

Action Summary
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Meeting
November 18, 2021
The Regional Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by HRPDC Chair Andria McClellan at 12:36 p.m.

A quorum was not yet achieved; therefore, the meeting continued with non-action agenda items.

Public Comments

There were no submitted public comments and no in-person requests to provide public comment.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRPDC Executive Director, referenced his monthly report and highlighted the following items:

- *Mr. Crum referenced the 2022 Regional Legislative Priorities Brochure distributed as a handout. He reported that a Hampton Roads Caucus meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2021, and HRPDC staff was in contact with Senator Lionell Spruill Sr.'s office with a request that the HRPDC and HRTPO be added to the agenda as presenters.*
- *Governor Northam announced that the Elizabeth River Crossing (ERC) toll agreement was to be amended to provide additional toll relief for those residents earning less than \$30,000 per year for an average savings of \$650 per year. Mr. Crum stated that the ERC Task Force, under the leadership of Chair Donnie R. Tuck and Vice-Chair Kenneth Alexander, worked with the region's mayors, Commonwealth Transportation Board members, General Assembly members, and the Secretary of Transportation on toll mitigation solutions.*

Portsmouth Mayor Shannon Glover reported that under the previous toll reduction agreement, residents were required to complete a rebate form as part of the reduction application process. Under the newly amended toll agreement, a 50% reduction in tolls will be automatic for residents earning less than \$30,000 per year. He commented that amending the ERC agreement is a step in moving the region in the right direction, and he encouraged the ERC Task Force to continue its toll mitigation efforts.

- *At the October Commission meeting, there was discussion about affordable housing and examining related regional approaches, strategies, and solutions. Mr. Crum reported that the CAO Committee is reviewing the topic and will present a recommended approach for Commission consideration at a future meeting.*

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

Ms. Terry Danaher, Chair of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), reported that the CAC had not met since the last Commission meeting. She requested that Commission members increase outreach to their residents and encouraged meeting with their local CAC representatives on items being discussed at the regional level. She specifically referenced interest in the infrastructure bill and its environmental justice component.

U.S. Department of Defense Spending in Virginia and Hampton Roads

Mr. Craig R. Quigley, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Executive Director, and Mr. Rick Dwyer, Deputy Executive Director, Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA), briefed the Commission on the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Spending in Virginia and Hampton Roads.

Mr. Quigley presented a map of current federal facilities in Hampton Roads, and he described the federal departments, administrations, and agencies represented in the region as the most dense and diverse collection in the United States.

Mr. Dwyer reported that ODU's State of the Region Report shows 40-44% of the regional economy is predicated on the federal presence. In 2006, after the base realignment and closures, HRMFFA was formed to attract, retain, and grow federal missions in the region. HRMFFA coordinates with locally elected officials; senior federal government leaders for all area facilities, commands, and organizations; the Virginia Congressional delegation; the General Assembly; the Commonwealth of Virginia; and industry to ensure awareness of anticipated federal actions with near, mid, and long-term impacts on the Hampton Roads region.

The larger contingents of the current federal agency presence include the United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Army, NASA Langley Research Center, United States Coast Guard, and Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (Jefferson Lab). Opportunities to increase Federal presence include NAS Oceana Future Base Design; F-22 Training and Intel Units to Langley; Ship Building, Repair, and Modernization; Norfolk Naval Shipyard Recapitalization; Jefferson Lab Ion Collider/ Quantum Computing; VA Medical Center Growth; and NASA Technology Transfer/ Research.

Mr. Quigley and Mr. Dwyer concluded their presentation by describing Hampton Roads' prominent attributes, potential growth areas, and possible challenges. In summary, the federal sector is and will remain a mainstay of the regional economy.

Mr. Greg C. Grootendorst, HRPDC Chief Economist, presented historical data illustrating the correlation between DOD spending and Hampton Roads' economy. He indicated that the federal presence accounts for approximately 35% - 40% of the gross product in Hampton Roads.

He described annualized real defense outlays as cyclical with the continual rise and fall of defense spending in the region and the nation. In 1969, over 25% of the employed population in Hampton Roads was uniformed military personnel. Since then, the direct military share of the employment and income totals has decreased to under 10%. Historically, Hampton Roads' population growth cycles were directly proportional to defense spending. More recently, however, DOD investments have shifted from increases in personnel to significant increases in defense contracting. Going forward, population growth in Hampton Roads will need to originate from elsewhere.

Mr. Grootendorst referenced two handouts containing defense data, the Hampton Roads Economic Monthly and a Virginia two-pager. He commented that recently, acquiring defense data required additional research as the information has been difficult to obtain and is often incomplete. He encouraged the Commission members to reach out to HRPDC staff with any data questions or concerns as well as topic requests. Mr. Grootendorst concluded his presentation by referencing the Hampton Roads Regional Benchmarking Study, which is available on the HRPDC website.

A quorum was achieved; therefore, the meeting continued with the agenda's action items.

Approval/Modification of Agenda [Action Requested]

The Commission approved the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda [Action Requested]

Chair McClellan referenced the Consent Agenda, which included the following items for consideration and approval:

- *Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2021 Commission Meeting*
- *Treasurer's Report – September 2021*
- *Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Appointment*

The Commission approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Candidate Projects for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund [Action Requested]

Mr. Benjamin J. McFarlane, HRPDC Senior Regional Planner, briefed the Commission on the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) and proposed regional projects.

The CFPF was created by the General Assembly in 2020 to help localities implement flood protection studies, plans, and projects. The CFPF is administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and funded by the distributions the Commonwealth receives through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which holds quarterly auctions of carbon dioxide emission allowances. To date, Virginia has received distributions from three auctions, and there have been two rounds of grant applications. In the first round, Governor Northam announced the first 19 projects awarded funds, which included ten in Hampton Roads. The second round of grant awards had not yet been announced.

Planning district commissions are also eligible applicants, and the HRPDC staff is currently developing two proposals for submission in the next application period. These candidate regional projects are as follows:

- *Community Rating System – Develop tools or materials to support locality participation in the Community Rating System. Examples could include web applications for sharing elevation certificate information or data and analyses for locality watershed plans.*
- *Regional Hydrologic and Hydraulic Models – Assess the current extent and quality of existing hydrologic and hydraulic models to identify data needs and gaps in model coverage.*

The Commission approved supporting the submission of two regional projects by the HRPDC for the next Community Flood Preparedness application round.

There was discussion about possibly contracting with an advocacy firm. Moving forward during FY 2022 would require authorizing using approximately \$50,000 from the HRPDC Fund Balance to contract with an advocacy firm for services as a proof of concept. A continuation in the FY 2023 Budget would then be funded through a locality per capita assessment.

There was a suggestion to examine the possibility of hiring an in-house individual employee as opposed to contracting with an advocacy firm. Mr. Crum was asked to discuss the topic and potential options with the CAO Committee for a recommendation to be presented for Commission consideration in January.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Grootendorst briefed the Commission on the region's efforts to prepare and submit a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) defines CEDS as a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development designed to build regional capacity and guide economic prosperity and resiliency. Having an EDA-approved CEDS is often a prerequisite for gaining access to federal grants. The 2010 CEDS document is being updated by incorporating multiple existing regional plans. Per EDA regulations, the private sector needs to be heavily involved in the CEDS development process, so the Hampton Roads Alliance Board acts as the main developing partner with Re-Invent Hampton Roads and HRPDC as contributing partners. Formally, the jurisdictions included in the CEDS plan are the HRPDC member-localities; although, there are references to collaboration with HRPDC-bordering localities within partner planning organizations.

Mr. Grootendorst concluded his presentation by outlining the timeline to completion. The CEDS document was scheduled to be circulated for input from the stakeholders in November, submitted for public comment in December, and submitted to the Alliance Board for final submission approval in January 2022.

Three-Month Tentative Schedule

This item was for informational purposes.

Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

This item was for informational purposes.

Technical Committee Meeting Summaries

This item was for informational purposes.

Old/New Business

There was no old/new business.

ADJOURNMENT