

Action Summary
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Meeting
November 19, 2020

The Regional Building, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia

Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC Executive Director, stated that pursuant to the declared state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia and 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. A recording of the meeting will be available on the HRPDC website. Additionally, the meeting was live-streamed and available for viewing on the Regional Connection YouTube channel.

The general public was provided an opportunity to provide comments on today's meeting agenda via two options:

- 1. Members of the public were invited to submit comments to the Commission via email.*
- 2. Members of the public were also invited to call into a dedicated phone line where comments could be recorded for the Commission.*

No public comments were received as of 48 hours prior to 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 for their cooperation and patience during the electronic meeting.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by HRPDC Chair Andria McClellan at 12:35 p.m.

2. 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 modified agenda as presented.

The roll call vote also served as the record of attendance and a quorum was confirmed.

3. Submitted Public Comments

There were no submitted public comments.

4. Public Comment Period

The general public was provided an opportunity to provide comments in advance of the meeting by email or phone. Chair McClellan stated that HRPDC staff received no comments via either option by 48 hours before the meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC Executive Director, referenced his monthly report and provided an update on the Proposed Building Codes discussed in October.

Commissioner Michael Hipple was recognized for his service to Hampton Roads, and Chair McClellan expressed her appreciation for Mr. Hipple's leadership through the years on behalf of the region. A Resolution of Appreciation was presented to Michael Hipple.

6. Consent Agenda [Action Requested]

The following items were on the Consent Agenda for approval:

- a. Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2020 Commission Meeting*
- b. Treasurer's Report – September 2020*
- c. Retiree Health Insurance*
- d. FY 2019 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program Acceptance and Contracting*
- e. Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Contract*
- f. Consultant Services Contract Task Order – Support for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Small Watershed Technical Assistance Grant*

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

7. Buy Local Virginia [Action Requested]

Ms. Lisa Renée Jennings, LOVEVA Program Manager, briefed the Commission on the Buy Local Virginia Campaign and encouraged Commission support of November 15, 2020 through December 15, 2020 as Buy Local Month.

A roll call vote was conducted and the Commission approved HRPDC Resolution 2020-04 Acknowledging November 15, 2020 through December 15, 2020 as Buy Local Month.

8. Resolution of Support - Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program [Action Requested]

Ms. Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC Principal Water Resources Engineer, briefed the Commission on the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program, an innovative and tested tool that encourages private sector investment in energy use reductions in many cases where traditional commercial financing approaches are not feasible. These improvements can involve clean energy, energy efficiency, water efficiency, resiliency, or stormwater improvements for both existing properties and new construction.

Ms. Katchmark reported that the HRPDC Coastal Resilience Subcommittee discussed the C-PACE program and recommends that the HRPDC adopt a resolution encouraging local governments in Hampton Roads to consider adopting local C-PACE programs and coordinating with the Department of Mines, Mineral, and Energy (DMME) to determine whether local administration or participation in the state program is the preferred option. The resolution would also direct the HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Committee to keep apprised of developments related to C-PACE programs.

A roll call vote was conducted and the Commission approved HRPDC Resolution 2020-03 Encouraging Local Adoption of C-PACE Programs.

9. Regional Proclamation – Impact of Tolls on the Downtown and Midtown Tunnels [Action Requested]

Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC Executive Director, reported that over the past several years, there has been significant discussion across the region about the impact that the tolls at the Downtown and Midtown Tunnels have on residents and businesses in the Hampton Roads region. Concerns about the current Elizabeth River Crossing (ERC) Toll Agreement, signed by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the current ERC concessionaire, led to the HRTPO Board forming an ERC Task Force.

Mr. Crum reported that the operator of the Downtown and Midtown tunnels, Elizabeth River Crossings, had been sold to Abertis, a Spanish toll road company, and Manulife Investment Management, which did so on behalf of John Hancock Life Insurance Company. The contract with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), that allows the company to levy tolls, transfers with the sale. Mr. Crum stated that neither HRTAC nor the Commonwealth of Virginia was in a position to purchase the asset.

Based on comments expressed at ERC Task Force meetings and throughout the region, guiding principles were prepared that express potential goals for the region to work towards to mitigate the impacts of these tolls on the Hampton Roads region. These guiding principles and goals are included in a Regional Proclamation to be considered by the HRTPO, HRPDC, and HRTAC in a unified regional statement regarding this issue.

A roll call vote was conducted and the Commission approved the Regional Proclamation, supporting efforts to mitigate the impact of the Downtown and Midtown Tunnel tolls on the Hampton Roads region's residents and businesses, as presented.

10. Environmental Education Program Update

Due to time constraints, the Environmental Education Program Update was deferred.

11. Three-Month Tentative Schedule

This item was for informational purposes.

12. Advisory Committee Summaries

This item was for informational purposes.

13. For Your Information

This item was for informational purposes.

14. Old/New Business

There was no old/new business.

15. ADJOURNMENT