

**Agenda**  
**Freight Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**of the HRTPO**  
**January 5, 2012**

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

- 10:00 am **1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. RECORDING ATTENDANCE**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** (Limit 3 minutes per individual)
- 4. Approval of previous meeting's minutes**
- REGULAR AGENDA:**
- 10:05 am **5.** FTAC membership review and co-chair nomination discussion
- 10:10 am **6.** Freight Summit review and discussion of future event
- 10:25 am **7.** Public outreach campaign
- 10:40 am **8.** Review of goals for upcoming year
- 10:55 am **9.** RSTP Tolling Study update
- 11:00 am **10.** LRTP endorsement
- 11:10 am **11.** HRTPO/HRPDC briefing  
*Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study (2012 Update)*
- 11:25 am **12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE (Bi-monthly meetings)**
- 11:30 am **13. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**NOVEMBER 16, 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:**

Bill Bell (Newport News Shipbuilding)  
Butch Crane (K-Line America)  
David White (Virginia Maritime Association)  
Keith Helton (Givens Logistics)  
Ron Drogan (CrossGlobe Group)  
Stan Clark (Isle of Wight County)

**STAFF:**

Allison Mall (Moffatt & Nichol)  
Andy Hecker (Moffatt & Nichol)  
Camelia Ravanbakht (HRTPO)  
Rob Case (HRTPO)  
Sam Belfield (HRTPO)

**OTHERS:**

Wendy Vachet (USCG)  
Joshua Son (USCG)  
Bruce Hornstein (Pyramid Studios)

## **1. ATTENDANCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Staff took attendance and Co-Chair Mr. Bill Bell introduced Bruce Hornstein from Pyramid Studios, who was in attendance to debut *A Region United*. Mr. Bell then opened the public comment period. Hearing no 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 July 25, 2011 and asked for any revisions. There being none, Mr. Butch Crane moved the minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Keith Helton seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **3. RSTP APPLICATION UPDATE**

Mr. Andy Hecker then gave an update on the status of the RSTP application which is being submitted to the HRTPO Board by the Virginia Port Authority, on behalf of the FTAC. The application requests \$400,000 for a planning study, entitled Economic Analysis of Toll Pricing in Hampton Roads. The purpose of the proposed study is to analyze the effect of future and proposed toll rates on retaining and attracting freight-related businesses to Hampton Roads.

At the most recent RSTP Subcommittee meeting, Ms. Ravanbakht made a special appeal to the Subcommittee about the value of the study to the region and the importance of funding the study next year instead of 2018, which the Subcommittee was proposing. She explained that if the study is delayed, toll prices will already be set and completing the study after that will be futile.

The Subcommittee found money for the study in a subsequent meeting (a portion of the Route 60 funds), and the study will be on the list of projects for RSTP funding approval at the December TTAC and HRTPO meetings. The funding will be available as soon as it is approved by the Board.

## **4. A REGION UNITED VIEWING**

Staff then showed the outreach video that the Committee has been working on for the better part of year, *A Region United*. Bruce Hornstein from Pyramid Studios was on hand to play the movie on his sound system and screen.

The Committee unanimously approved the video and agreed that it was very well done. One issue that Mr. Hornstein is still working on and will be complete for the final is some lip-syncing issues during the interview section. The final will be ready in time for the Freight Transportation Summit on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bell and Mr. Florin will announce at the HRTPO Board meeting tomorrow – in a new business amendment to the agenda – that the video will be shown at the Freight Summit.

Mr. Bell thanked Mr. Hornstein for his “creative genius” and Ms. Mall and Mr. Hecker for assisting in the production of the video. He said that the more the video is disseminated, the more valuable it will be. Ms. Vachet agreed to show it to Admiral Harvey, and Mr. Bell said that the FTAC can roll it out as the members see appropriate.

## **7. INAUGURAL VIRGINIA FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT DISCUSSION**

Mr. Hecker updated the Committee on the planning for the Inaugural Virginia Freight Transportation Summit on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the summit is to promote FTAC’s mission and show what work can be done by similar and potential regional planning organization freight committees.

Mr. Hecker outlined the schedule for the summit, which includes a lunch, speakers and panels at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott in the afternoon and then cocktails, dinner, and another speaker at the Half Moone Cruise & Celebration Center in the evening.

Some of the speakers and panelists for the summit are still being confirmed – there have been some cancellations as is the nature of event planning. There will be two main speakers – one will discuss the state of the economy within Virginia and the nation, and how freight transport will play a role; and the other will discuss transportation policy, funding, and reauthorization on a federal level. The panels are titled as such:

- Virginia’s Economic Growth Relies on Efficient Freight Transportation, and
- The Importance of Considering Freight in Transportation Policy Planning and Investment

Mr. Hecker asked the Committee to let staff know if they have any good contacts or ideas about potential participants, especially those from businesses who rely on freight. Mr. Bell reminded the Committee members that this summit is the first of its kind in Virginia, and is leading the way in emphasizing the importance of freight to economic development and job growth in the Commonwealth.

The Committee members then mentioned some people that they would like to attend and asked staff to extend invitations to them. Mr. White let the Committee know about the conflict with the VMA Annual Business Meeting, and agreed that those attendees will come to the summit after the meeting.

## **8. HRTPO UPDATE**

### **a. 2034 LRTP Draft Report and Technical Appendices**

Ms. Ravanbakht gave an overview of the Draft 2034 LRTP (Long Range Transportation Plan) and the process by which it was developed. The Plan is open for public comment through December 8<sup>th</sup>, and copies were distributed to the Committee on CD because the report and appendices are such large files. In January, the Plan will be brought to the HRTPO Board for final approval. The

FTAC will have the opportunity at its next meeting to provide any of their own comments. By federal regulation, the Plan is subject to air quality testing, and the HRTPO is currently awaiting results from the FHWA and FTA.

The Committee then discussed the issue of the region only having \$2 billion in traditional funding sources for the next 20 years, for more than \$30 billion in transportation projects. The total funding in the plan, including the Governor's Transportation Funding Plan, is \$7 billion. The Committee members shared their opinions on regional needs vs. wants – especially the fact that “needs” include projects that would benefit the military. Ms. Vachet pointed out that not only does the regional highway network affect Navy commuter traffic; it also affects the massive amounts of freight that the Navy uses – from food to weapons and supplies.

#### **b. Hampton Roads Military Transportation Needs Study**

Mr. Sam Belfield from the HRTPO then presented the Hampton Roads Military Transportation Needs Study that was completed. Hampton Roads has the second largest military employment numbers in the country, behind San Diego.

The study's objectives were to:

- Engage local stakeholders
- Examine the adequacy of current STRAHNET designations (Strategic Highway Network – the total minimum defense highway network to support defense emergency and are used for daily military cargo movement).
- Identify Non-STRAHNET military-related sites
- Develop “Roadways Serving the Military” (STRAHNET and non-STRAHNET)
- Determine deficiencies on “Roadways Serving the Military”
- Identify transportation projects that benefit the military
- Update Project Prioritization Tool

The study aimed to make sure that the regional roadways used by the military are getting priority – not just for funding but for the safety and security of the region and the nation. Having a transportation system that supports the military will bring personnel to the region, or keep them away, because traffic congestion detracts from the mission and effectiveness of the military. Mr. Belfield pointed out that Ms. Wendy Vachet has been instrumental in getting this study completed.

The study found that a total of 148 bridges on “Roadways Serving the Military” were deemed deficient (in need of monitoring or repair) or functionally obsolete (built to standards that no longer exist).

The study resulted in several key recommendations, which are listed below.

- Update Project Prioritization Tool Criteria/Scoring
- Rehabilitate or replace three Structurally Deficient bridges with sufficiency ratings below 50
- Achieve Vertical Clearances based on Military Preferences
- Build Listed Transportation Projects

This Committee agreed that this is a very important study, especially since other military regions have not done the same types of studies. They praised the way that the study made people and freight equally important, basing transportation project prioritization on hard data and needs, versus wants.

Mr. Bell asked Mr. Belfield to send him an email with the link to the study so that Mr. Bill could get the word out to the Newport News Shipbuilding community. The HRTPO will complete the Military Commuter Study in FY12.

#### **9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE / ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., in the VPA Board Room. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.