

Regional Connectors Study
Joint Steering (Policy) Committee & Working Group Meeting Minutes
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 members, staff, and general public, this meeting was held electronically via Webex. These electronic meetings are required to complete essential business on behalf of the region. A recording of the meeting will be available on the website.

Steering (Policy) Committee

The following voting members attended the web meeting (alphabetically by city):

Donnie Tuck (HA)
McKinley Price (NN)
Martin Thomas (NO)
John Rowe (PO)
Bob Dyer (VB)

The following voting members were absent (alphabetically by city):

Rick West (CH)
Linda Johnson (SU)

Note that these cities were represented by members of the Working Group below.

Working Group

The following voting members attended the web meeting (alphabetically by city):

Earl Sorey (CH)
Lynne Keenan (HA) (replacing Jason Mitchell (HA))
Brian Fowler (NO)
Bryan Stilley (NN)
James Wright (PO) (did not vote) and Carl Jackson (PO) (voted in place of James Wright)
Jason Souders (SU)
Ric Lowman (VB) (replacing Phil Pullen (VB))

The following voting members were absent (alphabetically by last name):

[see Jason Mitchell and Phil Pullen above]

Others

The following others attended the web meeting (alphabetically by last name):

James Nick Britton (Michael Baker Intl.)	Keith Nichols (HRTPO)
Rob Case (HRTPO)	Kevin Page (HRTAC)
Bob Crum (HRTPO/HRPDC)	Lorna Parkins (Michael Baker Intl.)
Anthony Donald (Michael Baker Intl.)	Pamela Phillips (VDOT)
Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)	Craig Quigley (HRMFFA)
Craig Eddy (Michael Baker Intl.)	Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator)
Troy Eisenberger (Chesapeake)	Angela Rico (NN)
Cole Fisher (Va. Beach)	Evandro Santos (Norfolk)
Jason Flowers (Army Corps)	Lisa Simpson (Newport News)
Amy Inman (Norfolk)	Naomi Stein (EDR)
George Janek (Army Corps)	Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Steve Jones (Navy)	Eric Stringfield (VDOT)
Keith Lockwood (Army Corps)	Bill Thomas (Michael Baker Intl.)
Debbie Mangiaracina (Norfolk)	Cathy Vick (POV)
Barbara Nelson (POV)	

1. Call to Order

Mayor McKinley Price (Chair, Newport News) called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Bob Crum (HRPDC/HRTPO) spoke a COVID-19 notice.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Bob Crum (HRPDC/HRTPO) called the roll.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Minutes

The Steering (Policy) Committee approved the minutes of the November 5, 2019 Steering (Policy) Committee meeting.

The Working Group approved the minutes of the October 8, 2020 Working Group meeting.

5. RCS: Phase 2 Status Report

Craig Eddy (MBI) used slides to provide the joint body an update of Phase 2 tasks.
Lorna Parkins (MBI) showed scenario planning work using slides.
Bill Thomas (MBI) used slides to provide the impact of the scenarios on travel.
Naomi Stein (EDR) showed economic results of the scenarios using slides.

The joint body approved Phase 2 completion, including Greater Growth scenario planning differentiation and travel demand modeling performance measures (moved by Mayor Rowe, seconded by Mayor Dyer) by individual voice vote. Prior to the vote, at the request of Mayor Rowe, Cathy Vick and Barb Nelson verbalized the Port's perspective, including expected growth of the Port.

6. RCS: Mandated SEIS Segments and Other Potential Segments

Using slides, Craig Eddy (MBI) presented the five “Mandated Segments” (i.e. segments from Hampton Roads Crossing Study [HRCS] Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement [SEIS] required for analysis by foundational study documents), including the VA 164 Connector:

VA 164 Connector

Craig Quigley (HRMFFA) said that VA 164 Connector gives the Navy heartburn. Craig Eddy (MBI) indicated that the Navy has a non-public shy distance for construction in the vicinity of its proposed tank area. Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator) reiterated some of the concerns expressed earlier by the Navy. Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth) mentioned that Portsmouth’s permitted landfill expansion lies in the path of the VA 164 Connector (as shown on the slide). Barb Nelson (VPA) believes that modified alignments of the VA 164 Connector can meet the needs of the Port, Portsmouth, and the Navy. Martin Thomas (Norfolk) expressed interest in modified alignments for the Connector. Keith Lockwood (Army Corps) said that the alignment shown on the slide needs to be modified, and that the Corps’ usage of the southern cell of Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area (CIDMMA) could be accelerated to accommodate modifying the VA 164 Connector to cut across the southeast corner of the CIDMMA.

Action

Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth) moved that the Mandated Segments be carried forward for “feasibility” (see motion re-iteration below). Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator) said that the segments will be evaluated for permitability. Brian Fowler (Norfolk) said that the next step would be for the segments to be modified as necessary. Martin Thomas (Norfolk) asked that the motion mirror the motion of the Working Group’s at its recent meeting. Bob Crum (HRTPO/HRPDC) listed the 5 Mandated segments—I-664 Connector, VA 164 Connector, I-564 Connector, I-664, VA 164—then he reiterated the motion:

This joint committee directs the RCS to move forward with studying the feasibility of alternatives comprised of the 5 Mandated Segments and modifications thereof.

The motion passed unanimously by individual voice vote.

7. For Your Information

Craig Eddy (MBI) presented slides showing the status of Phase 3 deliverables, and a draft schedule for Phase 3.

8. Next Meetings

The proposed next meetings:

- Working Group: Nov 12, 1:30pm
- Working Group: Dec 10, 9:30am
- Joint Working Group and Steering Committee: (tentative) week of December 7

9. Other Items of Interest

No other items were discussed.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.