

May 30, 2025

Memorandum #2025-74

TO: HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
BY: Keith Nichols, PE - Principal Transportation Engineer
RE: HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting - June 5, 2025

The next HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held in person at the **Virginia Port Authority located at the World Trade Center, 6th Floor, 101 W. Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510**. The agenda and related meeting materials are attached.

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Attachments

Agenda
HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
June 5, 2025

1. Call to Order (*targeted for 10:00 AM*)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Public Comments
 - A. Public Comment Period (limit 3 minutes per individual)
 - B. Submitted Public Comments
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes
5. Air Cargo Transportation (*40 minutes*)
Presented by Steve Djunaedi, Norfolk International Airport

BREAK

6. Military Freight Transportation (*40 minutes*)
Presented by SDDC 597th Transportation Brigade
7. Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study (*15 minutes*)
Presented by Keith Nichols, HRTPO
8. Statewide Freight Advisory Committee – Update (*5 minutes*)
Presented by David White, FAC Chair
9. Future Meeting Topics and Action Items (*5 minutes*)
 - A. 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Updates
 - B. Hampton Roads Intraregional Freight Movement Analysis Kickoff
 - C. HRPDC/HRTPO Legislative Agenda
 - D. Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study
 - E. Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study
10. Old/New Business
11. Next Meeting
12. Adjournment (*targeted for 12:00 PM*)

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Members are provided an opportunity to add or delete items from the agenda. Any item for which a member desires action from the FTAC should be submitted at this time, as opposed to under "Old/New Business."

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Comment Period (*limit 3 minutes per individual*)

Members of the public are invited to address the FTAC. Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

B. Submitted Public Comments

There were no submitted public comments. Any written public comments received after the preparation of this agenda will be announced at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The summary minutes of the FTAC meetings held on December 16, 2024, and March 7, 2025, are attached.

Attachment 4A and 4B

Recommended Action: Approve the minutes.

HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16, 2024
10:00 am

Members in Attendance:

Mike Abbott, Hapag-Lloyd
Robert Eveleigh – Chair, Port City Transportation
Chad Gregg, Givens
Cannon Moss, Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad
David White – Vice Chair, Virginia Maritime Association

Other Participants:

Sam Belfield, HRTPO
Theresa Brooks, HRTPO
Mitzi Crystal, VDOT
Chris Gullickson, Port of Virginia
Karen McPherson, VHB
Barbara Nelson, Port of Virginia
Keith Nichols, HRTPO
Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO
Erik Johnson, VDOT (virtual)
Ivan Rucker, FHWA (virtual)
Amanda Rutherford, MARAD (Virtual)
Emily Stock, DRPT (virtual)

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:03 am.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by the committee.

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were submitted prior to or made during the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 24, 2024, and September 25, 2024, meetings was made by Mr. Abbott, and seconded by Mr. Moss. The minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEM #5: HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY

Mr. Belfield discussed historic and current freight planning efforts underway in Hampton Roads. Mr. Belfield highlighted the Regional Freight Study, referring to it as the most comprehensive resource document and which is updated every five years. Mr. Belfield described freight trends from 2020 to 2023. He also highlighted an analysis of commodity flow data, which shows an expected increase in regional freight movement by 2045, with significant growth also occurring on I-95 and I-81. Volume growth is also expected through regional gateways. Mr. Belfield highlighted the ongoing work taking place on the document, and noted that the remaining sections of the study will be presented at the Spring FTAC meeting. Following the presentation, discussion included the importance of consistent data sources; highlighting various freight corridors like I-64, US 58, and US 460; and examining recent trends and shifts in freight movement, particularly post-COVID.

AGENDA ITEM #6: NATIONAL MULTIMODAL FREIGHT NETWORK UPDATE

Mr. Nichols provided an update on the National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN), which is being finalized by USDOT in order to prioritize federal investments in freight and to aid in federal, state, and regional freight transportation planning. After highlighting the Interim NMFN, Mr. Nichols described the components of the National Highway Freight Network portion of the NMFN. These include the Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS), which is limited to 41,000 miles nationally with 842 miles in Virginia; the Non-PHFS Interstates, which include interstates not part of the PHFS such as I-264 and I-464; Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC), which are designated in cooperation with MPOs and states and limited to 83 miles in Virginia; and Critical Rural Freight Corridors (CRFC), which are limited to 154 miles in Virginia. Mr. Nichols noted that the current funding allocation is \$7.2 billion over five years for the National Highway Freight Program, with Virginia receiving \$184 million. These funds can only be used on PHFS, CUFC, and CRFC in high mileage states like Virginia, although Virginia allocates NHFP funds via SMART SCALE and other established statewide funding processes. Mr. Nichols wrapped up the topic by giving a NMFN update, and noting that there has been no additional federal guidance on the NMFN since the Summer.

AGENDA ITEM #7: HRTPO FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Nichols provided an overview and introduction to the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program. Mr. Nichols provided a timeline for the new work program, which will take effect on July 1, 2025, and run through June 2026. The draft UPWP is expected in early spring, with final approval in mid-May. Mr. Nichols shared examples of recent freight-specific studies such as the Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study. Mr. Nichols made an open invitation for ideas on possible studies, with feedback to be gathered from various committees over the next two months. Mr. Gullickson provided a summary of a potential special study that would aim to enhance the understanding of freight movement between key load centers, including warehouses, manufacturing operations, truck terminals, and port facilities. The proposed study will focus on creating a comprehensive map that details the volumes and frequencies of freight trips between these critical load centers, which can provide valuable insights that can inform future infrastructure investments and policy decisions.

AGENDA ITEM #8: HRTPO UPDATE

Mr. Nichols gave an update on the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. He noted that the candidate project list is under review by localities. Next steps will include the TPO Board taking action on the final candidate project list at their January meeting. Once approved, the list will undergo analysis for prioritization.

Mr. Nichols also gave a brief update on the progress of the Rail Crossing Study.

Finally, Mr. Nichols gave an update on the HRPDC/HRTPO Legislative Agenda. He noted that there was a discussion at the November HRTPO Board meeting regarding the proposed Primary and Secondary Road fund, and provided details on the motion that was approved by the Board.

AGENDA ITEM #9: STATEWIDE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(This item was moved up prior to item #7)

Mr. White provided a summary of activities undertaken by the committee in the past few months. Freight highlights were shared at the Governor's Transportation Conference, which featured a freight-specific panel for the first time. The Governor spoke at VMA's 24 Conference and he emphasized freight's role in Virginia's economy. The committee also discussed legislative concerns for the upcoming General Assembly session.

AGENDA ITEM #10: FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTIONS

- A. 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Updates
- B. VA 164 Study
- C. Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study
- D. Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study

AGENDA ITEM #11: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEM #12: NEXT MEETING

A doodle poll will be sent out to committee members to set the meeting calendar for 2025.

AGENDA ITEM #13: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 7, 2025
10:00 am

Members in Attendance:

Paul Croft, Canon Virginia
Robert Eveleigh – Chair, Port City Transportation
Diane Grigsby, Newport News Shipbuilding
David White – Vice Chair, Virginia Maritime Association
Mike Abbott, Hapag-Lloyd (virtual)

Other Participants:

Sam Belfield, HRTPO
Wayne Coleman, Commonwealth Transportation Board
Mitzi Crystal, VDOT
Chris Gullickson, Port of Virginia
Karen McPherson, VHB
Barbara Nelson, Port of Virginia
Keith Nichols, HRTPO
Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO
Emily Stock, DRPT
Anthony Donald, RKK (virtual)
Angela Effah-Amponsah, VDOT (virtual)
Erik Johnson, VDOT (virtual)
Ivan Rucker, FHWA (virtual)
Amanda Rutherford, MARAD (Virtual)

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:10 am.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting did not have a quorum. The meeting agenda was changed to include an item on the VA-164 corridor study.

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were submitted prior to or made during the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The meeting did not have a quorum. Approval of the previous meeting's minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5: VIRGINIA ROUTE 164 CORRIDOR STUDY

Mr. Donald provided the FTAC with an overview of the VA-164 study and its focus on improvements along the corridor to include the interchanges of Towne Point Road, Cedar Lane, Virginia International Gateway Boulevard, and West Norfolk Road. Proposed improvements include:

- Towne Point Road - Safety and pedestrian improvements and converting ramp intersections to roundabouts.
- Cedar Lane - Similar improvements as Towne Point Road with an additional option to convert the westbound ramp intersection to a roundabout.
- Virginia International Gateway (VIG) Boulevard - Extending deceleration lanes, adding signals at intersections, or reconfiguring to a diverging diamond interchange.
- West Norfolk Road - Extending deceleration lanes and exploring ramp metering.

Members of the FTAC provided initial feedback and shared concerns on the proposed improvements, most of which concerned VIG Boulevard. Dual turn lanes for trucks, pedestrian crossings, and staging areas for trucks near VIG were discussed.

AGENDA ITEM #6: NATIONAL MULTIMODAL FREIGHT NETWORK UPDATE

Mr. Nichols shared an update on the National Multimodal Freight Network, including the addition of new routes and connectors in Virginia. The draft expansion of the network includes Route 58, Route 460, and Route 13. Mr. Nichols stressed the importance of the network for federal funding eligibility. Mr. Nichols added that additional mileage can be requested by states once the draft network is finalized, and that additional feedback will be requested from the FTAC as this occurs.

AGENDA ITEM #7: HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY

Mr. Nichols reviewed the second part of the draft Regional Freight Study (the first part was presented at the December 2024 FTAC meeting) and highlighted sections related to regional truck movement. This included an analysis of truck volumes at gateways and river crossings, congestion costs, and freight bottlenecks in the region.

Key findings in the Regional Freight Study that were presented include:

- Significant truck volume growth occurred over the last ten years on the region's interstate system and key gateways like I-64, Route 58 and Route 460.
- The Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel carries the most trucks across the Hampton Roads Harbor, and nearly twice as many trucks as the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel.

- Regional truck congestion costs are generally lower in Hampton Roads than in other large comparable metropolitan areas.
- The largest freight bottlenecks in the region, which also incur the highest congestion costs on the trucking industry, occur at the HRBT and the High Rise Bridge.
- While the I-64 Gap project is fully funded, other gateways including Route 58 and the proposed I-87 corridor have few funded improvements.

Mr. Nichols wrapped up the presentation by noting that the FTAC will be asked for approval of the final document at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #8: HRTPO FY 2026 UPWP – PORT OF VIRGINIA SPECIAL STUDY

Mr. Nichols briefed the FTAC on the HRTPO's ability to incorporate special studies into their work program for Fiscal Year 2026. He added that the HRTPO received two requests for special studies, including one from the Port of Virginia. Mr. Gullickson summarized the special study request from the Port on the topic of intra-regional freight movement and truck parking. Mr. Nichols noted that a kickoff discussion for this study will occur at a future FTAC meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #9: HRTPO UPDATES

Mr. Nichols provided brief updates on the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study.

AGENDA ITEM #10: STATE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. White provided an update from the recent State Freight Advisory Committee meeting. This meeting included discussions on the National Multimodal Freight Network and recent efforts underway by the VEDP Supply Chain Management team to promote air freight opportunities through Dulles International Airport. This led to a discussion regarding air cargo operations in Hampton Roads.

AGENDA ITEM #11: FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTIONS

- A. 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Updates
- B. Air Freight Opportunities in Virginia
- C. Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study
- D. Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study
- E. HRPDC/HRTPO Legislative Agenda

AGENDA ITEM #12: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None

AGENDA ITEM #13: NEXT MEETING

The remaining 2025 FTAC meetings are currently scheduled for June 5, September 11, and December 4.

AGENDA ITEM #14: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 am.

AGENDA ITEM #5: AIR CARGO TRANSPORTATION

While transporting freight on trucks, trains and ships are the most common modes in Hampton Roads, transporting cargo by air is also critical for the region. Norfolk International Airport is the primary facility for transporting air cargo into and out of Hampton Roads, carrying over 45 million pounds of air cargo in 2024.

At the last FTAC meeting, there was a discussion regarding conversations at the state level regarding air cargo. FTAC members noted that there was little familiarity within the committee regarding air cargo in our region and asked for an item at this meeting devoted to familiarizing them more with regional air cargo.

Mr. Steve Djunaedi, Chief Commercial Officer at Norfolk International Airport, will brief the FTAC on this item. Topics to be discussed include information on the companies that provide air cargo to the region, the types of service they provide, air cargo volumes and trends in our region, efforts by the airport to improve air cargo service to the region, and air cargo movement issues and concerns.

Recommended Action: For discussion and information purposes at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #6: MILITARY FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

Hampton Roads is home to many U.S. military and supporting sites that are important to the defense and security of our nation. The Department of Defense is also the largest employer in Hampton Roads and comprises almost 20% of the area's total population. As a result of the area's large military presence, much of the local economy is driven by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). Defense readiness and efficient military operations require a sufficient transportation network so that cargo and personnel can be moved as quickly and safely as possible.

A member of the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) 597th Transportation Brigade will brief the FTAC on the DoD's freight activity and the biggest issues and concerns that the DoD encounters when it comes to moving freight into, out of, and through our region.

Recommended Action: For discussion and information purposes at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #7: HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY

HRTPO engages in numerous regional freight planning activities, including the development of the Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study, which serves as a comprehensive resource document on the Hampton Roads multimodal transportation system.

The overall purpose of the Regional Freight Study is to understand the impact of regional freight movement in order to guide policy and investment decisions—particularly for prioritizing transportation projects—that will improve the connectivity, efficiency, reliability, and safety of the Hampton Roads freight multimodal transportation system.

The Regional Freight Study details the movement of goods across all freight facilities—highways, ports, railways, and airports. This version of the Regional Freight Study, which updates the most recent version that was released in 2017, includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- Freight Facilities Inventory
- Freight Trends and Forecasts
- Hampton Roads Commodity Flows
- Regional Truck Movement and Bottlenecks
- Integration of Freight into the Transportation Planning Process
- National Freight Planning Efforts and Funding Sources
- Summary and Next Steps

HRTPO staff presented portions of the study at the December 2024 and March 2025 FTAC meetings and provided committee members with the draft document at the March 2025 meeting.

Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO, will brief the FTAC on this item.

Recommended Action: Per discussion.

AGENDA ITEM #8: STATEWIDE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - UPDATE

In an effort to ensure that freight is considered continuously and comprehensively, the Secretary of Transportation established a statewide Freight Advisory Committee (FAC). The FAC provides a forum to communicate and engage with public and private partners to understand needs, inform policy, and advocate for freight to achieve a dynamic transportation system that creates economic opportunity for Virginia and the nation. The FAC held its most recent meeting on May 14, 2025.

Mr. David White, FAC Chair, will provide an update to the FTAC on this item.

Recommended Action: For discussion and information purposes at this time.

AGENDA ITEM #9: FUTURE MEETING TOPICS AND ACTION ITEMS

- A. 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan Updates**
- B. Hampton Roads Intraregional Freight Movement Analysis Kickoff**
- C. HRPDC/HRTPO Legislative Agenda**
- D. Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study**
- E. Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study**

AGENDA ITEM #10: OLD/NEW BUSINESS**AGENDA ITEM #11: NEXT MEETING**

The next FTAC meeting is currently scheduled for September 11, 2025, at the Port of Virginia office in the World Trade Center in Norfolk.

AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT