

Agenda
Freight Transportation Advisory Committee
of the HRTPO
November 16, 2011

The Virginia Port Authority Board Room, 600 World Trade Center, Norfolk, VA 23510

- 10:00 am **1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. TAKING OF ATTENDANCE**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** (Limit 3 minutes per individual)
- 4. Approval of previous meeting's minutes**
- REGULAR AGENDA:**
- 10:05 am **5. RSTP application update**
- 10:15 am **6. View draft of *A Region United* video**
- 10:35 am **7. Inaugural Virginia Freight Transportation Summit planning and discussion**
- 11:10 am **8. HRTPO/HRPDC briefing**
- *2034 LRTP Draft Report and Technical Appendices*
 - *Hampton Roads Military Transportation Needs Study*
- ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE**
- 11:30 am **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

JULY 25, 2011 MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

Co-Chair Bill Bell called the HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Virginia Port Authority (VPA) Board Room with the following in attendance:

MEMBERS:

Art Moye (Virginia Maritime Association)
Bill Bell (Newport News Shipbuilding)
Butch Crane (K-Line America)
Chris Luebbers (Norfolk Southern Corp.)
Keith Helton (Givens Logistics)
Ron Drogan (CrossGlobe Group)

STAFF:

Jeff Florin (Virginia Port Authority)
Rob Case (HRTPO)
Andy Hecker (Moffatt & Nichol)
Allison Mall (Moffatt & Nichol)

OTHERS:

LCDR Christopher O'Neal (USCG)
Admiral Craig Quigley (HRMFFA)
Daniel Reiss (NTELX)
Rick Kaser (Moffatt & Nichol)

1. ATTENDANCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Staff took attendance and Co-Chair Mr. Bill Bell opened the public comment period.

Written comments dated June 8 by Admiral Ray Taylor entitled "Notes for FTAC" were provided to the committee. Admiral Taylor commented on the FTAC's progress and accomplishments, and provided thoughts and suggestions for the Committee to consider. Mr. Rob Case said that Admiral Taylor has been involved with the HRTPO for the past three years, through the whole reorganization process, and likely would be willing to meet with anyone on the FTAC.

Hearing no other requests for comment, Mr. Bell then declared the public comment period closed.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Mr. Bell noted the minutes of June 2, 2011 and asked for any revisions. There being none, Mr. Art Moye moved the minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Keith Helton seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. FREIGHT IN THE NEWS

[Ms. Allison Mall then played three sound clips of potential narrators for the outreach video (see agenda item #8). She asked that the Committee listen to them and said that she would play them again towards the end of the meeting, at which time they would have the opportunity to voice opinions on the choices.]

Mr. Andy Hecker referred the Committee to four news articles in their packets, and they discussed them briefly. The articles included:

- Governor Bob McDonnell signs three bills to increase port traffic (*The Daily Press*, June 20)
- McDonnell, in Portsmouth, signs port tax-break bills (*The Virginian-Pilot*, July 18)
- Study: Most drivers would stomach \$1.50 tunnel tolls (*The Virginian-Pilot*, July 25)
- NACo conference explores rail's impact on communities (*County News*, March 14)

4. FTAC INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND OUTSIDE THE REGION

Mr. Bell led a discussion about joining particular groups that sponsor national freight policy. He said that there is a value in continuing to learn about freight issues, but thinks that it is premature to get involved with an advocacy group now. At this time, the Committee should focus more on education.

Staff asked the Committee to fill out and return the sheets in their meeting packets which list national organizations that their companies belong to. Staff will develop a calendar for Committee members to choose what national conferences to attend.

Mr. Jeff Florin then led a discussion about having the FTAC host a Freight Summit. In order to take the FTAC's goals to a state-wide level, something like a four-hour seminar at the Governor's Transportation Conference, which is being held in Norfolk this December, would be useful. The VPA is helping to set the agenda.

Mr. Bell agreed that this was a good idea, given that the freight from this region affects the rest of the state. It would be an opportunity for regional business and public agency leaders to talk to peers from elsewhere in the state.

The Freight Summit would also be a good opportunity for the FTAC to roll-out the outreach video state-wide. Since the summit would be in December, the video will already have been shown to regional organizations. The Committee then discussed various options for the format for the Summit: lunch/dinner speech, panel, reception, etc. The Summit would be an invitation-only event. The Committee also discussed how best to provide freight information to the state when freight issues are raised by the governor.

The Committee determined that the Freight Summit is a good idea, and that staff will proceed with logistics. The Committee plans to discuss the Summit message in the future.

7. RESOLUTION FOR TOLLING STUDY RSTP APPLICATION

The draft application of the Economic Analysis of Toll Pricing in Hampton Roads study proposed by the FTAC was included in the meeting packet. The Committee read over the resolution that will accompany the application, which is due to the HRTPO by August 17th. Mr. Case pointed out that the application must not come from the FTAC, so the resolution will be revised to reflect VPA sponsorship. The FTAC may endorse the study, but not apply for its funds.

Mr. Chris Luebbers moved that the resolution and application be approved with the discussed revisions. Mr. Keith Helton seconded the motion and the items were unanimously approved.

8. OUTREACH VIDEO UPDATE

Ms. Mall then asked the Committee to review the final script submitted by Pyramid Studios. In particular, the last section has an extra paragraph that staff thinks should be deleted because it conflicts with the intended tone. The Committee agreed and Mr. Art Moyer moved that the script be approved with that revision. Mr. Butch Crane seconded the motion and the script was unanimously approved.

Ms. Mall then re-played the narrator auditions a few times for the Committee and they considered the options. They asked to have Pyramid Studios send over a few more options since they agreed that none of the voices were satisfactory. They thought that the narrator needed to generate more excitement. Staff will email out more auditions.

9. HRTPO UPDATE

Mr. Case then gave an update on HRTPO activity. He informed the Committee that the Inland Port Study final draft is complete and available on the TPO website. He then spoke about the HRTPO's recently-completed Hampton Roads Military Transportation Needs Study which got state-wide media coverage. This study examined congestion on the regional highway network used by the military. The Committee requested that someone come to the next FTAC meeting to talk to them about the study and how it relates to freight. Mr. Case agreed to get a speaker for next time.

Mr. Case then discussed the Virginia Statewide Multimodal Study, which was recently released by VDOT. Alan Meyers spoke to the HRTPO about the multi-year study at their July 21st meeting. Some of the projects from the study are rail and highway projects that are related to freight initiatives. Mr. Moyer pointed out that some of the status updates in the report are incorrect and the charts are out of date. Mr. Florin agreed that the study is dated due to a delayed release.

Mr. Case then discussed the Downtown Tunnel/Midtown Tunnel/MLK Extension project's major business terms slides that were presented to the CTB and HRTPO on July 20th and 21st respectively by Virginia's Office of Transportation P3's. The report included proposed tunnel tolls for cars and trucks, with trucks being charged three times more than cars (less than the six times that the FTAC had stated were used on some other tolling projects). Mr. Moyer mentioned that some of the VMA's trucking members dislike tolls of any amount. Mr. Case said the pricing factor was in line with trucks' impact on congestion.

The report stated that tolls will begin in 2012, with the new tunnel opening in 2016. Mr. Ron Drogan stated that tolling for four years will probably cause businesses to lose their competitive advantage. The Committee discussed how the tolls will probably at first just shift congestion to another crossing, but over time they will reduce region-wide congestion.

Mr. Hecker pointed out that since this project is a PPTA project, the toll rate is based on getting a return on capital, not getting the best economic impact for the region. The FTAC-endorsed Economic Analysis of Toll Pricing in Hampton Roads will try to balance the two concerns.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE / ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 31st, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., in the VPA Board Room. [In August this meeting was cancelled.] The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.