

Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization Board Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025

The January 16, 2025 meeting of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Board was called to order by the Chair at 10:34 a.m. in the Regional Board Room at 723 Woodlake Drive in Chesapeake, Virginia.

HRTPO Voting Members in Attendance:

William McCarty (IW), Outgoing Chair
Michael Hipple (JC), Incoming Chair
Rick West, Incoming Vice-Chair (CH)
Paul Kaplan (FR)
Phillip Bazzani (GL)
Kenneth Alexander (NO)*
Mark Hugel (PO Alternate)
David Hux (PQ Alternate)
Mike Duman (SU)

Bobby Dyer (VB)
Doug Pons (WM)
Thomas Shepperd (YK)
Zach Trogdon (DRPT Alternate)
Ray Amoruso (HRT Alternate)
Chris Hall (VDOT)
Melissa Fularon (VPA Alternate)
Ben Goodill (WATA Alternate)

HRTPO Nonvoting Members in Attendance:

Chris Price (CH)
Rosylen Oglesby (FR)
Mary Bunting (HA)
Randy Keaton (IW)
Scott Stevens (JC)
Patrick Roberts (NO)
Steven Carter (PO)
Randy Wheeler (PQ)*

Brian Thrower (SH)
Al Moor (SU)
Patrick Duhaney (VB)
Andrew Trivette (WM)
Mark Bellamy (YK)
Robert Eveleigh (FTAC)
Mark Perryman (NAA)

HRTPO Executive Director:

Robert A. Crum, Jr., Secretary

HRTPO Other Participants:

Jimmy Gray (HA)
Captain David Dees (USN)

HRTPO Voting Members Absent:

Steven Brown (HA Alternate)
Phillip Jones (NN)
William Gillette (SH)
Senator Angelia Graves (GA)

Senator Mamie Locke (GA)
Delegate Bonita Anthony (GA)
Delegate Jeion Ward (GA)

HRTPO Nonvoting Members Absent:

Carol Steele (GL)
Alan Archer (NN)
Mark Geduldig-Yatorfsky (CAC)
Greg Campbell (DOAV)

Jeffrey Breeden (FAA)
Edward Ofori (FHWA)
Terry Garcia Crews (FTA)
John Borden (PAC)

HRTPO Staff in Attendance:

Pavithra Parthasarathi
Sam Belfield
Kyle Gilmer
Kathlene Grauberger

Matthew Harrington
John Mihaly
Keith Nichols

**Denotes late arrival or early departure*

Other Recorded Attending:

Jim Icenhour (JC); Angela Hopkins and Angela Rico (NN); John Stevenson (NO); Bill Landfair (PO); Brian Fuller (YK); Amy Jordan and Caleb Smith (goCommute); Drew Lumpkin (Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable); Rick Dwyer and Todd Nichols (HRMFFA); Kevin Page (HRTAC); Michael King (USN); Todd Halacy (VDOT); Karen McPherson (VHB); and Brett Hall (WAVY-TV 10); and Kelli Arledge, Rob Cofield, Katie Cullipher, Jeff DiScala, Greg Grootendorst, Markay Hall, Tealen Hansen, Teresa Johnson, Matt Klepeisz, Andrew Margason, Quan McLaurin, Cynthia Mulkey, Ivy Ozmon, Tho Tran, Joseph Turner, and Chris Vaigneur (HRPDC Staff)

Chair William M. McCarty, Sr. welcomed and introduced recently appointed HRTPO Board members Franklin Mayor Paul Kaplan, Gloucester County Board of Supervisors Member Phillip Bazzani, James City County Board of Supervisors Members Michael Hipple and Jim Icenhour, and Portsmouth City Council Member Yolanda Thomas

Chair McCarty also announced incoming HRTPO Board member Hampton Mayor Jimmy Gray.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRTPO Executive Director, reported that he received a request to add a discussion regarding the Primary and Secondary Road Fund to the agenda, and the Personnel and Budget Committee held a meeting in the morning and requested revisions be made to the HRPDC Personnel Manual. Therefore, he recommended that the HRTPO Board consider approving the agenda as modified to include a discussion about the Primary and Secondary Road Fund after the Election of Officers Agenda Item and to exclude the HRPDC Personnel Manual Update from the Consent Items.

Chair McCarty asked for a motion to approve the January 16, 2025 HRTPO Board meeting agenda as modified.

Motion: Mayor Rick West Moved to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Mayor Mike Duman. The Motion Carried.

Public Comments

Mr. Crum reported that there were no submitted public comments since the last HRTPO Board meeting.

Members of the public were invited to address the HRTPO Board. There were no in-person requests to comment.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Crum referenced his monthly report included in the agenda packet and reported that he planned to attend the Hampton Roads Caucus meeting scheduled for January 23, 2025 in Richmond to present the Regional Legislative Agenda.

Employee Recognition

Mr. Crum recognized three employees for their service to the HRTPO and for reaching a milestone anniversary in 2024. He and the HRTPO Board members applauded Mr. Sam Belfield, Senior Transportation Engineer and Mr. Keith Nichols, Principal Transportation Engineer, for 25 years of service and Mr. John V. Mihaly, Principal Transportation Planner, for 10 years of service.

Election of Officers

The HRTPO Bylaws provide that, at its Annual Meeting in January, the HRTPO Board will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary to serve during the upcoming year. During the HRTPO Board meeting held on November 21, 2024, Chair McCarty requested that the HRTPO Nominating Committee prepare recommendations for nominees for the officer positions for the upcoming year.

Chair McCarty thanked the HRTPO Board for the opportunity and privilege to serve as Chair for the past two years.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mayor Doug Pons reported the following members were recommended to serve as officers for the HRTPO Board for 2025:

- James City County Supervisor Michael Hipple as Chair
- Chesapeake Mayor Rick West as Vice-Chair
- HRTPO Executive Director Bob Crum as Secretary

Chair McCarty asked if any member present wished to make further nominations. Hearing none, he closed nominations.

Motion: Mayor Robert Dyer Moved to approve the election of officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee; seconded by Mayor Paul Kaplan. The Motion Carried.

Mr. Crum thanked Chair McCarty for his service as Chair of the HRTPO and presented him with a gavel as a sign of appreciation.

Chair Hipple thanked Supervisor McCarty for his leadership and dedicated service to the region.

**Mayor Kenneth Alexander arrived*

Discussion of the Primary and Secondary Road Fund

Chair Hipple stated that adequate funding for transportation projects will always be an issue, but since 2013, the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) has helped make many projects possible such as the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, High-Rise Bridge, I-64 Peninsula, and various interstate improvements.

Supervisor McCarty stated that establishing a Primary and Secondary Road Fund would provide much-needed funding for the development and reinforcement of the region's primary and secondary roads. He recounted that there was a consensus during the previous meeting to support the creation of a Primary and Secondary Road Fund. Supervisor McCarty encouraged the HRTPO Board members to support the bill introduced by Delegate Jackie Hope Glass that would create the fund.

Chair Hipple stated that support from the General Assembly in 2013 allowed the region to complete necessary interstate improvements. He suggested that these projects benefit the entire region, and while no one wants to increase taxes, funds are necessary to improve the primary and secondary roads.

Supervisor Phillip Bazzani shared that the Governor's proposed budget included language to eliminate tolls on the Coleman Bridge, which he said was long overdue as the residents of Gloucester County paid for approximately 70% of the cost of the bridge.

Chair Hipple stated that a letter had been sent to the Mayors and Chair of the region asking for their signatures in support of Delegate Glass' bill. Alternatively, he indicated that the incoming and outgoing Chairs and Mr. Crum could sign a resolution reaffirming the legislative priority language. He asked for guidance from the HRTPO Board on how to move forward.

Supervisor Thomas Shepperd stated that the creation of the fund was included in the Regional Legislative Agenda, which the HRTPO Board approved, and Delegate Glass provided such legislation. He asked for clarification regarding the question before the Board.

Mr. Crum confirmed that the creation of the fund was approved as part of the Regional Legislative Agenda; however, the HRTPO Board was not specific regarding where the funds would come from. He explained that Delegate Glass introduced House Bill (HB) 2466, which would add three-tenths of a penny to the current Regional Sales and Use Tax. The bill states that two-thirds of the funding generated by the tax increase would support infrastructure improvements to new or existing highway corridors connected to surrounding or paralleling interstate highways in Planning District 23, which is the HRPDC footprint minus Gloucester

County and Surry County. The remaining one-third of the funding would support a Hampton Roads Highway Coastal Resilience Fund, which would address transportation infrastructure in Planning District 23 that is at risk due to recurrent and coastal flooding. Mr. Crum stated the HRTPO Board members were being asked to discuss supporting the bill as written or approving the proposed resolution reiterating the legislative priority statement about a Primary and Secondary Road Fund.

Supervisor Shepperd pointed out that the Board of Supervisor Chairs are appointed annually and might not be fully informed about the ongoing issues discussed at HRTPO Board meetings. Therefore, he recommended sending the letter to the HRTPO Board representatives instead of the Mayors and Chairs.

Mayor Alexander stated that at this point, in his opinion, nothing needs to be done. The legislative package was passed and forwarded to the General Assembly. He suggested letting the legislative process happen because from the day a bill is introduced until it is approved, many versions, iterations, or amendments are necessary, and, at this point, it is unclear what the final version will look like.

Chair Hipple thanked Mayor Alexander for sharing his experience and knowledge. He shared his thoughts that the HRTPO Board could consider supporting the bill as it stands with an understanding that if the bill changes, then the HRTPO Board could reconsider their support.

Mayor Dyer concurred with Mayor Alexander's statement. He noted that budget negotiations are about to begin and there are billions of dollars in obligations. He stated that the region needs a dedicated Primary and Secondary Road Fund because road structure is part of military readiness. However, he suggested refocusing and asking for a consistent and dedicated funding stream that did not include raising taxes.

Mayor West stated that he supports the creation of the fund and the letter but asked for clarification as to why there is a need for the resolution.

Supervisor McCarty stated that he believes in transparency, and therefore, preferred to make every Board member aware of the bill introduced by Delegate Glass instead of him signing off on it on behalf of the HRTPO Board. As for the resolution, Supervisor McCarty stated that it would reaffirm the region's seriousness and need for the fund's creation and starting the process.

Mayor Kaplan stated that he brought the issue to the attention of the City Council, and there were concerns regarding Franklin and other localities in the western part of Hampton Roads possibly not benefitting from this fund.

Chair Hipple asked Mr. Kevin Page, HRTAC Executive Director, to come forward and clarify how the funds could be distributed across the region.

Mr. Page stated that HRTAC was created to manage the Hampton Roads Transportation Fund (HRTF), which addresses the highest congestion relief projects for the region. Unfortunately, there is no dedicated funding for primary and secondary roads. He noted that the HRTF funds

are used for major projects and improvements, and therefore, cannot be allocated for smaller projects concerning primary and secondary roads. He further reported that he had conversations with Delegate Glass, and it was his understanding that language regarding the coastal resiliency fund was included to more evenly spread the funds created. He stated that the HRTPO is doing great work prioritizing projects and any funding created would be distributed fairly among the localities.

Mayor Kaplan added that the Hampton Roads Caucus members were critical of themselves, stating that the group did not collaborate as a region and instead competed for funding for projects within their respective localities.

Mayor Duman stated that under normal circumstances, a resolution would have been sent first and after consideration of said resolution, a bill would have been created. In this case, the bill has already been created. However, he noted that there is still reason for sending the resolution as it includes the funding options that were previously discussed. He expressed his support for the letter and resolution.

Supervisor Shepperd commented that there were billions of dollars worth of projects that were never going to be funded without the HRTF and HRTAC. In 2013, after a determined approach of the HRTPO Board, the General Assembly gave the region permission to raise its taxes. He stated that it is necessary to keep advocating for funding.

**Mr. Randy Wheeler departed*

Mayor David Hux stated that Poquoson supports the fund in the spirit of regionalism. He added that he is comfortable signing the letter and approving the resolution; however, he asked to change the language of the letter from "Mayors and Chairs representing the local governments" to "Mayors and Chairs of the local governments" as some may not have been able to address this fund with their fellow council members.

Mr. Crum read the letter with Mayor Hux's change and the resolution into the record.

Chair Hipple stated that the letter should include representatives of the HRTPO Board.

Mr. Crum reported that the letter would be amended as suggested to state "Mayors, Chairs, and representatives of local governments."

Motion: Supervisor McCarty Moved to adopt both the letter as amended and the resolution; seconded by Mayor Duman.

Mayor West stated he did not support compelling Mayors, Chairs, and representatives to sign the letter.

Mayor Alexander asked to modify the resolution to leave funding options open for the General Assembly to decide.

Mayor Dyer concurred.

Mr. Crum clarified that the amended resolution would be changed as suggested to state "Be it further resolved that the HRTPO requests the Virginia General Assembly consider a variety of options to support the Primary and Secondary Road Fund."

Motion: Supervisor McCarty Moved to adopt the HRTPO Resolution 2025-01 as amended; seconded by Mayor Duman. The Motion Carried with Mr. Zach Trogdon, representing the Department of Rail and Transportation (DRPT), and Mr. Chris Hall, representing the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), abstaining.

The approved resolution is available on the HRTPO website using the following link:
<https://hrtpo.org/DocumentCenter/View/14046/HRTPO-Resolution-2025-01---Primary-and-Secondary-Road-Fund>

Approval of Consent Items

Chair Hipple asked Mr. Crum to briefly describe the Consent Items, which as modified, included the following:

- A. Minutes from the October 17, 2024 and November 21, 2024 HRTPO Board Meetings
- B. HRTPO Financial Statement
- C. Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment
- D. 2050 LRTP Draft List of Candidate Projects
- E. 2024 CMAQ and RSTP Project Selection Process: Projects and Allocations
- F. Calendar Year 2024 Schedule for the Hampton Roads Regional Meetings: HRPDC/HRTPO/HRTAC/HRMFFA
- G. Executive Director's Contract
- H. FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments
Exempt Conformity Amendments
- I. FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments
Non-Exempt Conformity Amendments - Programmatic

Motion: Supervisor McCarty Moved to approve the Consent Items as modified; seconded by Mayor West. The Motion Carried.

Briefing on the State of the Airport

Per the suggestion of Mr. Mark Perryman, Norfolk Airport Authority President and CEO, and due to time constraints, Mr. Crum recommended deferring Mr. Perryman's briefing until the next meeting.

goCommute Options, Annual Update, and Rebrand

The goCommute Commuter Options Program advocates for and supports vanpool, carpool, active transportation, transit, and telework options for commuters throughout Hampton Roads as the

region's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program. The HRTPO has authorized annual funding for goCommute, a service of Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and/or Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding since 1995. During the pandemic, participation in carpool and vanpool dropped significantly and has been slow to recover. During the past year, the goCommute program has developed a new vision, mission, and strategies to increase smarter transportation options in the region.

Ms. Amy Jordan, goCommute Executive Director, briefed the HRTPO Board on this item. She began her presentation with a recap of the accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2024 as follows:

- Over 4 million vehicle miles were reduced
- 864 new members
- 201,360 recorded trips
- 1,727 tons of emissions reduced

Additionally, goCommute administered the GoPass365 program for HRT. The program is employer-based and allows major employers to participate and receive an 80% reduction on the annual pass for their employees. The revenue generated through this program was \$516,000 and 440,540 rides were provided. The vanpool program gained three new vanpools and serviced a total of 218 passengers in 2024. Ms. Jordan reported that the Naval Station Norfolk office was renovated and opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This created a great opportunity to promote the base express service, which is getting ready to celebrate over 100,000 rides.

The goCommute program also launched BikeBoost, which helps goCommute donate bike racks and repair stations to local organizations that will assist in removing vehicles from the road by promoting safe biking practices. Various goCommute marketing campaigns include Vanuary, Rideshare the Love, Earth Day, Bike Month, and Bike Expo.

Ms. Jordan continued her presentation by explaining the necessity of a rebranding. She stated that TRAFFIX has existed since 1995, and the brand was outdated and often confusing to customers. The new brand, goCommute, is expected to reach new audiences, change the demographics, expand the services provided, and better align with the mission, vision, and goals. Additionally, the mission statement was updated, a vision statement was identified, and a strategic plan was developed.

The strategic plan showed that there are three main destinations for the vanpool program: Naval Station Norfolk, Smithfield Food Processing, and Newport News Shipbuilding. The program will also be expanded to North Carolina so that if the employer is in Hampton Roads, the individuals are eligible for it. The main motivations for individuals to sign up for the program were travel time, convenience, and cost.

Ms. Jordan's presentation is available on the HRTPO website using the following link: https://www.hrtpo.org/DocumentCenter/View/14048/011625-TPO-09_Presentation-goCommute-PDF?bidId=.

Hampton Roads Rail Crossings Study

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred.

Comments and Updates from State and Federal Agencies and Military Liaisons

Due to time constraints, these items were deferred.

HRTPO Board Three-Month Tentative Schedule

Per the Regional Meetings Schedule, the next HRTPO Board meetings are scheduled for February 20, 2025 and April 17, 2025. There was no meeting scheduled in March.

Minutes of HRTPO Advisory Committee Meetings

Links to the HRTPO Advisory Committee meeting minutes approved since the last HRTPO Board meeting were included in the agenda for information purposes.

For Your Information

Various correspondences of interest were included in the agenda packet for HRTPO Board member information.

Old/New Business

There was no old or new business.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the HRTPO Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 p.m.

Michael J. Hipple
Chair

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director/ Secretary