



December 15, 2020

Dear Prospective Megaregion Institutional Council Member:

It is our honor to extend a formal invitation for your organization to be part of RVA-757 Connects, the Richmond to Hampton Roads megaregion. To this end, this letter provides an update on what we accomplished in 2020, what we have planned for 2021, and how you can join us.

What We Accomplished in 2020:

While COVID-19 suspended our in-person 2020 meetings, we have been hard at work advancing RVA-757 Connects. Highlights of our 2020 accomplishments include:

- 501(c)(3) Status: In 2020, we received our tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. Thank you, Tom Frantz.
- Funding: We obtained funding from the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Virginia Natural Gas, Bank of America, and Jim Ukrop. Thank you, early funders!
- Leadership: As a new 501(c)(3), the RVA-757 Connects leadership team (Ted Chandler, Tom Frantz, Jim Spore, and myself) created RVA-757 Connects' governance, operating structure, and policies, as well as formulated our business and communication plans.
- New Board: We have recruited the majority of our board, which is comprised of connected business and educational leaders from both the RVA and 757 regions. This board includes leaders who have an in-depth appreciation of what's going on in each respective region. See the Appendix of this letter for the list of RVA-757 Connects Board members.
- Marketing: We launched our website and new name. Thank you, Moses and West Cary Group.
- Chamber Event: On October 13th we were featured by ChamberRVA and the Hampton Roads Chamber at the Convergence 2020 Conference held in Jamestown.

What's Planned for 2021:

We have a number of initiatives planned for 2021. A few highlights include:

- Connections: In 2021, we will work with our partners to help enhance transportation connections between the RVA and 757 regions. This includes work towards securing State/Federal funding to widen the 29-mile stretch of I-64 from the Bottoms Bridge Road interchange (near RIC) to Williamsburg. This will complete I-64 widening from RVA to Hampton Roads. We will work towards increasing passenger rail service, too.
- Culture: We will position the RVA-757 Connects megaregion as the I-64 Innovation Corridor, leveraging our 400-year-old legacy of innovation from education to healthcare to logistics.
- Talent: We will identify the talent pool that defines our megaregion today and how it needs to evolve to make us competitive in the decades ahead. Thank you, GO Virginia Regions 4 and 5 for recently awarding RVA-757 Connects a grant to conduct this comprehensive talent pipeline study.

Join Us as We Move Forward:

We invite your organization to join us as we move forward together as a more organized and efficient collaborative force.

As part of our new operational structure, we are creating the RVA-757 Connects' **Megaregion Institutional Council** or **MIC** for short. We envision the MIC will include the following lead planning and implementation organizations serving each region:

RVA MIC Members

1. PlanRVA
2. Community Foundation for a Greater Richmond
3. ChamberRVA

4. Greater Richmond Partnership
5. GOVirginia (Region 4)
6. Leadership Metro Richmond
7. Grow Capital Jobs Foundation
8. Management Round Table (MRT)

757 MIC Members

9. HRPDC
10. Hampton Roads Community Foundation
11. Chamber Hampton Roads
12. Virginia Peninsula Chamber
13. Greater Williamsburg Chamber Business Council
14. Hampton Roads Alliance
15. GOVirginia (Region 5)
16. CIVIC Leadership Institute
17. Reinvent Hampton Roads
18. Hampton Roads Business Roundtable

In addition, the Virginia Hispanic Chamber and Asian Chamber are being invited to serve on the MIC.

The MIC is aptly named because all these institutional partners will continue to serve as an important **MIC**rophone, informing RVA-757 Connects on the most important current and future issues that must be addressed to drive our megaregion's economic success and improve the quality of life for our residents. The MIC gives planning organizations direct access to the business and higher education leaders in both regions and vice versa.

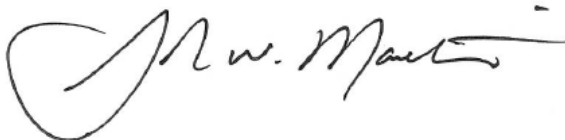
The top executive from each organization will attend the three RVA-757 Connects' board meetings planned for 2021.

I am delighted to report that most organizations have already agreed to join the MIC to help shape the future of and success of RVA-757 Connects and our two regions.

Our first 2021 joint meeting of the RVA-757 Connects' Board and MIC will be held on January 20th, 2021 from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please join us. We will send you a Zoom invite shortly.

Don't hesitate to call me with any questions (804-837-2481), and please confirm via email that you will be part of our effort in 2021.

Onward,



John W. Martin
President & CEO
RVA-757 Connects

RVA-757 Connects Board Members

Executive Committee (and Board Members):

Ted Chandler, Co-Founder/Managing Director, NRV (RVA)
Cliff Fleet, President/CEO, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (757)
Moses Foster, President/CEO, West Cary Group (RVA)
Tom Franz, Partner, Williams Mullen (757)
Bob Holsworth, Managing Partner, DecideSmart (RVA)
Sarah Jane Kirkland, President, CIVIC Leadership Institute (757)
Peggy Layne, Retired, Dominion (RVA)
John Martin, CEO, SIR and the Institute for Tomorrow (RVA & 757)
John Reinhart, CEO & Executive Director, Virginia Port Authority (757)
Jim Spore, President/CEO, Reinvent Hampton Roads (757)

RVA Board Representatives:

Matt Anderson, Senior VP, Colliers International
Sherrie Armstrong, President/CEO, Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
Bob Blue, President/CEO, Dominion Energy
Mitch Haddon, President/CEO, ColonialWebb
Renee Haltom, Vice President and Regional Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
Mark Hourigan, CEO, Hourigan
Chris Lloyd, Senior VP & Director, McGuireWoods Consulting
John Luke, Chairman, WestRock
Michael Rao, President, VCU
Bernard Robinson, Sr., Founder and President, Networking Technologies and Support (NTS)
Brian Rountree, Senior Vice President and Market Manager, Bank of America
Jim Ukrop, Co-Founder and Managing Director, NRV

757 Board Representatives:

Anne Conner, President - Public Finance and Community Investment, TowneBank
Bill Downey, President/CEO, Riverside Health System
Dawna Ellis, Chief Financial Officer, Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate
Robbyn Gayer, First Vice President - Wealth Management, UBS
Ross Grogg, Government Relations Manager, Kemper Consulting, Inc.
Kasia Grzelkowski, President/CEO, VersAbility
Martin A. Joseph, Founder & CEO, 360 IT Partners
John R. Lawson, II, Executive Chairman, W. M. Jordan Company
Katherine Rowe, President, William & Mary
Rony Thomas, President/CEO, LifeNet Health
John "Dubby" Wynne, Retired President and CEO, Landmark

Additional board members will be discussed at the January 20, 2021 meeting.