

**Summary Minutes of the HRPDC/HRTPO  
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting  
June 9, 2022**

The June 9, 2022 meeting of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)/ Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was called to order by the Chair at Noon in Room 107 of the Christopher Newport University's Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center, located at 1 University Place, Newport News, with the following in attendance:

**CAC Members in Attendance:**

|                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Chair (PO) | Sharon Anderson (PO)       |
| Lamont Curtis, Vice-Chair (NN)      | Kanama Bivins (SU)         |
| John Kish (CH)                      | Mike Sawchuck (SU)         |
| Jim Collins (IW)                    | Dianna Howard (VB)         |
| Frank Cotrupi (NN)                  | Shawnta Howard-Spence (VB) |
| Christian Strange (NO)              |                            |

**CAC Members Absent:**

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Susan Archer (CH)      | Garry Harris (PO)      |
| Brandon Carter (CH)    | Anthony Piglowski (SU) |
| Cecil Jenkins (CH)     | Jay Leach (VB)         |
| Jim Bowie (HA)         | Scott MacFarlane (VB)  |
| Richard Parison (HA)   | Brad Martin (VB)       |
| Henry Branscome (JC)   | Delceno Miles (VB)     |
| Zakkiyya Anderson (PQ) | Waverly Woods (VB)     |

**HRPDC/HRTPO Staff:**

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Pavithra Parthasarathi | Joe Turner     |
| Rob Cofield            | Dmitry Rekhter |
| John Harbin            |                |

**Others Recorded Attending:**

Bryan Stilley and Roemio Wilkins (Newport News), Michael Giardino (Peninsula Airport Authority), Travis Davidson and Dustin Wallace (South Hampton Roads Trail), Eric Stringfield (VDOT), and Abigail Turner

**Approval/Modification of Agenda**

CAC Chair Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky announced that in the absence of a quorum, the agenda could not be modified or approved.

## **Public Comments**

- **Submitted Public Comments**

Ms. Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO Deputy Executive Director, reported that there were no submitted public comments.

- **Public Comment Period**

Members of the public were invited to address the CAC.

Mr. Travis Davidson addressed the CAC in support of bicycle and pedestrian initiatives and asked the members for their support in incorporating active transportation into new multimodal transportation projects.

## **CAC Membership Update**

Ms. Parthasarathi introduced the CAC's newest members and mentioned the ongoing effort to broaden the representation of the CAC.

To welcome the new members, Chair Geduldig-Yatrofsky requested a round of introductions from all the meeting attendees.

## **Summary Minutes**

CAC Chair Geduldig-Yatrofsky announced that in the absence of a quorum, the April 14, 2022 CAC minutes could not be approved.

## **Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport Update**

Mr. Michael A. Giardino, Peninsula Airport Commission Executive Director, briefed the CAC on the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport (PHF). Mr. Giardino started his presentation by highlighting the importance of air service in the region and comparing the air service at PHF against the service provided at Norfolk International Airport and Richmond International Airport. Mr. Giardino elaborated on the airport's growth plan, available opportunities, and marketing campaign to fill existing seats, grow current routes as well as get new routes to serve the airport.

Mr. Giardino then described the completed investments (totaling \$38 million) and planned capital investments (totaling \$193 million) to address needed improvements and enhance traveler experience. The presentation wrapped up with a brief description of a federal grant application submitted for a proof of concept test to connect the airport users with the new Newport News multimodal transportation center currently under construction.

The presentation was then opened up for questions, and Mr. Giardino responded to several questions including passenger connections between Newport News International Airport and the Norfolk International Airport, opportunities to capitalize on the investments along I-64, considerations for diversifying the airport portfolio to include cargo planes and private jets, and traveler experience in using the airport.

### **Regional Placemaking in Hampton Roads**

Mr. John M. Harbin, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, briefed the CAC on the topic of placemaking. HRPDC staff have begun exploring the topic of regional placemaking. As a first step, staff met with locality partners across Hampton Roads to define what placemaking is and identify local placemaking initiatives, challenges and impediments, and opportunities for regional support and collaboration. Several local placemaking activities and initiatives can be found across Hampton Roads, from urban areas such as the NEON district in downtown Norfolk and the Virginia Beach Boardwalk to more suburban and rural areas like the new Edge District in Williamsburg, James City County, and York County. The benefits of placemaking include building and strengthening communities, improving quality of life, and raising regional awareness. Distinct from branding/marketing, placemaking is about creating physical places of value for a community. However, the two can often complement one another and work together to assign an identity to a place.

Mr. Harbin identified potential next steps to explore regional placemaking and asked for feedback from the Committee. The next steps might include a more thorough inventory of the placemaking initiatives and activities in the region, identifying funding opportunities to support local placemaking, utilizing existing regional pride-building campaigns to add a placemaking element, and identifying possible new landmarks and icons that could be established in the region.

Committee members identified additional places to be included in the inventory, suggested how the region's tourism economy would benefit from additional placemaking and knitting the region's unique places together, and identified the major bridge and tunnel crossings as something that connects and represents the region. Mr. Harbin asked the Committee to send additional feedback and ideas to him.

### **Newport News Multimodal Transportation Center**

Mr. Bryan Stille, Newport News Chief of Civil Design Engineering, provided the update to the CAC on the Newport News Multimodal Transportation Center, currently under construction. Mr. Stille began his briefing with the history of passenger rail in Newport News starting with the construction of the Lee Hall Depot train station in 1881 to the construction of the current station on Warwick Boulevard in 1981. He then elaborated on the need for a station replacement and the various replacement sites considered resulting in the selection of the new center to handle the needs of current and future rail passengers.

Key aspects of the new center include a more central location in the City with close access to Interstate 64 and the Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport, enhanced passenger amenities such as a level-boarding platform and multimodal access, a separate facility to service passenger trains, and increased capacity to handle additional trains.

Mr. Stilley wrapped up his presentation by summarizing the engagement with various stakeholders, the timeline from project initiation to the ongoing construction, and the coordination with multiple contractors and agencies in completing construction by Fall 2022.

The presentation was then opened up for questions from CAC members. Mr. Stilley responded to some questions including clarification on the status of the current station on Warwick Boulevard, considerations for bicycle/pedestrian trail connections, and the status of planning efforts to provide high-speed passenger rail service to Newport News and the region.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the CAC will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2022.

### **Old/New Business**

There was no old/new business.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the CAC, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.