

Action Summary
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Meeting
February 17, 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 12:31 p.m.

Approval/Modification of Agenda [Action Requested]

The agenda was modified to include the meeting minutes from the November Commission meeting and approved as amended.

Public Comments

There were no submitted public comments or in-person requests to provide public comment.

Executive Director's Report

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

- *The Southside Network Authority (SNA) member cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach each committed \$5 million to start construction on the Southside Fiber Ring. A contract was provided to a company that bid on the construction, and if all goes according to plan, the SNA hopes to have a groundbreaking ceremony in late March. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in May or June.*
- *The HRPDC, in partnership with Charter Communications, was awarded a \$21 million broadband grant through the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) program to bring universal broadband coverage to the City of Suffolk and Counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton.*
- *The next phase of regional broadband will be the design of the Peninsula Fiber Ring, which will connect to the Southside Fiber Ring through the tunnels.*
- *New HRPDC employees Ms. Jaquil Tatum, Accounting Manager, and Mr. Dmitry Rekhter, IT Manager were introduced.*
- *Ms. Kelli Arledge's promotion to Deputy Executive Director was announced.*
- *A handout about the Hampton Roads Chamber's 2022 Leadership Exchange to be held June 22 – 25, 2022 in Charlotte NC was referenced. All Commission members were encouraged to attend.*

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

Mr. Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), reported that he had recently been appointed as CAC Chair and pledged to represent the CAC to the best of his ability.

Consent Agenda [Action Requested]

The modified Consent Agenda included the following items for consideration and approval:

- *Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2021 Commission Meeting*
- *Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2022 Commission Meeting*
- *Transcribed Public Comments – January 20, 2022 Commission Meeting*
- *Treasurer's Report – December 2021*
- *Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendment*
- *HRPDC Grant Contracts*

- *Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Chesapeake Bay Watershed PDC Locality Implementation Program Contract*
- *Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Appointment*
- *2022 Regional Meetings Schedule*

Per Chair McClellan's request for additional information regarding the purchasing of emergency vehicles included in the HRPDC Grant Contracts item, the HRPDC staff will arrange for an overview of regional emergency management, including the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (HRMMRS) and the HRMMRS Strike Team Committee, as a future meeting topic.

The Commission approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Joint Land Use Study Updates

Mr. Benjamin J. McFarlane, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, briefed the Commission on the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) projects. The Military Installation Sustainability program is one of several administered by the Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation that provides assistance to communities to help support military operations and readiness. Hampton Roads has recently benefited from this program through the funding of four Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) projects in Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach. The most recently completed of these projects is the Portsmouth-Chesapeake JLUS, which involved Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and several Navy facilities. This study addressed several issues of concern to both the participating communities and Navy installations such as flooding, transportation, parking, and land use conflicts.

Mr. Bruce Sturk, Hampton Director of Federal Facilities Support, briefed the Commission on Hampton's collaboration with the Department of Defense. The City of Hampton completed a JLUS for Langley Air Force Base in 2010; this study was updated in 2018 through an addendum to address community and installation resilience. These efforts have been part of the city's overall strategy to work with Joint Base Langley-Eustis to identify and implement steps to protect and enhance the Air Force's mission in Hampton and to further the city's goals for becoming more resilient.

There was discussion about forming a subcommittee of the Commission to create a framework for communication and an organized process for developing JLUS recommendation implementation plans. HRPDC staff will prepare and present a proposal with clear directives at the March Commission meeting.

Stormwater Local Assistance Fund Projects

Ms. Jillian C. Sunderland, HRPDC Senior Water Resources Planner, briefed the Commission on the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund.

The Virginia General Assembly established the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) in 2013 to provide matching grants to local governments for stormwater best management practices that improve water quality by reducing pollutant loads. Applications can be submitted for planning, design, and/or implementation of stormwater projects that reduce pollutant loads and SLAF projects require a 50% local match. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has awarded \$144 million to 289 projects over seven rounds of SLAF. The Hampton Roads localities have been awarded a total of \$27.9 million for 88 projects that meet stormwater permit requirements and improve the quality of local waterways.

Before leaving office, Governor Northam included \$100 million in SLAF funds in the 2022-2024 proposed state budget. The next solicitation round is scheduled to be released in August with applications due October 1, 2022. DEQ is currently revising the guidelines to prioritize applications from localities experiencing high levels or above-average levels of fiscal stress, which includes several of the Hampton Roads localities.

General Assembly Update

Mr. Crum updated the Commission on the current General Assembly session and mentioned House Bill (HB) 297 and HB 1059, which would suspend the regional gas tax, which is one of the funding streams being used to fund over \$5.8 billion of regional transportation projects. Mr. Crum also mentioned HB 978 and Senate Bill (SB) 363, which would remove \$20 million to \$30 million of transit funding provided through the statewide recordation tax.

Chair McClellan reported on the following resiliency-related bills:

- *HB 602, introduced by Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr. and laid on the table, would have created the Commonwealth Flood Board as a policy board in the executive branch.*
- *HB 847, introduced by Delegate Robert S. Bloxom, Jr. and passed out of the House, establishes the Virginia Resiliency Authority.*
- *HB 516, introduced by Delegate David L. Bulova and passed the House, implements recommendations from the first Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan.*
- *HB 1309, introduced by Delegate David L. Bulova and passed out of the House, creates the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund.*

Chair McClellan also reported that the House and Senate passed competing bills reducing the state's grocery tax.

Admiral Craig Quigley, Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA) Executive Director, reported there is a proposal at the state level for \$10 million over the biennium for communities to use on infrastructure projects such as those recommended in a JLUS study.

Mr. Crum announced that \$20 million for the design to complete the I-64 Gap was included in the proposed budget, which he stated is a start. In total, the estimated construction cost is between \$600 million and \$700 million.

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