to take action regarding the recommended preferred alternative at their January 20, 2022 meeting. Mr. Eveleigh asked members to forward their comments to him to compile in advance of the January 20th meeting of the HRTPO.

AGENDA ITEM #6: FTAC MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Robert Eveleigh, FTAC Chair, initiated discussion on this item. The HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) is comprised of regional freight business leaders, largely from private industry. The FTAC includes a minimum of nine members, but

three positions are currently vacant. According to the updated Bylaws the following interest groups should be considered when selecting FTAC members:

- Freight Forwarding
- Ports
- Shipping Company
- Trucking Company
- Warehousing
- Free Trade Zone
- Airport Cargo
- Stevedores
- Trade Associations
- Real Estate/Economic Development
- Towing and Tug Operators
- Rail Cargo
- HRTPO Policy Board voting members

Mr. Eveleigh mentioned a potential individual and sought input for other members to join the FTAC. Mr. Eveleigh moved and Mr. Moss seconded that Lang Williams from Colliers International to be nominated in the January meeting of the HRTPO to join the FTAC.

AGENDA ITEM #7: FTAC PRIORITIES/FORMAL POSITIONS

Mr. Robert Eveleigh, FTAC Chair, initiated discussion on this item. The Mission of the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee 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." FTAC members were asked to identify topics that the committee should consider establishing formal positions on.

- Mr. Eveleigh indicated he would delve further in to toll reductions at the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels. Ms. Parthasarathi mentioned this was also impacting the military and its members.
- Mr. Moss stated he would seek to offer a position for railroad priorities.
- Ms. Nelson stated that she would look further in to electric vehicle and dray trucks.
- Mr. White mentioned that he would work on the position that the region should be receiving credit for the work it has done to fund road projects regionally despite the lack of federal funding.
- The committee indicated they would like to host Eric Johnson for a future presentation to discuss this further.

AGENDA ITEM #8: HRTPO FY 2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO, provided an update to the FTAC on this item. Each year, HRTPO staff conducts a few special studies to address specific transportation concerns of its member localities and agencies. Staff presented examples of past freight related studies completed by the HRTPO, special studies included in this year's UPWP, and solicited possible study topics for the FY 2023 UPWP.

AGENDA ITEM #9: STATEWIDE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – UPDATE

Mr. David White, FAC Chair, provided an update to the FTAC on this item. He described the most recent meeting held during Governor's Transportation Conference in Crystal City Dec. 1-3. He mentioned that Ms. Nelson gave a good presentation as well as the Virginia Transportation Research Council. Emphasized that we should have them come down and present as well. The Statewide FAC received the HRTPO's FTAC committees' recommendation for additional mileage to be designated under the PHFS. Additionally the Statewide FAC set a schedule for the second Wednesday of February, May, August, and November from 10 a.m. to noon.

AGENDA ITEM #10: REGIONAL GATEWAY STUDY

Mr. Rob Case briefed the FTAC on this item. Improvements have been proposed for many of the corridors that provide access to and from Hampton Roads. Some of these improvements include widening I-64 between Richmond and Williamsburg, replacing all or portions of Routes 58 and 460 with limited-access facilities, and building I-87 to and from North Carolina. HRTPO staff is preparing a study to compare proposed improvements to these corridors based on the overall collective impact on the Hampton Roads region. Mr. White mentioned that hurricane evacuations should be factored in to this study as well. This item built on the presentation that was provided to the FTAC at the previous meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #11: FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTION ITEMS

- A. INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) – FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS
- B. 2050 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN KICKOFF
- C. REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY KICKOFF
- D. HAMPTON ROADS GATEWAY STUDY
- E. HRTPO CMAQ/RSTP PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS
- F. REGIONAL CONNECTORS STUDY
- G. VDOT TRUCK PARKING STUDY

H. FREIGHT DELIVERY VULNERABILITIES

AGENDA ITEM #12: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #13: NEXT MEETING

AGENDA ITEM #14: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Eveleigh moved to adjourn, Mr. White seconded, meeting is adjourned.