REGIONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORK SESSION

Upon request from several Mayors, the HRPDC Executive Director convened two Mayor/Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Work Sessions to discuss the violence we are experiencing in our communities and potential regional approaches to address this critical issue. The first work session was held on April 1 at the Regional Building. Mayors and CAOs participated in a roundtable discussion providing input on the following questions:

- What strategies are under discussion to address violence in your locality?
- Do you believe there are regional opportunities to address this issue, or will most strategies be addressed at the local level?
- What partners should be included in future deliberations on this topic?

Following this information exchange, the Mayors asked a subgroup of CAOs to discuss potential next steps based on the input provided at the first work session. The Mayors and CAOs also directed HRPDC staff to research the potential to create a Regional Crime/Violence Dashboard for the Hampton Roads region.

The second Mayor/CAO Work Session on Violence Prevention was held at the Regional Building on May 6. As a follow-up to the April 1 meeting, a subgroup of CAOs presented potential next steps for regional collaboration around violence prevention efforts. This proposed regional strategy/framework focused on some of the root causes of violence including:

- Concentrated Poverty
- Access to Guns
- Desensitized Communities and Individuals
- Judicial System
- Mental Health/Unaddressed Trauma
- Family Dysfunction
- Poor Conflict Resolution

In addition, the CAO subgroup presented a list of recommended actions that can be considered at both the local and regional level to address these topic areas. The Mayors asked the CAOs to develop a structure for how this effort will be managed and provide a report at the next Mayor/CAO Work Session that is expected to be held in mid-summer.
The Mayors and CAOs also received a presentation from HRPDC staff on research completed regarding the potential to establish a regional violence/crime dashboard. Support was expressed for sound analytical data which can be used to monitor trends in the community and serve as a basis for our regional officials to establish policy, strategy and actions to address violence in our region. It was agreed that the HRPDC will convene a working committee with representatives from the region’s cities who are familiar with available crime data and analytics to develop a path forward for the preparation of this dashboard.

**FIBER RING GROUNDBREAKING**

On April 6, the Southside Network Authority held a groundbreaking for the Regional Fiber Ring at Corporate Landing Park in Virginia Beach. Phase I of this network is a $25 million, 119-mile fiber ring that will connect the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach with ultra-fast fiber internet service and is being paid for by the five Southside cities.

**VIRGINIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE (VATI) GRANT**

On May 10, the HRPDC coordinated a pre-construction meeting with representatives of the City of Suffolk and Isle of Wight and Southampton Counties, Charter Communications, local utility providers and VDOT to discuss the VATI supported broadband project for this area. The HRPDC partnered with the participating localities and Charter to secure a $21 million grant award that will be supported with a $14 million local match to build high-speed, reliable and affordable fiber internet service to areas of western Hampton Roads that are currently without service. Over 12,000 homes, businesses and community anchors will be served by this project, which will complement the fiber ring construction described above. The HRPDC is serving as fiscal agent and project manager for this effort. A groundbreaking ceremony for the VATI project will be held June 14.

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS MEETING**

The Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting on May 4 at the Old Dominion University Tri-Cities Higher Education Center in Portsmouth. Agenda items included:

- Offshore Wind Update
- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update and Process
- Federal and State Transportation Funding Opportunities and Deadlines
• HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee
• Regional Interest Items

**OTHER MEETINGS/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OUTREACH**

- Attended the Virginia Beach State of the City Address on March 16
- Attended the March 17 Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission meeting
- Presentation to the Peninsula CAOs on March 18 on the Virginia Capital Trail/Birthplace of America Trail project and the Regional Broadband Initiative
- March 18 meeting with representatives of the region’s military bases and VDOT to discuss the potential for an Intergovernmental Services Agreement (IGSA) that would allow the military to collaborate with VDOT on the joint purchase of roadway construction materials
- Participated in the March 22 RVA/757 Connects Meeting
- March 23 meeting with the Virginia Reliability Project
- March 23 Bowers Hill Interchange Meeting with VDOT staff
- Participated in a March 24 Hampton Roads Economic Development Leadership Meeting
- Provided a presentation to the Hampton Roads Transit Board (in Newport News) on the recommendations of the Regional Transit Advisory Panel
- Participated in a Virginia Association of Planning District Commission (VAPDC) Program Committee meeting on March 28
- Participated in the March 29 RVA/757 Connects meeting to discuss the I-64 Gap
- Continued to participate in meetings in preparation for the 2022 Leadership Exchange Visit to Charlotte
- Attended the Norfolk State of the City on April 7
- Presented to the LEAD 757 Class on regional infrastructure planning and project status on April 7 at Virginia Beach Town Center
- April 8 meeting with VDOT and North Carolina Department of Transportation in Suffolk
- Participated in the April 8 meeting of the Southside Network Authority
- April 12 meeting with the Executive Director of Norfolk International Airport
- Attended the Portsmouth State of the City meeting on April 13
- April 14 meeting of the HRPDC/HRTPO Community Advisory Committee
- Presentation to the Newport News EDA on the regional broadband initiative on April 19 at the Marriott in City Center
- Attended the April 19 Volunteer Hampton Roads event
- Presentation at the Hampton Roads Association of Commercial Realtors on April 20 on regional transportation projects and initiatives
- Attended the April 21 meeting of the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission
- Participated in the HRT press conference on April 21 with Representative Luria and other regional/local leaders to celebrate $5 million of funding for the bus operations and maintenance facility in Virginia Beach
- Participated in an April 22 meeting with the Hampton Roads Alliance, regional Economic Development Directors and Virginia Economic Development Partnership President and CEO Jason El Koubi at Virginia Beach Town Center
- Continued to participate in meetings of the Regional Roundtable
- Participated in the Joint Regional Connectors Study Policy and Working Group meeting on April 26
- Met with York County representatives in Yorktown on April 28 to discuss options for improving the Fort Eustis interchange
- Participated in the Virginia Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations April 29 webinar on Environmental Justice
- May 2 meeting with Representative Scott’s office to discuss the region’s Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) funding
- Briefed the region’s Commonwealth Transportation Board members on the region’s transportation projects on May 3
- Met with SPSA representatives on May 3 to discuss the solid waste management plan and the proposed SPSA landfill expansion
- Met with representatives of the Rivers Casino on May 5

ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT

- Completing interviews for the Communications Administrator position
- Recruitment for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Liaison position
- Preparation of the FY2023 Budget and Work Program for the HRPDC and HRTPO
- Staff support to the Southside Network Authority
- Initiated the annual employee evaluation process
- Personnel management
- Building maintenance and operations
- Financial management and human resources support for the HRPDC, HRTPO, HRTAC, HRMFFA and Southside Network Authority
- Fiscal management and contract support for the VATI Broadband grant