

# HAMPTON ROADS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## MEETING – JANUARY 16, 2008

The Hampton Roads MPO Meeting was called to order at 9:51 a.m. at The Hampton Roads Convention Center, 1610 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

Paul D. Fraim , Chairman (NO)	Charles W. Burgess, Jr.
Bruce Goodson, Vice Chairman (JC)	James G. Vacalis (SU)
James O. McReynolds, Treasurer (YK)	Louis R. Jones (VB)
Ella P. Ward (CH)	Jackson C. Tuttle II (WM)
Lacy R. Smith (GL)	Jayne Whitney (HRT)
Randall A. Gilliland (HA)	Dennis Heuer (VDOT)
Stan D. Clark (IW)*	Jerry Bridges (VPA)
Randy W. Hildebrandt (NN)	Richard Drumwright (WAT)
Douglas L. Smith (PO)	Arthur L. Collins (HRPDC)

\*Late arrival or early departure.

### **OTHERS RECORDED ATTENDING:**

Amar Dwarkanath (CH); Rowland L. Taylor (FR); Ross A. Kearney II, Jesse T. Wallace, Jr. (HA); W. Douglas Caskey (IW); Sanford B. Wanner (JC); Randy W. Hildebrandt (NN); Gordon C. Helsel, Jr. (PQ); Kenneth L. Chandler (PO); Michael W. Johnson (SH); Tyrone W. Franklin, Judy S. Lyttle (SY); Jeanne Zeidler (WM); Earl Sorey - Chesapeake; Keith Cannady - Hampton; Charles Sapp - HRTA/Hampton City Council; Anne Odell, Bryan Pennington, Jeff Raliski, Keisha Whitley - Norfolk; Selena Cuffee-Glenn - Suffolk; Chuck Cayton, Jack Gergely - Private Citizen; Tom Best - Chesapeake Citizen; Charles Flynn - Poquoson Citizen; Linda Wright, Robert Wright - Suffolk Citizens; W. Dewey Hurley - Branscome, Inc.; Irene Shuman - VDOT; Ivan Rucker - FHWA; Peter Huber - Wilcox Savage; Ray Taylor, Vince Thomas - FHR; Dana Dickens - HRP; Ellis W. James - Sierra Club Observer; Tom Holden - The Virginian-Pilot; Matt Sabo - Daily Press; Germaine Fleet - Biggs & Fleet; Staff: John Carlock, Robert Case, James Clary, Nancy Collins, Dwight Farmer, Marla Frye, Greg Grootendorst, Frances Hughey, Jim Hummer, Rob Jacobs, Brett Kerns, Mike Kimbrel, Joe Paulus, Kelli Peterson, Joe Turner and Chris Vaigneur.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

Summary Minutes of December 19, 2007

FY 06-09 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: VDOT (Final Approval)

FY 06-09 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: Chesapeake

FY 06-09 Transportation Improvement Program Revision: RSTP Allocation Transfers - HRT

Hampton Roads 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

(Mr. Clark arrived.)

Mr. Goodson Moved to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Caskey. The Motion Carried.

## **STATEWIDE SAFETY INITIATIVE**

Mr. Mike Sawyer, VDOT State Highway Safety Engineer, was introduced to present the Statewide Safety Initiative information.

Mr. Sawyer indicated he would cover the areas of the public health impact of crashes and the idea of partnering to save lives and prevent injuries. He stated that motor vehicle crashes are one of the top public health issues in the Commonwealth with 1 citizen in 91 injured, 1 in 200 sent to the hospital, 1 in 300 incapacitated and 1 in 7,850 killed on an annual basis. He displayed a graph showing the number of deaths by age group, with the highest numbers within the groups of 15-19 years and 20-24 years. Crashes are the leading cause of death for ages 1- 29, with 521 deaths of kids between 15 and 18.

Mayor Kearney asked if the 15-18 year olds were drivers or passengers.

Mr. Sawyer replied that the statistics covered both.

Mayor Kearney then asked if he could receive those figures separated to show drivers versus passengers.

Mr. Sawyer stated the largest football stadium in Virginia could not seat the number of people injured each year although it has lowered from 80,000 to 69,000 people. The numbers are decreasing, but it is still a huge number. He added that VDOT is focusing their efforts to save lives on the interstate and primary system. He noted that 56 percent of the deaths and 40 percent of the injuries occur on 19 percent of the lane mileage that comprise the interstate and primary system. Help is needed from partners on the 37 percent of injuries that occur on 16 percent of the lane miles. A map was displayed to depict the heaviest concentration of injury and death from vehicle crashes with 50 percent occurring in the top 13 jurisdictions.

Mayor Kearney asked how the numbers in Northern Virginia and Maryland compare with those in Hampton Roads.

Mr. Sawyer answered that the Metro Washington Council of Government are aggregating their own numbers and it will probably come from their MPO. He added that Fairfax is at the top with 9,300.

Mayor Kearney stated he would like to know the comparison between the Northern Virginia/Maryland/DC areas and the Hampton Roads area.

Mr. Sawyer displayed a table showing the actual number of injuries and deaths for the top 20 jurisdictions in Virginia and added that VDOT has created the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. It has been approved by the Secretary of Transportation and will be implemented through 2010. The goal is to save 100 lives and prevent 4,000 injuries. It focuses on creating a safe driving culture in Virginia.

VDOT focuses on the key engineering plan elements such as roadway departures, intersection safety, incorporating safety transportation planning into all levels of government and improving traffic records to be more accurate and timely. The rest of the plan covers the education, enforcement, emergency response, incident management, etc. The Commissioner's four focus areas include program investment, public awareness, legislative proposals and accountability.

Mr. Sawyer discussed two of the areas of focus and stated there are a wide variety of initiatives under program investment. They include wider and brighter signs and stripes, shoulder and center rumble strip implementation, narrow median guardrail retrofit, shoulder retrofit, expansion of the safety service patrol to all interstate and primary roads, traffic signal retrofit, truck safety rest areas, safe routes to school program and traffic management centers.

He then displayed a graph outlining the breakdown of the \$20 million highway safety improvement money among the top 20 jurisdictions, 7 of which are in the Hampton Roads area. VDOT is working to identify and plot the "hot spots" in order to determine where specific elements of the program should be implemented. The criteria for these locations is low cost, quick implementation, no right of way involved and can be improved within a year or two.

VDOT has partnered with Virginia State Police and DMV to commence a joint communications campaign launched in October 2007. This campaign involves five key behaviors: buckle up, avoid distractions, share the road, drive drug and alcohol free and obey speed limits.

Mr. Sawyer concluded by providing the web address to [safevirginiahighways.org](http://safevirginiahighways.org) and stated it contains a great deal of resources. He offered to answer questions.

Mr. Heuer asked if there was a breakdown of the fatalities by the percentage of belted versus unbelted.

Mr. Sawyer stated that about 48-50 percent of them are unbelted.

Mr. Heuer added that Senator Ticer introduced House Bill 649 to make mandatory seatbelts a primary violation.

Mr. Hildebrandt stated that he noticed that PhotoRed was one area of emphasis and asked if VDOT is ready to respond to all local requests for intersections and if that process is currently underway.

Mr. Sawyer replied that the guidance has been approved and they are ready for action.

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

The Chairman asked for questions or comments regarding the informational items. None were noted.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Fraim asked for any old or new business. None was discussed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Hampton Roads MPO, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.