

**Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)
Chief Administrative Officers Meeting
Summary Minutes of January 5, 2022**

The Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee meeting was called to order at 11:38 AM by Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC/HRTPO Executive Director, at the Norfolk Botanical Garden located at 6700 Azalea Garden Road in Norfolk. Mr. Crum noted that Mary Bunting, Hampton City Manager and Chair of the CAO Committee, and Michael Johnson, Southampton County Administrator and CAO Committee Vice-Chair, both had conflicts and would not be in attendance. He reported that Ms. Bunting and Mr. Johnson asked him to preside over the meeting.

The following members of the CAO Committee were in attendance:

Cynthia Rohlf	Newport News
Brian DeProfio for Mary Bunting	Hampton
Larry "Chip" Filer	Norfolk
Amanda Jarratt	Franklin
Randy Keaton	Isle of Wight County
Al Moor	Suffolk
Neil Morgan	York County
Chris Price	Chesapeake
Melissa Rollins	Surry County
William Saunders	Town of Windsor
Michael Stallings	Town of Smithfield
Carol Steele	Gloucester County
Scott Stevens	James City County
Robert Baldwin for Angel Jones	Portsmouth
Andrew Trivette	Williamsburg
Patrick Duhaney	Virginia Beach

Others in Attendance:

Robert Crum, HRPDC/HRTPO
Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRPTO
Keith Cannady, HRPDC
Greg Grootendorst, HRPDC
John Harbin, HRPDC
Shawn Avery, Hampton Roads Workforce Council
Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Portsmouth Resident
Drew Lumpkin, Senator Warner's Office
Caleb Smith, Representative Luria's Office

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Crum asked if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda. No additions or revisions to the agenda were requested. Ms. Amanda Jarrett from Franklin made a motion to

approve the agenda as presented. A second was provided by Mr. Al Moor of Suffolk. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Crum asked if there were any additions or revisions to the Summary Minutes from the November 3, 2021 CAO Committee meeting. After hearing no additions or revisions, Mr. Crum requested a motion for approval. Mr. Patrick Duhaney from Virginia Beach made a motion to approve the Summary Minutes from the November 3, 2021 CAO Committee meeting as presented. A second was provided by Ms. Amanda Jarrett from Franklin. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Crum asked if there were any members of the public who wanted to address the CAO Committee. There were no members of the public who wished to address the CAO Committee.

Norfolk Botanical Garden

Mr. Crum thanked the City of Norfolk and Norfolk Botanical Garden for hosting the meeting. Ms. Kelly Welsh, Director of Marketing and Communications, welcomed the CAO Committee and presented a brief overview of Norfolk Botanical Garden. At 175 acres, it is the largest botanical garden in Virginia and welcomed over 500,000 visitors in the last year. The Garden is growing through an initiative known as The Garden of Tomorrow, which will provide additional education, plant conservation, visitation, and parking opportunities. A video was shared with the Committee on The Garden of Tomorrow. Mr. Crum asked if staff from localities could tour some of the innovative design and building techniques utilized in The Garden of Tomorrow. Ms. Welsh said that tours for locality staff could be arranged at their request.

Hampton Roads Express Lane Network Update – Appointment of Executive Oversight Committee.

Mr. Chris Hall, Virginia Department of Transportation Hampton Roads District Engineer, provided an update on the Hampton Roads Express Lane Network design and construction schedule. The network is being built in phases. Phase 1, which includes segments 2 and 3, is under construction. Phase 2, which includes segments 1A, 1B, 4A/4B, and 4C, is in varying stages of design. Traffic modeling has shown that the construction of the full network, including the expansion of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, will create significant traffic congestion. A regional Transportation Management Plan (TMP) was developed in response that includes strategies to mitigate traffic congestion and planning-level costs for implementation. The organization and governance of the TMP are comprised of a Steering Committee to provide direction and oversight and three Technical Subcommittees to implement strategies. Mr. Hall requested representatives with decision-making authority for the Steering Committees from the cities of Norfolk, Hampton, and Newport News, at a

minimum, but noted that any locality who wishes to participate would be welcomed. Mr. Hall also requested staff from localities to serve on the Technical Subcommittees. Invitations will be sent to localities and appointments are requested in the next two weeks to accommodate the first Steering Committee meeting to be held in late January or early February.

Legislative Updates/Discussion

Mr. Crum provided an update on the upcoming General Assembly session and several key regional legislative priorities in the Regional Legislative Agenda. Governor Northam included \$20 million in his proposed budget for the design and permitting of Interstate 64 expansion from James City County to Bottoms Bridge near Richmond. Total project cost is estimated at \$600 - \$700 million. The Elizabeth River Tunnels low-income toll mitigation program has increased support at \$3.2 million annually, but Mr. Crum acknowledged that more work is needed to mitigate the impact of these tolls on the community. An offshore wind supply chain fund and an economic site readiness program are other key funding requests that will be made to legislators. A key regional legislative priority is the establishment of a Commonwealth Flood Board. Bill language is drafted and under review by HRPDC staff, with Senator Lynwood Lewis and Delegate Cliff Hayes sponsoring the bills. Mr. Crum said that Governor-elect Youngkin indicated his intention of withdrawing Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Proceeds from the sale of carbon credits through RGGI are made available to localities through the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF), which the proposed Commonwealth Flood Board would administer. The CFPF provides funding to localities for resiliency, recurrent flooding, and stormwater projects, of which nearly 80% to date has been awarded to Hampton Roads localities. Mr. Crum asked the CAOs if the HRPDC should make a statement regarding the state's membership in RGGI.

Dr. Larry "Chip" Filer of Norfolk indicated the Norfolk City Council supports remaining in RGGI but recognized that other localities may take different positions. Many CAOs responded that their respective governing bodies had not taken a position on the state's membership in RGGI and recommended that HRPDC focus its messaging on maintaining sustainable funding for flood prevention, irrespective of RGGI membership, and the importance of funding for key projects and to use a match for federal funding sources. Mr. Crum thanked the Committee for their input which will be shared with the Chair of the HRPDC to inform advocacy efforts. Mr. Crum asked the CAOs to report on any legislative priorities unique to their locality.

Ms. Carol Steele of Gloucester County said they are working with the Virginia Association of Counties (VaCO) to provide additional options for funding education through sales tax assessments and eliminating a transient occupancy tax exemption for state parks.

Mr. Neil Morgan of York County said the elimination of the grocery tax is a major concern.

Ms. Amanda Jarrett of Franklin said they are working to draft revised gaming machine legislation with the Virginia Municipal League (VML) and are closely monitoring what happens to the grocery tax.

Mr. Shawn Avery from the Hampton Roads Workforce Council said they are pushing for \$5 million for workforce development to support the offshore wind industry in partnership with the Hampton Roads Alliance.

Mr. Randy Keaton of Isle of Wight County said the possible elimination of the grocery tax is a major concern based on an estimate that 20% of sales tax revenue for the County comes from the grocery tax.

Dr. Filer noted that the Norfolk caucus is sponsoring legislation to expand the motion picture tax credit to include all types of content creation and to be more competitive with neighboring states. Mr. Andrew Trivette of Williamsburg agreed that the current motion picture tax credit is not competitive and said his Council would likely support such legislation.

Mr. Doug Smith of the Hampton Roads Alliance said that an offshore wind supply chain fund is not in the Governor's proposed budget, despite early inclinations it would be. He noted that this situation underscores the need for greater advocacy for legislative priorities on behalf of the region.

Discussion of Need for a Legislative Affairs Position at the HRPDC

Ms. Crum provided an overview of how the HRPDC provides advocacy services for regional legislative priorities. At present, regional legislative efforts at the HRPDC are largely coordinated by the Executive Director, limiting the amount of time and resources that can be put towards it. As a result, the HRPDC Chair requested the CAO Committee discuss whether the FY 2023 Budget for the HRPDC should consider the addition of a Legislative Affairs position at the HRPDC. Duties would include but are not limited to the following:

- Working with the HRPDC/HRTPO Regional Legislative Committee to develop the regional legislative agenda
- Coordinating efforts among the legislative liaisons from the region's localities
- Representing the region during the General Assembly session in Richmond
- Monitoring Federal and State legislative activities and proposed legislation on an ongoing basis and reporting to the CAO Committee, Board, Executive Director, and HRPDC staff on potential impacts and opportunities for our region
- Establishing and maintaining relationships and partnerships at the Federal and State levels
- Identifying Federal and State funding opportunities for our region

Mr. Crum identified two approaches to providing these services at HRPDC – the addition of a full-time HRPDC staff person or acquiring the services of an on-call consultant. Mr. Crum asked for the Committee's input on the need for additional legislative support and how HRPDC should provide it.

Mr. Duhaney asked what an HRPDC legislative affairs position would do beyond that of legislative liaisons that represent various localities and how conflicting local and regional priorities would be handled. Mr. Crum responded that the HRPDC legislative affairs position would be limited to advocating only for regional legislative priorities that are agreed upon by the HRPDC/HRTPO. This position would have ample time to attend committee meetings during the General Assembly and meet with legislators as needed.

Mr. Chris Price of Chesapeake said if the HRPDC requires additional advocacy services, he supports a full-time HRPDC staff person as opposed to a consultant. He also suggested that the position could track federal funding opportunities throughout the year.

Mr. Keaton noted that while the Executive Director of the HRPDC fulfills this role at present, doing so is in addition to all other duties and responsibilities which severely limits the time that can be devoted to it.

Other members of the Committee expressed general support for an HRPDC staff position as the preferred approach of providing additional legislative support and recommended the position also track federal legislation and funding opportunities and advocate at the federal level.

In response to the input received from the CAOs, Mr. Crum will provide details of the position, including budget implications, to the Committee in March and request additional input. If deemed appropriate, the position can be included in the proposed FY 2023 budget for review and consideration by the Personnel and Budget Committee of the HRPDC.

Update from the Hampton Roads Alliance

Mr. Doug Smith, President and CEO of the Hampton Roads Alliance (Alliance), provided the Committee a brief overview of the history of the Hampton Roads Alliance and its plans for the future. The Alliance was formed in response to a region-wide study on the economy of Hampton Roads and an acknowledgment that previous regional economic development initiatives were misaligned and lacked support from localities and the private sector. The Alliance started in 2019 with \$1.5 million in private funding and 11 localities adopting agreements to participate and work collaboratively with the Alliance towards regional economic development priorities. Since its inception, the Alliance has worked to attract target industries, conduct regional branding initiatives, undertake business intelligence activities, and develop workforce training and recruitment programs. Another major accomplishment of the Alliance is the recent 757 Recovery and Resilience Framework, which is now in the implementation phase with the Alliance serving in the facilitator role. Mr. Smith also noted that James City and York Counties and the City of Williamsburg recently joined the Alliance.

Mr. Smith explained that the master agreements between the Alliance and member localities are set to expire in June 2022. An investor survey and new master agreements with a suggested 5-year commitment will be provided to localities in the coming months for their consideration. the Alliance would be pleased to present these to any locality at their request.

Mr. Smith also invited all CAOs to the Alliance's Annual Meeting on January 27 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Newport News Marriot at City Center.

Other Business

Mr. Crum stated he has received feedback from the Committee to hold regular meetings every other month with the ability to call additional meetings as needed. Future meeting dates and locations will be sent to Committee members.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the CAO Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Crum
Recording Secretary