COASTAL RESILIENCE MASTER PLAN

On Tuesday, December 7, Governor Northam held a press conference in Hampton to announce the release of Virginia’s first Coastal Resilience Master Plan. HRPDC Chair Andria McClellan and HRTPO Board Chair and Hampton Mayor Donnie Tuck and the Executive Director participated in this event. The HRPDC staff served on the Technical Advisory Committee and various Subcommittees that supported the preparation of this Plan.

HAMPTON ROADS CAUCUS MEETING

HRPDC Chair Andria McClellan, HRTPO Chair Donnie Tuck and the Executive Director presented Hampton Roads’ regional legislative priorities to the Hampton Roads General Assembly Caucus on December 14 at the Sentara Brock Cancer Center in Norfolk.

I-64 SEGMENT III GROUNDBREAKING

Regional, local, state and federal officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 20 to celebrate the opening of the I-64 Peninsula Segment III Project. Several HRTPO and HRTAC Board members participated in the event to celebrate this HRTAC supported project including Hampton Mayor Donnie Tuck, York County Supervisor Tom Shepperd and James City County Supervisor Michael Hipple.

A recording of the ribbon cutting ceremony can be viewed at: https://youtu.be/rCQh1duUays.

To learn more about the I-64 Widening Segment III Project, visit: http://i64widening.org/learn_more/segment_3.asp.

HAMPTON ROADS BRIDGE TUNNEL BORING MACHINE ARRIVES

On December 14, state, regional and local officials celebrated the arrival of the Tunnel Boring Machine that will be used during the construction of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel project. This project is predominantly funded by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC). The Tunnel Boring Machine was custom-made in Germany, disassembled and transported via three ships to the Port of Virginia. The machine will be reassembled in the next several months with boring expected to begin in mid-2022. A model of the Tunnel Boring Machine was present for the celebration.
Speakers at this event included Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine and HRTAC and HRTPO Chair Donnie Tuck. Several students from Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School in Virginia Beach, who won a competition to name the tunnel-boring machine, also participated. The students’ winning proposal resulted in the Tunnel Boring Machine being named after Mary Winston Jackson, the late Hampton native and aerospace engineer who was featured in the movie Hidden Figures.

**VIRGINIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE (VATI) BROADBAND GRANT**

The HRPDC received a VATI grant that will bring universal broadband coverage to the City of Suffolk and Counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton. In partnership with the three localities and Charter Communications, the grant will provide needed funding to build a high-speed, reliable, and affordable fiber internet network to areas of western Hampton Roads that are currently without service. Much like electricity and water, broadband is a crucial service in the 21st century that connects our communities and enhances access to healthcare, education, and workforce development opportunities. The following link provides more information about this grant award [https://www.hrpdcva.gov/.../hrpdc-helps-win-broadband.../](https://www.hrpdcva.gov/.../hrpdc-helps-win-broadband.../).

**REGIONAL FIBER RING**

The Southside Network Authority continues to finalize the procurement process and funding for the Southside fiber ring. Construction of the fiber ring, which will interconnect the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach to the transatlantic subsea cables, is expected to begin in calendar year 2022.

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS (CAO) COMMITTEE**

The CAO Committee met on January 5 at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Agenda items were as follows:

- Hampton Roads Express Lanes Network – presentation by VDOT District Engineer Chris Hall with a request for localities to appoint an Executive Oversight Committee
- Legislative Update
- Discussion of need for a Legislative Affairs position at the HRPDC
- Update from the Hampton Roads Alliance
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met on December 9. Agenda items included:

- Elizabeth River Crossing (ERC) Toll Agreement
- Regional Fiber Ring Update
- Air Terminal Interchange Briefing from VDOT
- CAC Leadership Transition

REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVISORY PANEL (RTAP)

The RTAP met on November 30 and discussed the following items:

- General Assembly Session and opportunities for the RTAP membership to play a transit advocacy role. The RTAP has tentatively scheduled a transit advocacy day for February 3 in Richmond.
- Review of Priority Recommendations identified by the RTAP membership. The RTAP endorsed its final recommendations for strategies to advance and strengthen transit in the Hampton Roads region.

OTHER MEETINGS/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OUTREACH

- Participation in Offshore Wind Executive Committee meetings
- November 30 meeting with the HRPDC Chair and Vice Chair and HRPDC staff to discuss opportunities for the Commission’s Environmental Education Program
- Attended the City Managers Forum on December 2 in Chesapeake that was coordinated by the Hampton Roads Chamber
- Meeting with Surry County HRPDC Board Member and County staff to discuss issues and opportunities for the County
- Coordinated regional legislative liaison meetings on December 7 and January 6
- Participated in the RVA757 Connects Board meeting on December 8
- Attended the Hampton Roads Chamber Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach on December 8
- Provided a presentation to the CIVIC Leadership Institute Class on December 9 on the work of the HRPDC and HRTPO
- Provided a briefing to the Regional Planning Directors on December 9 on the regional fiber initiative, the work of the Regional Transit Advisory Panel and the HRPDC/HRTPO Regional Legislative Agenda
- Participated in the Southside Network Authority Meeting on December 10
- Attended the Senatorial Forum hosted by the Hampton Roads Chamber in Norfolk on December 13
- Participated in regular meetings of the Regional Roundtable
- Attended the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance Meeting on December 16
- Attended the December 16 meeting of the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission
- Provided a presentation on December 22 to Virginia Beach Vision and the Greater Norfolk Corporation on the Community Flood Preparedness Fund
ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT

- Human Resource items including allocation of the mid-year salary compression/equity funds approved by the HRPDC/HRTPO Boards
- Recruitment for the IT Coordinator Position
- Finalize AV Equipment Modernization Plans for the “757 Room”
- Transition Plan for the Organization’s Civil Rights/Title VI and Communications Programs
- Staff support to the Community Advisory Committee
- Staff support to the Southside Network Authority
- Coordination with the region’s legislative liaisons
- Financial management support for the HRPDC, HRTPO, HRTAC, HRMFFA and Southside Network Authority
- Personnel management
- Building Operation and Maintenance