

Action Summary
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Meeting
January 20, 2022
The Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by HRPDC Chair Andria McClellan at 12:37 p.m.

Approval/Modification of Agenda [Action Requested]

As a quorum was not present, the agenda could not be approved.

Public Comments

There were no submitted public comments and one in-person request to provide public comment.

Mr. Steve Hanson urged the Commission to consider amending the HRPDC legislative priority request that the General Assembly establish the Offshore Wind Supply Chain and Workforce Development Fund to stipulate diversity hiring metrics for candidate supply chain companies receiving funding.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRPDC Executive Director, referenced his monthly report and highlighted the following items:

- *On 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, 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.*
- *Also 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.*
- *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.*
- *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.*

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

Ms. Terry Danaher, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), requested that the HRPDC staff prepare an update of the HRPDC Little Book of Big Data from 2015 in print and online. Ms. Danaher reported many vacancies on the CAC and informed the Commission that after many years, she was stepping down as CAC Chair.

Consent Agenda [Action Requested]

As a quorum was not present, the consent items were deferred until the February 17, 2022 Commission meeting.

Economic Development Opportunities for the Hampton Roads Region

The leadership of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), Virginia Port Authority (VPA), and Hampton Roads Alliance (Alliance) briefed the Commission on economic development opportunities for the Hampton Roads region.

Mr. El Koubi, VEDP Interim President and CEO, provided a VEDP overview, including VEDP's goals, business development efforts, strategic plan, and proposed economic development budget. Mr. El Koubi presented Virginia's strengths and potential future economic development opportunities.

Mr. Stephen Edwards VPA CEO and Executive Director, provided an update on the Port of Virginia (POV) and overall supply chain. He presented POV modernization efforts, related development, and project plans as well as strategic opportunities and risks.

Mr. Doug Smith, Alliance President and CEO, provided an overview on the transition from HREDA and the old economic development model to the Alliance and the new economic development model. Mr. Smith presented the Alliance's new mission, leadership, staffing, and funding and reported on an IBM Study and how the Alliance has implemented the study's recommendations. He also provided an update on Alliance initiatives and opportunities related to the offshore wind industry.

Dedicated Funding Source for Flood Mitigation Projects [Action Requested]

Mr. Crum reported that at the January Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee meeting, the CAOs discussed the threat that flooding presents for the Hampton Roads region and the need for the Commonwealth to ensure a reliable funding source to assist local governments with their efforts to invest in flood prevention projects. The CAOs reached a consensus recommending that the HRPDC take action to request that the Commonwealth of Virginia establish an adequate, reliable, and continuous funding source to address flood prevention projects in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Crum presented guiding principles for the request. The Commission could not take action as a quorum was not present. Due to the time-sensitive nature of the request, Mr. Crum suggested he and Chair McClellan co-sign the letter. The Commission members in attendance supported this approach.

General Assembly Update

Mr. Crum updated the Commission on the current General Assembly session and stated that the HRPDC is monitoring approximately 15 different bills between transportation and HRPDC items. He highlighted a few of these bills for Commission member information including HB 602, which would create the Commonwealth Flood Board; budget amendments seeking a one-time increase of \$30,000 per Planning District Commission; HB 978 and SB 363, which would remove \$20 million to \$30 million provided through the statewide recordation tax; and HB 297 and HB 1059, which would suspend the regional gas tax. The region is opposing HB 978 and SB 363 as well as HB 297 and HB 1059.

Three-Month Tentative Schedule

This item was for informational purposes.

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

This item was for informational purposes.

Technical Committee Meeting Summaries

This item was for informational purposes.

For Your Information

This item was for informational purposes.

Old/New Business

There was no old/new business.

ADJOURNMENT