

Action Summary

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Meeting

April 15, 2021

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by HRPDC Chair Andria McClellan at 12:32 p.m.

Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC Executive Director, stated that pursuant to the declared state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect the public health and safety of the Commission members, staff, and the general public, the HRPDC meeting was being held electronically via Zoom. These electronic meetings are required to complete essential business on behalf of the region.

Per the requirements of the Code of Virginia, the meeting notice, agenda, and supporting documentation were posted on the HRPDC website for public review. HRPDC staff also provided electronic copies of this information to Commission members and other interested parties.

Mr. Crum indicated that the meeting was being live-streamed and would be available for viewing on the Regional Connection YouTube channel. The meeting was also being recorded and would be available after the meeting through the HRPDC website.

Members of the public were invited to submit comments to the Commission in advance of the meeting via email and phone call. No public comments were received as of 48 hours before the meeting.

Mr. Crum reviewed a few important housekeeping rules in order for the electronic meeting to run smoothly:

- 1. All Commission members were asked to remain on mute before and after providing input.*
- 2. All Commission members were asked to identify themselves by name and locality when speaking and/or providing a motion or second.*
- 3. All votes must be made by roll call and recorded in the minutes.*

On behalf of the HRPDC staff, Mr. Crum thanked everyone for their commitment to the region and their cooperation and patience during the electronic meeting.

Approval/Modification of Agenda [Action Requested]

Chair McClellan asked for additions or deletions to the HRPDC Agenda. Hearing none, a roll call vote was conducted and the Commission unanimously approved the agenda as presented. The roll call vote also served as the record of attendance and a quorum was confirmed.

Submitted Public Comments

There were no submitted public comments.

Public Comment Period

Members of the public were invited to submit comments to the Commission in advance of the meeting via email and phone call. Chair McClellan stated that HRPDC staff received no comments via either option as of 48 hours before the meeting.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

Ms. Theresa Danaher, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), provided a brief report of the Committee's activities, noting that at its March meeting, presentations were provided on the 2045 LRTP, the Regional Connector Study (RCS), and the Hampton Roads Express Lanes Network (HRELN). The Committee is working through its Bylaws and also discussed the possibility of advocating for the continuation of electronic meetings after the conclusion of the current state of emergency.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC Executive Director, referenced his monthly report and provided a summary of current work activities of the HRPDC, making particular note of the following:

- *Participation by HRPDC staff in the process for the preparation of the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan led by Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection Ann Phillips.*
- *HRPDC staff continue to support the Southside Network Authority as it moves forward with the procurement process for the Southside Fiber Ring project.*
- *The Regional Transit Advisory Panel (RTAP) held its third meeting and finalized the membership rosters for nine working groups including Transit-Oriented Development along the 757 Express, Affordable Housing, Bus Stop Amenities, Transit Advocacy/Ambassadors, Transit and the Military, Serving Major Employment Centers, Transit for the Williamsburg/ Virginia Beach Tourism Corridor, Technology, and Universities/Colleges.*

Commissioner Larry "Chip" Filer provided the Commission with an update regarding the CAO Advisory Group meetings with Mr. Craig Fifer, the Governor's Local Government Liaison for vaccination matters.

Consent Agenda [Action Requested]

The following items were on the Consent Agenda for approval:

- *Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2021 Commission Meeting*
- *Treasurer's Report – February 2021*
- *Amendment to HRPDC Contract with Old Dominion University Research Foundation*
- *Procurement of Consultant Services – Regional Building Janitorial Services*

A roll call vote was conducted and the Commission unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Quadrennial Certification Findings

Mr. Ryan Long, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region III, briefed the Commission on the Federal Certification Review of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) prepared in conjunction with Mr. Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Association, (FHWA) Virginia Division. Since the HRPDC serves as the host agency and fiscal agent for the HRTPO, this item was presented for information and discussion.

Mr. Long stated that per federal requirements, a review is required for urban areas over 200,000 every four years and is a review of the Coordinated, Continuing, and Comprehensive (3-C) planning process. The review includes several planning partners – the HRTPO, VDOT, and Transit Operators (HRT, WATA, and Suffolk). A site visit with the HRTPO and planning partners was conducted on September 23-24, 2020 via Zoom.

Mr. Long stated that the Certification review of the HRTPO prompted no corrective actions, four commendations, and four recommendations.

The four commendations were as follows:

- *Ambitious scenario planning effort as part of the 2045 LRTP update*
- *Excellent mapping and enhanced visualization techniques for TIP projects*
- *Comprehensive and engaged Public Participation Plan*
- *Robust administration of the Title VI Program and Environmental Justice strategies*

The four recommendations were as follows:

- *Reconsider Regional Priority Projects definition*
- *Consider elevating public transportation planning and investments to better demonstrate a balanced approach to meet regional priorities*
- *Include transit summary costs in the financial plan for the next TIP Update*
- *The Federal Review team is requesting that VDOT (Hampton Roads District Office) conduct a Title VI/ Nondiscrimination review of the HRPDC*

Mr. Long stated that the FHWA and the FTA jointly certify the transportation planning process for the Hampton Roads Transportation Management Area. The certification will remain in effect until November 20, 2024.

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) Amended Regulations [Action Requested]

Ms. Whitney S. Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer, briefed the Commission on the proposed regional comments regarding the draft regulatory amendments to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

The proposed regulatory amendments to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act were presented to the State Water Control Board in December 2020. The amendments incorporate resiliency and sea level rise and mature trees into the criteria in response to House Bill 504 from the 2020 General Assembly session. The draft regulations were available for public comment in the Virginia Register until May 3rd. HRPDC staff worked with local staff with planning, stormwater, and resiliency expertise to develop regional comments on the amendments.

Ms. Katchmark reported that the primary concern was that the proposed amendments create potential conflicts between coastal resiliency efforts, private property rights, and water quality preservation. It is recommended that the existing hurried process for regulatory development be abandoned in favor of utilizing an extensive stakeholder engagement process, such as a regulatory advisory panel, to provide input and allow for these interests to be heard and considered. Although this would make the process longer, HRPDC staff believe it would result in more comprehensive and practical regulations.

A roll call vote was conducted and the Commission unanimously approved the proposed regional comment letter to be signed by the HRPDC Chair and authorized HRPDC staff to submit the correspondence to the Department of Environmental Quality with copies to the State Water Control Board and the Hampton Roads Caucus.

Regional Economic Development Update

Ms. Von Gilbreath, Greater Williamsburg Partnership Executive Director, and Mr. Doug Smith, Hampton Roads Alliance Executive Director, provided the Commission with an update on regional economic development efforts underway in Hampton Roads.

Ms. Gilbreath provided an overview of the Greater Williamsburg Partnership (GWP), which is one of 18 regional economic development organizations in the Commonwealth. The GWP was inaugurated in 2016 and represents the localities of Williamsburg, James City County, and York County. Ms. Gilbreath has been serving as the first full-time GWP Executive Director since October 2019.

The GWP localities are operating with a three-pronged strategic approach to build capacity, partnerships, and awareness for the Greater Williamsburg area. The GWP is focusing on 1) building capacity in economic development by working with its three localities to attract, retain, and grow companies with high-wage jobs; 2) building strategic partnerships that are vital to bringing value-added assets and resources to communities; and 3) raising awareness and collaboratively telling the story of the Greater Williamsburg area's rich history, assets, and lifestyle is an integral part of growing the business community.

Mr. Smith provided an overview of the Hampton Roads Alliance, which was recently restructured with a new name, funding stream, and mission. He indicated that the GWP and Hampton Roads Alliance meet on a regular bi-monthly basis to collaborate regarding target industries. Another collaborative effort involving 12 regional organizations is the 757 Recovery & Resilience Action Framework, which functions as a regional playbook for the recovery and resilience of the economy. The framework is built on five strategic pillars including promoting regional unity, growing jobs, retaining and attracting talent, building economic and business resiliency, and advancing regional infrastructure. The framework identifies a lead organization for the implementation of 30 programs within the five categories and promotes transparency through a public-facing performance dashboard.

Mr. Smith briefed the Commission on recent activity regarding federal infrastructure legislation. The newly formed Hampton Roads Infrastructure Coalition includes 17 regional organizations that contributed to a prioritized project list. The list includes priorities advanced by HRPDC/HRTPO plans and studies including the LRTP approved by the HRTPO, the Regional Legislative Agenda approved by the HRPDC and HRTPO, the Regional Fiber Ring Initiative endorsed by the HRPDC, the Virginia Capital Trail Extension supported regionally, and Sea Level Rise/ Resiliency projects identified by various member localities. These existing regional plans, legislative agendas, and coordination positions Hampton Roads to present the federal delegation with a comprehensive integrated list of priorities that were adopted by the region. The lobbying firm Clark Hill has been hired to help finalize, lobby, and submit the infrastructure package.

Three-Month Tentative Schedule

This item was for informational purposes.

Advisory Committee 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