

**Summary Minutes of the HRPDC/HRTPO  
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting  
February 9, 2023**

The February 9, 2023 meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)/ Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was called to order by the Chair at Noon in The American Theatre at 125 E Mellen St, Hampton, VA 23663, with the following in attendance:

**CAC Members in Attendance:**

Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Chair (PO)	Travis Davidson (NO)
Lamont Curtis, Vice-Chair (NN)	Lauren Roberts (NO)
Zakkiyya Anderson (PO)	Lindsey Watson (PQ)
Jim Bowie (HA)	Garry Harris (PO)
Richard Parison (HA)	Dianna Howard (VB)
Jim Collins (IW)	Jay Leach (VB)
Frank Cotrupi (NN)	Scott MacFarlane (VB)
Sharon Anderson (PO)	Brad Martin (VB)

**CAC Members Absent:**

Brandon Carter (CH)	Kanama Bivins (SU)
Susan Archer (CH)	Anthony Piglowski (SU)
Cecil Jenkins (CH)	Mike Sawchuck (SU)
John Kish (CH)	Catherine Correll Walls (SY)
Henry Branscome (JC)	Shawnta Howard-Spence (VB)
	Waverly Woods (VB)

**HRPDC/HRTPO Staff:**

Robert A. Crum, Jr.	Rob Cofield
Pavithra Parthasarathi	Dmitry Rekhter
Quan McLaurin	Chris Vaigneur
Matt Klepeisz	Keith Nichols

**Others Recorded Attending:**

Donnie Tuck (HA), Crystal Bright and Troy Lindsay (Dominion Energy), Mitzi Crystal (VDOT),

**Approval/Modification of Agenda**

Chair Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky asked for a motion to approve the February 9, 2023, CAC Meeting Agenda as presented.

Mr. Lamont Curtis Moved to approve the February 9, 2023 CAC Meeting Agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Jay Leach. The Motion Carried.

## **Public Comments**

- **Submitted Public Comments**

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRPDC/HRTPO Executive Director, reported that there were no submitted public comments.

- **Public Comment Period**

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

## **Summary Minutes**

Chair Geduldig-Yatrofsky referenced the Summary Minutes of the October 19, 2022 and December 08, 2022 CAC meetings.

Mr. Lamont Curtis Moved to approve the Summary Minutes of the October 19, 2022 and December 08, 2022 CAC meetings as presented; seconded by Mr. Frank Cotrupi. The Motion Carried.

Chair Geduldig-Yatrofsky and Mr. Crum requested a round of introductions from all the meeting attendees.

## **Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Update**

Ms. Cyrstal Bright, Dominion Energy Services External Affairs Manager, briefed the CAC on Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project. Ms. Bright covered the pilot turbines, currently in operation, and the upcoming commercial project. CVOW will provide clean energy for Dominion's customers and support the Commonwealth of Virginia's clean-energy goals. It was noted that the two pilot turbines that are currently in operation have exceeded power output expectations.

Ms. Bright presented an overall review of the CVOW project, making note that this project would be in US Federal Waters, 27 miles off of the coast of Virginia Beach. This is the largest East Coast project under development and would include 176 turbines with a 2.6 GW total capacity, which is estimated to power up to 660,000 homes. The CVOW project has partnered with a wide array of stakeholders and is aiming to make the Hampton Roads region the hub for the development of this project since the waterways do not present any challenges by vertical obstructions. There are two other similar projects planned along the East Coast.

All target dates and objectives have been met thus far. The next target objective date is June 2023. Ms. Bright reviewed the equipment, structure of the turbines, specialized ships required for this project, and the accompanying crews that would be included. Approximately 900 jobs and \$143 million in economic impacts are projected during

construction, and approximately 1,100 jobs and almost \$210 million in economic impacts annually are estimated during operation. There will be an emphasis on maximizing opportunities for Virginia vendors (Dominion Energy's portal for contract proposals can be found at [www.vacoastalwind.com](http://www.vacoastalwind.com)) and priority hiring of veterans, local workers, and individuals from historically economically disenfranchised communities. Dominion also plans to engage diverse Virginia businesses, schools, and community organizations through outreach programs.

During the presentation, Ms. Bright answered questions related to the economic impact on the Hampton Roads region such as the anticipated costs to the taxpayers, energy cost impacts, opportunities for Virginia contractors, the cost of leasing the US Federal Waters, location of the manufacturing and servicing facilities, and specifics related to the types of jobs offered and who they would be offered to. Additionally, questions were asked and answered related to environmental impact, education (K-12 & postsecondary) to profession pipelines, security measures related to the grid, and the living conditions for those assigned to the project.

Questions related to the CVOW project can be directed to [CoastalVAWind@dominionenergy.com](mailto:CoastalVAWind@dominionenergy.com).

### **Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study**

Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO Principal Transportation Engineer, briefed the CAC on the intermodal conflict points, which are locations in the transportation system where one mode crosses – and impedes – the flow of another mode. Mr. Nichols explained that the most common intermodal conflict point is where roadways and railroads intersect. These highway-rail crossings can cause not only extensive delays for travelers but can also contribute to a number of collisions between trains and vehicles each year. There are nearly 500 of these at-grade crossings, which is when a railroad and roadway cross at the same level, throughout Hampton Roads.

The HRTPO staff have started work on a regional Rail Crossing Study to prepare the region for federal funding sources, such as the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant program and the Railway-Highway Crossings Program (RHCP).

Mr. Nichols answered questions from the CAC related to the type of freight and trains being considered for the study, visualization tools associated with this project, the causes of these collisions, load hazards associated with the trains, comparisons between Hampton Roads and other regions, and the budgetary allowances.

Questions related to the Hampton Roads Rail Crossing Study can be addressed to Keith Nichols at [knichols@hrtpo.org](mailto:knichols@hrtpo.org).

## **Hampton Roads Regional Safety Study**

Mr. Nichols briefed the CAC on the Hampton Roads Regional Safety Study, which includes information on regional crash data and trends, a detailed analysis of the locations of crashes, methods to improve roadway safety, and an analysis of high crash locations with crash countermeasures. HRTPO staff has begun preparing an update to the Regional Safety Study that should be completed by Summer 2023.

Mr. Nichols informed the CAC that there has been an increase in the number of crashes, injuries, and fatalities since 2020. It was clarified that since the study is not yet complete, there is not any definite answer as to why there has been this increase, but the study aims to provide context to this data. The data sourced from this study could be used to support regional or locality-based applications for the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Grant Program created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA/BIL). The study will focus on regional safety trends, crash causes and characteristics, crash locations, efforts to improve roadway safety, and general crash countermeasures. Public input will be sought once the initial analysis is completed.

Mr. Nichols answered questions related to multimodal incidents, potential countermeasures such as “no right on red,” criteria to change traffic patterns, and creating safer intersections for pedestrians.

Questions related to the Hampton Roads Regional Safety Study can be addressed to Keith Nichols at [knichols@hrtpo.org](mailto:knichols@hrtpo.org).

## **Next Meeting**

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023.

## **Old/New Business**

CAC members discussed potential topics for upcoming meetings.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:51 PM.