

Agenda Item III. Minutes
Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
December 12, 2018

Brief introductions were made and Chairman Larry Ewan called the HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) to order at 10:30 am in the Waterside Conference room at the Virginia Port Authority, with the following in attendance:

Members:

Larry Ewan (formerly of Continental Terminals)
Thomas Cosgrove (Newport News Ship Building)
Mike Abbott (COSCO Container Lines)
Patricia Haver (Norfolk Southern)
Keith Helton (Givens Transportation) – I do not believe Keith attended
Rick Morris (Canon Virginia, Inc.)
David White (Virginia Maritime Association)

Staff:

Mike Kimbrel (HRTPO)
Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Keith Nichols (HRTPO)
Sam Belfield (HRTPO)
Barbara Nelson (Virginia Port Authority)
Dustin Reinhart (Virginia Port Authority)
Melissa Fularon (Virginia Port Authority)
Karen McPherson (McPherson Consulting)

Interested Public:

Chris Columbus

I. CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Ewan at 10:30 am. Mike Kimbrel gave a brief explanation of HRTPO and its affiliates, the standing committees including the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC). In addition, the briefing included a history of the Hampton Roads Transportation Fund (HRTF) and the relationship they have with HRTAC. Finally, Mike Kimbrel, outlined the regionally significant projects that were funded by the HRTAC, which included estimated timelines and the costs associated for each.

Barbara Nelson introduced herself and her role with FTAC

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – No Public Comments

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Larry Ewan presented the March 17, 2017 minutes and asked for a motion to approve. A motion was given by Mr. Morris second motion by Mr. Cosgrove All votes "Yes".

IV. HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL CONNECTORS STUDY

Mike Kimbrel, HRTPO Staff, gave a presentation on the Regional Connector Study.

The purpose of the Hampton Roads Regional Connectors Study is to evaluate the feasibility, permitability, and transportation benefits of the alternatives presented in the Hampton Roads Crossing Study (HRCS) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that were not included in the Preferred Alternative approved by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

The HRCS SEIS Alternatives to be evaluated include, but are not limited to:

VA 164

I-564 Connector

VA 164 Connector

I-664 Connector

I-664 from I-64 in Hampton to US 460/58/13 in Chesapeake

The HRTPO procured a consultant, Michael Baker International, Inc. to conduct the study. The study will involve coordination with a Working Group, a Steering Committee, and HRTPO staff, who are undertaking a concurrent 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update effort. Projects emerging from the study will be considered for potential inclusion in the 2045 LRTP.

The Working Group is comprised of technical staff from seven local jurisdictions (Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach), and other key regional stakeholders including the US Navy, US Coast Guard, Virginia Port Authority, Federal Highway Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Department of Transportation and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission. The Steering Committee is the policy committee and is comprised of elected officials from the seven local jurisdictions and other key regional stakeholders.

The Study is being conducted in phases. Phase I is focused on establishing goals and objectives for subsequent study phases and includes extensive one-on-one stakeholder interviews; a regionally and statistically valid public survey; traffic data collection; and future land use and traffic projections. Phase I will help establish the scope of the next phase of the study.

Given the importance of the project, the overall approach is being implemented in phases. Phase I included development of a robust public engagement and identification of detailed analysis along with the Phase 2 scope of work, which is being presented to the HRTPO Board in early 2019.

V. 2045 HRTPO LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

A presentation was given by Dale Stith, HRTPO Staff, with an overview and schedule of the LRTP. The LRTP was last amended in October 2018. Additionally, she provided information on truck zones, TEU projections, and gate trip distribution. This briefing will provide an overview of the HRTPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the anticipated schedule for advancing this planning effort. This is an important planning effort which will provide the foundation for identifying future studies or transportation investments to meet the present and future needs of the region. Updates will be provided on freight related work efforts to-date including the identification of Transportation Analysis Zones with higher than average truck activity and TEU projections and distribution of moves by port gate for the base year (2015) and the horizon year of 2045.

Ms. Stith identified that some of the model enhancements to include various truck classifications, truck volumes by origin-destinations, along with Port TEU data and truck prohibitions. This data would be coordinated with the 2045 update and the Regional Connector Study. As part of the 2045 update, the HRPTO will be using Scenario Planning to test possible "futures" that consider economic, demographic, and technological changes and will be seeking input from stakeholders on the possible options. As part of this process, staff will be seeking input from the FTAC. Ms. Stith provided an outline of the next step and key points of engagement. It was also noted the I-87 is being included as a significant truck route 2045 plan.

Mr. White asked if sea level rise was being considered as part of the process. Ms. Stith noted that recent studies have been completed and metrics are being considered for inclusion into the prioritization tool.

VI. HRTPO PROJECT PRIORITIZATION TOOL

Dale Stith continued with a presentation that explains the project prioritization tool is utilized. The HRTPO Project Prioritization Tool was developed to assist regional decision-makers in prioritizing transportation projects based off technical merits and regional benefits. The Tool is designed to be comprehensive, and includes freight movement as part of its performance metrics given the importance of freight movement to the Hampton Roads region.

The HRTPO Project Prioritization Tool has been used by the HRTPO in the past two Long-Range Transportation Plan updates as well as in the identification of the Regional Priority Projects. The Tool evaluates projects based on Project Utility (project effectiveness), Economic Vitality (potential for economic gain), and Project Viability (project readiness) for the following categories: highway, bridge/tunnel, intermodal, transit, system and demand management, and active transportation.

The presentation outlined existing Freight Related Measures of Effectiveness and input into the Intermodal Category. Ms. Stith gave a brief overview of the three basic categories and reviewed the top 6 Freight Project from the prior 2040 LRTP.

As part of the 2045 LRTP, staff is evaluating the current prioritization inputs to include several refinements to better alignment with Smart Scale and RSTP/CMAQ coordination in addition to updated inputs for economic vitality, environmental consideration, transit and active transportation.

Ms. Stith outline the potential freight relative potential modifications.

Following the presentation, there were several questions regarding the refinements relative to funding opportunities and metrics.

Mr. White made a motion to approve the recommended modification to the prioritization tool relative to the freight components. Mr. Moore seconded the motion and the FTAC approved. The staff will continue to engage FTAC with detail inputs and the refinements continue.

VII. FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTION ITEMS

A suggestion was made by Larry Ewan that we supply meeting dates for the entire calendar year of 2019 and to meet on alternate months from the Port of Virginia Motor Carrier Committee and Stakeholder Committee meetings.

A Doodle poll will be sent out to all members and staff. This poll lists all meeting dates in 2019 with time options.