

Regional Connectors Study
Joint Steering (Policy) Committee & Working Group Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Steering (Policy) Committee

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

Rick West (CH)
Donnie Tuck (HA)
Phillip Jones (NN)
Martin Thomas (NO)
Shannon Glover (PO)
Michael Duman (SU)
Robert Dyer (VB)

The following voting members were absent from the meeting (alphabetically by city): No voting members were absent

Working Group

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

Troy Eisenberger (CH)
Bryan Stilley (NN)
Dorian Allen (NO)
Jason Souders (SU)
Ric Lowman (VB)

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

Jason Mitchell (HA)
Deborah Mangiaracina (NO)
James Wright (PO)

Others

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

Robert A. Crum, Jr. (HRTPO/HRPDC)
Robert Cofield (HRTPO)
Mitzi Crystal (VDOT)
Kyle Gilmer (HRTPO)
Carl Jackson (PO)

Steve Jones (Naval Station Norfolk)
Uros Jovanovic (HRTPO)
Matt Klepeisz (HRPDC)
Sandra Kochersperger (VDOT)
Quan McLaurin (HRTPO/HRPDC)

Barbara Nelson (POV)
Todd Nichols (HRMFFA)
Kevin Page (HRTAC)
Lorna Parkins (Michael Baker Intl.)
Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)
Paul Prideaux (Michael Baker Intl.)
Robert Pruhs (USACE, Norfolk)
Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Project
Coordinator)

Dmitry Rekhter (HRPDC)
Angela Rico (NN)
Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Stefanie Strachan (HA)
Joe Strange (Michael Baker Intl.)
Chris Vaigneur (HRTPO)
Cathie Vick (POV)

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

Karen McPherson (McPherson Consulting)
Naomi Stein (EBP)
Bill Thomas (Michael Baker International)
Allison Van Twisk (EBP)

1. Call to Order

Mr. Crum, HRTPO/HRPDC Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Crum asked attendees to introduce themselves.

3. Election of Chair Pro-Tem

Mr. Crum asked the voting members for nominations for the election of a Chair. Mayor Tuck (Hampton) motioned to nominate Mayor Bobby Dyer (Virginia Beach) as Chair, and Vice Mayor Thomas (Norfolk) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

5. Minutes

November 17, 2022, minutes were approved, with Mayor Tuck making the motion and Mayor Duman (Suffolk) seconding the motion.

6. Regional Connectors Study Phase 3 - Step 3: Congestion Evaluation and Economic Impacts of Tier I and Tier II Segments

Ms. Parkins (MBI) started the presentation by highlighting the posters from the public meetings. She noted that the study is currently in Phase 3 and provided a progress update on the ongoing work, including updates on scenario analysis, regional congestion, and economic benefits.

Ms. Parkins elaborated on the RCS tiering process. The RCS will propose roadway segments ready to move forward and appear the most cost-effective as Tier I recommendations.

Ms. Parkins reminded the attendees of the actions taken at the November 17 of Joint Steering (Policy) and Working Group, specifically the segments recommended for Tier I and II. The consultant team was directed to analyze three bundles of Tier I and II segments in the scenario analysis and Tier I segments in the traffic operations analysis.

For scenario analysis, Ms. Parkins compared the 2045 Baseline and three Greater Growth Scenarios (reflecting employment growth and increase in population). Greater growth scenarios reflect two times the employment growth from 2015-2045 and the associated increase in population growth. Ms. Parkins informed attendees that the consultant team selected Bundles B, C, and D for the scenario analysis.

Ms. Parkins highlighted the congestion and economic results:

- Bundle B (Tier I segments) consistently delivers the best results
- Total travel time is impacted more by the land use scenarios than the bundles
- There is more congestion overall with greater growth scenarios
- With greater congestion, scenarios show additional benefits from the segments

Regarding societal benefits, Bundle D has the greatest total economic value in 2045 among the bundles across all scenarios except the suburban scenario, where bundle C performs best. Moreover, greater growth along the water or suburban areas tends to enhance the benefits of the segments (regardless of which bundle is selected).

Mr. Jackson (Portsmouth) said it would be nice to see the benefits specific to congestion relief of Bundle C to Bundle B. Ms. Parkins noted that the documentation would include all detail.

7. Regional Connectors Study Phase 3: Public Engagement - Summary of Public Meetings

Ms. Parkins provided an update on public engagement; three pop-ups were held in January, and four open houses were held in February, with 68 persons attending. The public comments centered on the themes listed below. Additionally, many questions and conversations with the public focused on project development and timelines:

- Congestion
- Tolls
- Alternatives to personal vehicles
- Environment
- "Benefits and Burdens" feedback
- Project timelines

Ms. Parkins concluded the presentation by elaborating next steps, which are steps 3 and 4: traffic operations analysis, final design documentation, evaluation, and recommendations.

Mayor Tuck asked a question about the segments included in Tier II. Mayor Tuck acknowledged that including the Tier II segments in the 2050 Vision Plan allows the projects to be potentially funded in the future. Mayor Tuck's question was about balancing the advancement of these projects with the concerns raised by stakeholders.

Ms. Parthasarathi (HRTPO) discussed the rationale for including the Tier II segments in the Vision Plan, noting that it allows opportunities for studies/future funding that would be required before these projects can be advanced to construction.

Ms. Parkins mentioned modifications in certain segment alignments incorporated into the analysis and factored into cost estimates.

Chair Dyer stressed the importance of identifying barriers (the Navy's concern over how I-564/664/164 Connectors would impact the Navy's facilities, connecting the Connectors to the region's Express Lanes) to success.

8. For Your Information

The agenda packet includes a diary of key decision points in the RCS study from 2017 to the present and a draft RCS summary minutes of the January 18, 2023, meeting with Portsmouth.

9. RCS Next Meeting

The next meeting's date will be decided at a later time.

10. Other Items of Interest

No other items of interest were mentioned.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.