

February 3, 2021

Memorandum #2021-22

TO: Regional Connectors Study (RCS) Working Group

BY: Camelia Ravanbakht, RCS Project Coordinator

RE: Regional Connectors Study Working Group Meeting – February 11, 2021

Attached is the agenda for the **Regional Connectors Study Working Group** meeting scheduled for **Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.**

Pursuant to the declared state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the public health and safety of the working group members, staff, and the general public, the Regional Connectors Study Working Group meeting will be held electronically.

Members of the public are invited to address the RCS Working Group. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, interested persons may submit comments in advance of the meeting by email to kmiller@hrtpo.org or phone (757) 366-4370. Each oral comment is limited to three minutes. All comments received 48 hours before the meeting will be provided to the RCS Working Group Members and included in the official record.

CR/kl

Attachments

Regional Connectors Study (RCS) Working Group

RCS WG Voting Members:

Troy Eisenberger (CH)
Jason Mitchell (HA)
Bryan Stilley (NN)
Brian Fowler (NO)

James Wright (PO)
Jason Souders (SU)
Ric Lowman (VB)

RCS WG Nonvoting Members:

Jason Flowers (Army Corps)
George Janek (Army Corps)
Robert Pruhs (Army Corps)
Ivan Rucker (FHWA)
Kevin Page (HRTAC)
Tim Dolan (US Coast Guard)

Gene Leonard (US Coast Guard)
Michael King (US Navy)
Pamela Phillips (VDOT)
Jennifer Salyers (VDOT)
Kit Chope (VPA)
Barbara Nelson (VPA)

RCS WG Other:

Pat Jones (CH)
Lynne Keenan (HA)
Amy Inman (NO)
Anne Doyle (NO)
Robert Brown (NO)
Deborah Mangiaracina (NO)
Evandro Santos (NO)
Angela Rico (NN)

Carl Jackson (PO)
Cole Fisher (VB)
Mark Shea (VB)
Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)
Lori Sharp (PRRBIZ)
COL Patrick Kinsman (US Army)
Steve Jones (US Navy)
Eric Stringfield (VDOT)

Staff:

Bob Crum (HRTPO)
Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)
Rob Case (HRTPO)
Kendall Miller (HRTPO)
Keith Nichols (HRTPO)
Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Keith Cannady (HRPDC)

Project Coordinator:

Camelia Ravanbakht

Project Consultants:

Craig Eddy
Lorna Parkins



Agenda

Regional Connectors Study

Working Group Meeting

Thursday February 11, 2021

1:30 PM

Pursuant to the declared state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the public health and safety of the working group members, staff, and the general public, the **Regional Connectors Study (RCS) Working Group** meeting will be held electronically. This electronic meeting is required to complete essential business on behalf of the region.

1. Call to Order, Declaration re: Purpose of Meeting, and Roll Call

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Public Comment Period

Members of the public are invited to address the RCS Working Group. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, interested persons may submit comments in advance of the meeting by email to kmiller@hrtpo.org or phone (757) 366-4370. Each oral comment is limited to three minutes. All comments received 48 hours before the meeting will be provided to the RCS Working Group members and included in the official record.

4. Minutes (Action Requested)

Summary Minutes from January 14, 2021 Working Group Meeting

Attachment 4

Recommended Action: For Approval

5. Regional Connectors Study: (Action Requested)

Phase 3 - Task 2 - Development of Preliminary Alternatives - Craig Eddy, MBI

At the January 14, 2021 Working Group Meeting, the Consultant Team provided the group with a presentation on several travel demand model runs using the 2045 Baseline with a Constrained E+C network and each of the five Alternatives from mandated segments (see attached). Following group discussions, Working Group members voted to eliminate Alternatives 1 and 4 and directed the Consultant Team to further evaluate Alternatives 2, 3, and 5.

Mr. Craig Eddy (MBI), Project Manager, and the Consultant Team will provide a briefing on this item.

Attachment 5A – Alternatives 1-5

Attachment 5B – Preliminary results from the 2045 Baseline model runs with Alternatives 2, 3, and 5. (This attachment will be available for distribution early during the week of February 8th and prior to the meeting).

Recommended Action: For Recommendation of the Preliminary Alternatives for the Steering (Policy) Committee's Consideration

6. For Your Information

- A) RCS Diary: January 2021 Update – Attachment 6A
- B) Revised Schedule for Phase 3 - Attachment 6B

7. Meetings

A. Scheduled Working Group Meetings:

- March 11, 2021 – 1:30 PM
- April 8, 2021 – 1:30 PM
- May 13, 2021 – 1:30 PM
- June 10, 2021 – 1:30 PM
- July 8, 2021 -1:30 PM
- August 12, 2021 – 1:30 PM

B. Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group Meeting – Spring 2021 (to Be scheduled)

8. Other Items of Interest

9. Adjournment

**Regional Connectors Study
Working Group Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2021, 1:30 pm**

Pursuant to the declared state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the public health and safety of the members, staff, and general public, this meeting was held electronically via Webex. These electronic meetings are required to complete essential business on behalf of the region. A recording of the meeting will be available on the website.

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

Troy Eisenberger (Chesapeake)
Lynne Keenan (Hampton)
Bryan Stilley (NN)
Brian Fowler (Norfolk)
Carl Jackson (Portsmouth)
Ric Lowman (VB)

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

Jason Mitchell (Hampton) [Lynne Keenan represented Hampton]
James Wright (Portsmouth) [Carl Jackson represented Portsmouth]
Jason Souders (Suffolk)

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

Rob Case (HRTPO)	Pamela Phillips (VDOT)
Anthony Donald (Michael Baker Intl.)	Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator)
Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA)- came late	Angela Rico (NN)- left early
Craig Eddy (Michael Baker Intl.)	Dustin Rinehart (POV)
Cole Fisher (Va. Beach)	Evandro Santos (Norfolk)
George Janek (US Army COE)	Lori Sharp (Michael Baker Intl.)
Steve Jones (US Navy)	Mark Shea (Va. Beach)
Barbara Nelson (POV)	Dale Stith (HRTPO)
Keith Nichols (HRTPO)	Eric Stringfield (VDOT)- left early
Kevin Page (HRTAC)	Bill Thomas (Michael Baker Intl.)
Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO)	

1. Call to Order

Bryan Stilley (Chair, Newport News) called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. Pavithra Parthasarathi (HRTPO) read a COVID-19 notice and meeting rules.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator) called the roll.

3. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

4. Minutes

The Working Group approved the minutes of the December 10, 2020 Working Group meeting.

5. RCS: Phase 3, Task 2- Development of Preliminary Alternatives

Craig Eddy (MBI) presented slides discussing:

- Proposed virtual public meeting
- Traffic volumes (for 16 key segments) for five 2045 “baseline” model runs adding (to a *constrained* “existing plus committed” network) the following *unconstrained* segments:
 1. I-664, VA 164, I-664 Connector, I-564 Connector, VA 164 Connector
 2. I-664 and VA 164
 3. I-664 and VA 164 plus I-664 Connector and I- 564 Connector
 4. I-664 and VA 164 plus I-664 Connector and VA 164 Connector
 5. I-664 and VA 164 plus I-564 Connector and VA 164 Connector

The group agreed by consensus to remove Alternative 4 from consideration. Carl Jackson (Portsmouth) moved to carry forward Alternatives 2 and 3. Brian Fowler (Norfolk) seconded it, then modified it. Troy Eisenberger (Chesapeake) moved to carry forward Alternatives 2, 3, and 5, without a second. Brian Fowler (Norfolk) moved that future alternatives be based on Preliminary Alternatives 3 and 4 plus one engineering alternative for Alternative 5, without a second. Carl Jackson (Portsmouth) again moved to carry forward with Alternatives 2 and 3, without a second. Lynne Keenan (Hampton) moved to carry forward Alternatives 1, 2, and 3, seconded by Carl Jackson (Portsmouth). The motion failed. Troy Eisenberger (Chesapeake) moved to carry forward Alternatives 2, 3, and 5, seconded by Ric Lowman. The motion passed.

6. For Your Information

The following information was attached to the agenda:

- A) RCS Diary of Key Decision Points
- B) Revised Schedule for Phase 3

Craig Eddy (MBI) presented slides with a list of tasks over the next 6 months, and a grid showing the Phase 3 Schedule. A discussion was held about how the Corps of Engineers will provide input to the RCS.

7. Scheduled Working Group Meetings

- Feb. 11, 2021- 1:30pm
- Mar. 11, 2021- 1:30pm
- Apr. 8, 2021- 1:30pm
- May 13, 2021- 1:30pm
- June 10, 2021- 1:30pm
- July 8, 2021- 1:30pm

8. Other Items of Interest

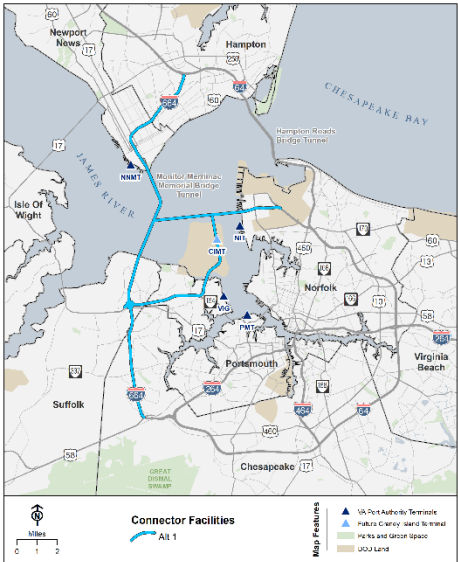
No other items were discussed.

9. Adjournment

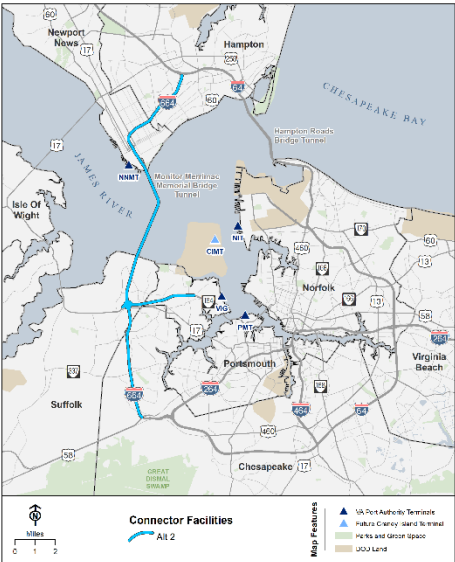
The meeting was adjourned approximately at 4:00pm.

Attachment 5A – Alternatives 1-5

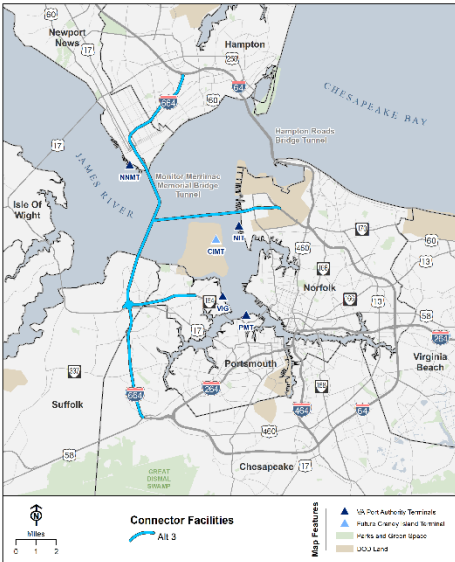
Hampton Roads Regional Connectors Study



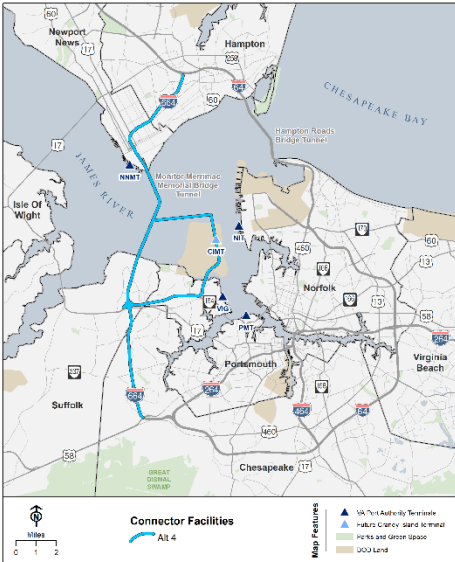
Hampton Roads Regional Connectors Study



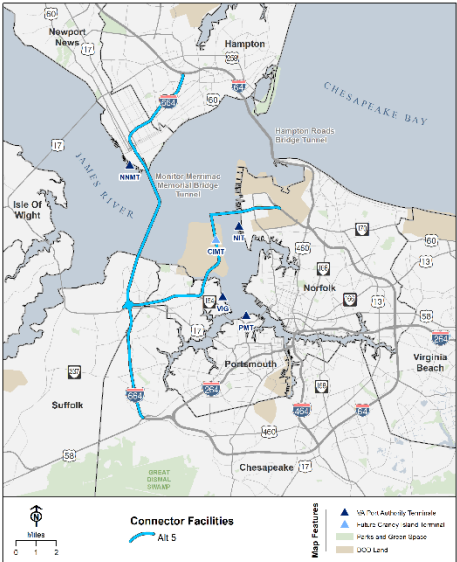
Hampton Roads Regional Connectors Study



Hampton Roads Regional Connectors Study



Hampton Roads Regional Connectors Study



Regional Connectors Study

Summary of Key Decision Points

Prepared By: Camelia Ravanbakht, PhD
RCS Project Coordinator

November 13, 2020
Revised: December 2020, January 2021.

Abstract:

This document is a diary of key decision points approved by the RCS Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group from 2017 to present, in chronological order.

The purpose of this document is to provide a quick reference for members of the Regional Connectors Study and the public. The information used in this document is based on excerpts from meeting minutes prepared by Dr. Rob Case of HRTPO.

This is a living document and will be updated with future key action items per approval from the Committee.

2017

Steering (Policy) Committee meeting on 10/05/2017

Item#5: Draft Guidance for Scope of Work

Mayor Sessoms (VB) moved the endorsement and recommendation of HRTPO Board approval of the Guidance for Scope of Work; Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth) seconded; Motion passed unanimously.

2018

Working Group meeting on 05/11/2018:

Item#5: Contract Negotiations with Selected Consultant:

Mr. Crum (HRPDC/HRTPO) gave an overview of the consultant selection process in which Michael Baker was chosen. Craig Eddy (Michael Baker) gave an overview, with slides, of a phased approach and a scope for Phase 1. After much discussion by Working Group members, HTRPO staff, and HRTAC staff, it was decided that the consultant would do the following: • Monthly meetings of the Working Group, to be canceled as appropriate considering project progress • Convene a group meeting of stakeholders (Working Group and Policy Group) for Task 1 (Initiate Engagement Program) • Coordinate with VDOT HR District surveys to avoid duplication. • Establish goals & objectives during Phase 1 • Prepare a scope for Phase 2 during Phase 1 • Send details of the proposed survey to Kendall Miller (HRTPO) • Prepare a new baseline of existing conditions.

Mr. Crum asked the group if it concurred with him asking the HRTPO Board for authorization to enter contract with Michael Baker for Phase 1. A motion made by Brian Stilley (Newport News) and seconded by John Yorks (Hampton)—to move ahead with Phase 1—passed unanimously.

Working Group meeting on 06/04/18:

Item#5: Revised Phase 1 Scope:

Craig Eddy (MBI) presented the current Phase 1 scope, revised based on earlier comments of the working group. Bob Crum (HRTPO) asked that the purpose of Phase 1— “the establishment of goals and objectives [and] the development of a draft scope for Phase 2”—be included in the scope of Phase 1. Craig said that he would add those items to Task 5. Bob asked if the group was comfortable with him signing a contract for Craig to proceed. The group concurred.

2019

Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group meeting on 02/13/2019:

Item#5: RCS and Relationship with 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP):

Mr. Crum (HRPDC/HRTPO) stated that to-date, the timelines of the RCS and the 2045 LRTP have been synchronized; however, concerns have grown that more time is needed to conduct the RCS, and it has been suggested to pursue a second option. The options for discussion are as follows:

- Option 1: RCS Concurrent with the 2045 LRTP Schedule
- Option 2: RCS Separate Path from the 2045 LRTP Schedule

Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth) expressed support for Option 2 and stated that the RCS should be decoupled from the LRTP since the LRTP is a fiscally constrained document. He noted that in the 2030 LRTP, adopted by the HRTPO Board in March 2007, no State highway construction funds would be available by 2018; therefore, the projects in the 2030 plan were either pared down or tolled. He indicated that the LRTP was flawed in concept and should reflect the region's vision without the restrictions of fiscal constraint.

Motion:

Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth) moved to decouple the timelines of the RCS and the 2045 LRTP; seconded by Mayor Price (Newport News). The Motion Unanimously Carried.

Item# 6: RCS Draft Scope of Services for Phase 2:

Motion:

Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth) moved to refer the Phase 2 Scope of Work technical comments to the Working Group for review and to recommend HRTPO Board approval of the \$1 million Phase 2 abbreviated scope of work; seconded by Mayor West (Chesapeake). The Motion carried.

Steering (Policy) Committee Meeting on 04/30/2019:

Item#3: Committee Organizational Structure:

Mr. Crum (HRPDC/HRTPO) presented the idea of the committee nominating a voting member as chair. Mayor Price (Newport News) was chosen as Chair, and he appointed Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth) as Vice Chair.

Item#7: Phase 2 Supplemental Scope of Work, Cost and Budget:

The committee approved the Phase 2 Supplemental Scope of Work, Cost and Budget, forwarding it to the HRTPO Board for approval at its May 16, 2019.

Steering (Policy) Committee meeting on 07/09/2019:

Item#5: Phase 2 Supplement Budget Omission:

Craig Eddy (MBI) presented slides concerning this matter. The committee approved the correction.

Item#7: Scenario Planning and Greater Growth Assumptions:

The consultant will run the models with 16% employment growth, and then present the results to the Working Group for it to decide whether or not that produces sufficient variation in the congestion of the existing + committed network between the three Greater Growth scenarios. Should upward revisions be deemed necessary by the Working Group, the consultant will run the models with employment growth rates up to 21% until sufficient variation between the scenarios is determined. The Committee approved the Scenario Narratives, Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures.

Steering (Policy) Committee on 11/05/2019:

Item#6. Draft Phase 3 Scope of Work:

Craig Eddy (MBI) presented the draft Phase 3 scope, schedule, and budget using slides. The Committee approved the scope, schedule, and budget as presented.

2020

Working Group Electronic Meeting 06/12/2020

For the Preliminary Alternatives discussion, Craig Eddy (MBI) provided a background of the project scope, vision, goals, and objectives. His presentation included maps of the segments from the HRCS SEIS that were specified to be part of the RCS effort, as well as additional candidate segments received through stakeholder interviews. The group discussed the potential segments and alternatives to review and analyze as part of the study. Jason Flowers (USACE) read a statement regarding the Corps' federally mandated position to maintain and protect navigable waterways, channels, and access. After much discussion, there was concurrence among the members of the Working Group that the following candidate segments (shown on map provided at meeting) not be forwarded for analysis:

- o Segment 1: New bridge over James River, includes improvements on Rt 10 to US 17
- o Segment 4: Ferry service, Hampton to Norfolk
- o Segment 5: New bridge tunnel from NIT to Hampton

The Working Group also discussed at length the potential future need and scope of the VA-164 Connector and whether it should remain an RCS segment for consideration. For now, VA-164 will remain a potential segment since it is one of the mandated segments to analyze. Additional discussions with all impacted stakeholders will continue at future meetings.

Working Group Electronic Meeting on 07/09/ 2020:

Motion to move the study forward and accept the Travel Demand Model adjustments and calibrations were unanimously passed.

Working Group Electronic Meeting on 08/13/2020:

Concerning Phase 2, Lorna Parkins (MBI), Vlad Gavrilovic (EPR), Bill Thomas (MBI) presented inputs and outputs of travel demand model runs for various growth scenarios. Craig Eddy (MBI) asked the working group to confirm that the Greater Growth forecasts provide adequate differentiation in results.

Working Group members concurred that the differentiation between the 3 greater growth scenarios is sufficient and directed the consultant team to move the study forward. Congestion related performance measures will be presented at the August 27th meeting.

Working Group Electronic Meeting on 08/27/2020:

Bill Thomas (MBI) used slides to provide a modeling and congestion (by scenario) update. Results showed a decrease in VMT, VHT from 2017 to 2045 Base. Members expressed concerns with a decrease. Bill Thomas indicated that he intends to perform more checking of the modeling results.

Working Group directed the consultant team to improve model findings, coordinate with staff and report back in late summer/early fall.

Working Group Electronic Meeting on 10/08/2020:

Item #5. RCS: Modeling Update on Congestion Measures

Bill Thomas (MBI) indicated that he made model fixes to correct earlier counter-intuitive results and substandard differences (in screenline volumes) between counts and model. He presented volume data showing a better relationship between counts and the model. Then he presented measures (vehicle-miles traveled, delay, speed, etc.) comparing the three 2045 Greater Growth scenarios (Water, Urban, and Suburban). Bryan Stilley (Newport News) asked whether the group was satisfied with the fixes. The group made no objections. Mr. Stilley indicated that this satisfaction recommends to the Steering Committee approval of Phase 2.

Item #6. Mandated and Other Potential Segments:

Craig Eddy (MBI) presented slides showing the five segments from the Hampton Roads Crossing Study (HRCS) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

Motion: Brian Fowler (Norfolk) made a motion that the RCS move forward studying alternatives comprised of the five SEIS segments and modifications of the five. Ric Lowman (Va. Beach) seconded the motion. The Working Group approved the motion (4 to 1 from those voting members present at the time of the motion).

Joint Steering (Policy) Committee and Working Group Meeting on 10/27/2020:

Item #5: RCS Phase 2 Status Report:

Motion: The joint body approved Phase 2 completion, including Greater Growth scenario planning differentiation and travel demand modeling performance measures. The motion was

moved by Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth) and seconded by Mayor Dyer (Virginia Beach). Prior to the vote, at the request of Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth), Cathy Vick (VPA) and Barbara Nelson (VPA) verbalized the Port's perspective, including expected growth of the Port. The motion passed unanimously by individual voice vote.

Item #6: RCS Mandated SEIS Segments and Other Potential Segments:

Motion: Mayor Rowe (Portsmouth) moved that the Mandated Segments be carried forward for "feasibility". Camelia Ravanbakht (RCS Coordinator) mentioned that the segments will be evaluated for permitability. Brian Fowler (Norfolk) indicated that the next step would be for the segments to be modified, as necessary. Martin Thomas (Norfolk) asked that the motion mirrors the motion of the Working Group at its recent meeting. Bob Crum (HRTPO/HRPDC) listed the 5 Mandated segments—I-664 Connector, VA 164 Connector, I-564 Connector, I-664, VA 164—then he reiterated the motion: This joint committee directs the RCS to move forward with studying the feasibility of alternatives comprised of the 5 Mandated Segments and modifications thereof. The motion passed unanimously by individual voice vote.

Working Group Electronic Meeting on 12/10/2020:

Item#5: Regional Connectors Study: Phase 3 - Task 2 - Development of Preliminary Alternatives

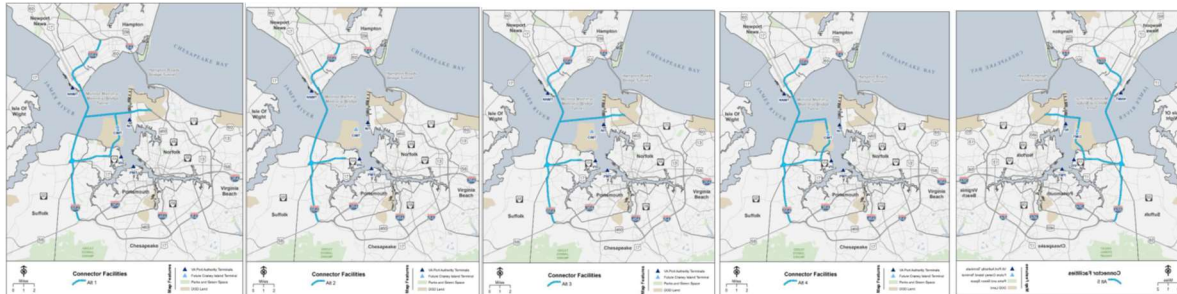
The Consultant Team provided the group with a detailed presentation of two travel demand model (TDM) runs: 1) one Unconstrained 2045 Baseline with the Existing + Committed (E+C) network and 2) one Unconstrained 2045 Baseline with all five mandated segments including: I-664, I-664 Connector, I-564 Connector, VA 164, and VA 164 Connector. Results from these two unconstrained 2045 Baseline model runs were compared with 2017 traffic volumes at key locations. Following some group discussions, Working Group members directed the Consultant Team to prepare for the January 14, 2021 meeting, five new 2045 Baseline model runs with a Constrained E+C network and the following Unconstrained segments:

- All five Mandated Segments (I-664, I-664 Connector, I-564 Connector, VA 164, VA 164 Connector)
- I-664 and VA 164
- I-664, VA 164, I-664 Connector, I-564 Connector
- I-664, VA 164, I-664 Connector, VA 164 Connector
- I-664, VA 164, VA 164 Connector, I-564 Connector

2021

Working Group Electronic Meeting 01/14/2021

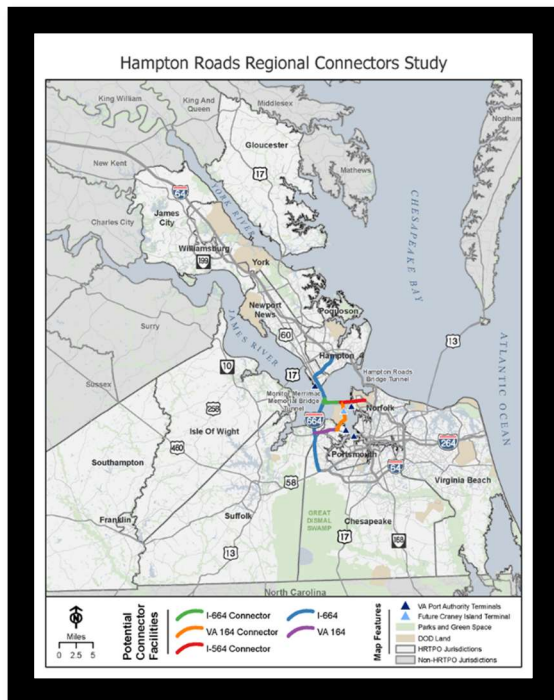
Item#5: Regional Connectors Study: Development of Preliminary Alternatives



The Consultant Team presented the results from travel demand model runs for five Alternatives (see above graphics). Traffic volumes were tabulated for 2017, 2045 Base, and each of the five 2045 alternative runs. Following extensive discussions, Working Group Chair asked the members to decide which one of these alternatives should be moved forward to the next step for further modeling runs under Constrained E+C network as well as Constrained mandated segments.

Motion: Troy Eisenberger (Chesapeake) made a motion to move forward to the next step with Alternatives 2, 3, and 5. The motion was seconded by Ric Lowman (Virginia Beach) and passed 4 to 1 by those voting members present at the time of the motion.

APPENDIX A – STUDY AREA



Appendix B: Funding

Description Budget/Cost

Phase 1	\$359,497
Phase 1 (Supplement)	\$3,784
Phase 2 (Interim)	\$779,199
Phase 2 (Supplement)	\$709,637
Phase 2 (Supplement Omission)	\$96,746
Phase 3	\$4,062,710
Subtotal amount (Consultant)	\$6,011,573
Contingency	\$80,638
Total Amount (Consultant)	\$6,092,211
RCS Project Coordination	\$322,000
HRTPO staff expenses	\$535,756
Grand Total	\$6,949,967

Funded by HRTAC, Administered by HRTPO



REVISED - Regional Connectors Study - Phase 3 Schedule (December 8, 2020)

[illegible]