

**Chairman's Report for Paratransit Advisory
Committee ("PAC") Meeting**

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 · 1:00 p.m.

Location: 2nd Floor Board Room • 509 E. 18th Street, Norfolk, VA

**Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads (TDCHR)
Meeting Report**

Thursday, October 25, 2017 • 1:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Board Room • 509 E. 18th Street, Norfolk, VA

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

2. Public Comments

Ms. Dianne Mitchell stated that she is a customer of HRT's bus service, specifically the Route 4. Ms. Mitchell shared concerns regarding the changes to the Route 4 and senior citizens that need the service that was eliminated or changed.

- Mr. Ray Amoruso stated that the Route 4 went through streamlining recently.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2018

Roll call. Approved.

4. President's Monthly Report - Mr. William Harrell, President and CEO

Mr. Harrell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. Harrell welcomed Mr. Doug Smith, City Manager of Norfolk to the meeting.

Mr. Harrell discussed the Governor's Transportation Conference at the Norfolk Hilton The Main next week.

Mr. Harrell gave information regarding a few agenda items taking place during the Conference to include:

- Transforming Transit Panel will meet on October 31st at 3:00 PM
- Operations and Oversight Committee Meeting on November 1st at 10:00 AM
- Kick-off Forum: Regional Transit Transformation Project on November 1st at 1:30 PM at the Slover Library on the 6th Floor.

Mr. Harrell had Dr. Brian Smith give an update regarding the public engagement portion of the Regional Transit Transformation Project.

Dr. Smith: New Project UPDATE: ORGANIZING

- Project Groups
- The Interagency Coordinating Committee
- Regional Advisory Panel
- Technical Workgroup (HRT)
- TDCHR Management Team

There was some discussion regarding public outreach and an additional cost that could be incurred. Mr. Ray Amoruso stated that HRT has a contract in place for outreach activities that will be utilized. Mr. Amoruso stated that there is plenty of funding available under that contract.

A. Board Updates

Sheriff Barron from Norfolk - Recognition 2nd Annual Senior Support Seminar - plaque presented to Mr. Harrell. The event had over 700 senior citizens.
- had over 80 vendors

HRT Max Campaign - Mr. Cavazos highlighted the following:

- Park Less
- Text more
- Video was shown
-

Update on transit funding - Dr. Smith

Handout on statewide funding

New dedicated funding WMATA, WMATA was removed

- New prioritization framework for capital grants is now in place
- GRANTS PROGRAM
- no longer 3 tiers state of good repair
- Good availability of funds
- There was discussion regarding State funding and the new funding model to include SMART Scale funding
- We have had traditional funding

5. Committee Reports

Mr. Burns Presented the September 2018 Financial Report.

Operating Financial STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 2018

A. Audit & Budget Review Committee – Commissioner Hunter/Conner Burns, Chief Financial Officer

- September 2018 Financial Report - Mr. Conner Burns

B. Operations & Oversight Committee - Commissioner Parnell/Sonya Luther, Director of Procurement

Will meet during the Governor's Conference

Contract No: 18-78359R, Light Rail Video Surveillance System Upgrade, was recommended for Commission approval to award of a contract to Apollo Video Technology for light rail video surveillance system upgrade services in the not-to-exceed amount of \$159,728.

There was discussion regarding the number of bidders on the contract.

Contract No. 18-78384, Ten (10) 29' Low Floor Diesel Buses, was recommended for Commission approval to award of a contract to Gillig to procure ten (10) heavy duty 29' low floor diesel buses in the total amount of \$4,640,980.

Mr. Harrell stated that HRT was asked to look at adding USB ports and WiFi to all new buses. The initial cost for the upgrades would exceed \$100,000.00. Mr. Harrell stated that staff gathered requested information and that HRT feels that USB ports and WiFi for its entire fleet is not a good investment at this time.

Commissioner Parnell provided additional details on a discussion that took place during the Operations and Oversight Committee regarding USB ports and WiFi.

Contract No. 18-78373, Agency Enterprise Asset Management System, was recommended for Commission approval to award of a contract to Trapeze Software Group, Inc. to implement an agency Enterprise Asset Management system in the not to exceed amount of \$2,015,827.
Contracts were voted on and approved

C. Planning and New Starts Development Committee – Commissioner Wood

Did not meet in October.

D. External Legislative Advisory Committee (ELAC) - Commissioner Kanoyton

Met on the 17th. Discussed groups for outreach.

Dr. Brian Smith gave an overview of the ELAC meeting. Dr. Smith stated that the Legislative priorities of being brought forward for Commission approval.

E. Management/Financial Advisory Committee (MFAC) – Brian DeProfio/ Conner Burns, Chief Financial Officer

Commissioner DeProfio stated that the MFAC met on Monday gave an overview of the meeting.

- State funding.

- Discussed how the TSP process works. Routes and cost. Distributed to localities.

- It was stated that the deadline for getting comments back to HRT is November 15, 2018.

Therefore, HRT will provide cost estimates to the cities in December.

- Commissioner DeProfio stated that the State completed an audit in the spring and mention the funding model specifically. It was requested that HRT staff give updates on the items mentioned in the report at the next meeting.

F. Paratransit Advisory Subcommittee – Ms. Janice Taylor, Chair

PAC met on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, HRT, 509 East 18th Street, Norfolk, VA, 2nd Floor Board Room.

Sub-committees Reports

Service Quality

- Discussed Tablets, the drivers tablets continue to go down. First Transit is responsible for tablets. Problem. The drivers use their own cell phones for GPS when their tablets go down.

- The drivers still need to identify themselves when picking up paratransit clients. This is problematic for the visually impaired.

- Paratransit clients have difficulty recognizing blue and white cabs. The decals not stick on the Norfolk cabs per Marshall.

- Overall the cabs are performing well. The PAC members complimented the cab drivers.

Policy

- Discussed Hurricane Florence effects. Emergency same day trips. Free rides on Sunday. The consensus was the people were with how transportation (HRT) and Paratransit was handled in an emergency situation.

Updates on meetings with Delegates David Yancey and Glenn Davis

The meetings were successful since we achieved our objectives. We were able to meet with Delegates Yancey and Davis to discuss the vital role transportation plays in our lives, importance of having dedicated funding for transportation and reliable transportation. Additionally, ask their viewpoint on transportation, advice on how we can mutually work together, their background in transportation, the committees they serve, their vision now and the future.

- See full report attached. This report was written and compiled by Ms. Darcy Sink, the League of Women Voters, South Hampton Roads Chapter, Transportation Committee and Ms. Janice Taylor, Paratransit Advisory Committee Chair

Delegate David Yancey, 94th District

11009 Warwick Blvd., Suite 212

Newport News, VA

Monday, October 8, 2018

Time: 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Ended 12:22 P.M.

Transit Advocates' Meeting with Members of Virginia General Assembly

Attendees:

- Delegate David Yancey, 94th District Representative, Transportation Committee Member. Newport News representative for the HRTPO and HRTAC.
- Denise Johnson, HRT Transit Riders' Advisory Committee (TRAC) Chair
- Janice Taylor, HRT Paratransit Advisory Committee (PAC) Chair
- Keith Johnson, Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), Manager of Paratransit
- Darcy Sink, League of Women Voters (LWV), South Hampton Roads, Transportation Committee, Team Leader and Meeting Organizer

***The meeting was originally scheduled with Del. Yancey's Chief of Staff Gretchen Heal, but Delegate Yancey was able to host us himself.**

Introductions, Attendees tell their experiences and concerns

Delegate David Yancey's Viewpoint

Del. Yancey explained that he has spoken with HRT leadership. He advises more efficient bus routes that are based on ridership data to make the most of limited transit funds.

The attendees explained that they and HRT are aware of that constraint and HRT is pursuing a Bus Rapid Transit option for the peninsula corridor study.

Thoughts

1. Inconsistent service. His opinion they need to hone in the routes. More predictability. The Tide is not used. NSU students use it. He believes the light rail comes in second as the least used transit system in the state. And, has observed only 8-people on a train during rush hour periods.
He sees it as a failed project. He elaborated light rail is also not possible on the peninsula because CSX will not share right of way. Norfolk Southern trains does not want to run next to light rail either.
He suggested MARTA system.
He discussed with HRT that HRT needs to create more excitement about future plans to engage riders and build a public mandate for initiatives.
2. Big challenges. This is not a traditional city. Like NYC. Never built for transportation.
3. Had cable cars.
4. Improve rail system for the Peninsula. The people here are a car dominated system.
5. Challenges for the law. Did not adjust gas tax for inflation. Thinking is take port money for transit.
6. 2012 bill 2313 - get away from gas tax to sales tax. Gas tax is regressive. Sales tax affects everyone. Internet sales tax.
The thought is/was we have enough money for transportation. The decision was infrastructure is not good.
Del. Yancey noted possible revisions to the "gax tax" bill (HB2313) that may impact transportation. Cultural speaking is slower here.

He also spoke of upcoming projects on interstates in the Hampton Roads Region through 2040.

7. What other forms in the future?

- Del. Yancey also gave a detailed explanation of the mechanics of the transportation committee, its interactions with other committees, the competing interests and projects throughout the state.
- 181 corridor. Port of Virginia. HRBT has to be completed 2021.
 8. Container traffic competing for port funding. Savannah/Atlanta

Attendees noted that one of HRT's main hurdles is the lack of dedicated funding that disrupts continuity of service and inhibits long range planning. They asked Del. Yancey whether a measure supporting dedicated funding for public transit would be possible in the next 5 years. Del. Yancey explained that it would be possible, but reminded attendees of the competing interests for transportation dollars and of public sentiment that heavily favors spending to support personal vehicles.

Attendees asked Del. Yancey whether he supports HRT's study for high capacity transit on the Peninsula. He supports the measure but believes dollars are wasted on studies. The peninsula's geography (long and narrow) only leaves only a few viable options for fixed guideway routes. A study could be done with local resources (HRT experts and city traffic engineers) instead of a few consultants who get rich off of a study to create a product that could have been produced in-house. Attendees explained that the studies (such as DEIS and EIS) are required to compete for federal dollars, to which he did not have a reply.

None of this matters if we can't figure out how to move people around. Get people to work.

How do we help Sunday church people?

Delegate Yancey discussed.

Appropriation. Transportation budget. Split into committees. Hiccup has been the cities arguments. States perspective where are you spending money. HR Planning Committee. Everyone is aware transportation issue.

He encourages us to our officials. Talk to them to see what they want and would get them to work together. He reached out to others to work out agreements.

LWV: How do we put together a deal where everyone benefits? Get localities together.

Del. Yancey gave attendees a tutorial on deal making and drafting legislation. He encourages the League of Women Voters to speak with every locality in the region to identify common interests and propose phased legislation that everyone gets something out of and is thus invested in. He suggested sharing this homespun legislation at the HRTPO and posited that perhaps it will gain advocates among the electeds and city staffs. He advised us to study the various bills related to transportation and the consolidated financial statements so that we can "speak intelligently and not be fooled." Attendees pointed out that this meeting is an example of the LWV forming a coalition with other transit advocates (TRAC and PAC) to propose transit issues to legislators. Del. Yancey also suggested that LWV remain aware of other transit initiatives in the state, such as the push to create a Roanoke Valley transportation authority which might free up transportation dollars for other areas.

Long process to fix transportation

What is the most immediate thing to fix?

Build on immediate successes.

Del. Yancey concluded the meeting noting that he agrees that public transportation needs to be better funded and more efficient so that it is a reasonable alternative.

Delegate Glenn Davis

932 Laskin Road, Suite 100, Virginia Beach, VA. 23456

Thursday, September 27 2018

Meeting Format

AGENDA

Transit Advocates Meeting with Members of Virginia General Assembly

I. Brief Introductions

Attendees:

- Delegate Glenn Davis
- Denise Johnson, HRT Transit Riders' Advisory Committee (TRAC) Chair
- Janice Taylor, HRT Paratransit Advisory Committee (PAC) Chair
- Bertha Myrick, League of Women Voters (LWV), South Hampton Roads, Transportation Committee, Team Leader and Meeting Organizer
- Joni Baker, League of Women Voters (LWV), South Hampton Roads, Transportation Committee, Team Leader and Meeting Organizer

II. Citizens tell experiences and share stories of how we move in our region

- Served on Transportation Committee

III. Vision for the future:

Delegate Davis shared we have a transportation problem, disability and aging in place

He mentioned Norfolk started flight possibility of expansion

Instead of new buses;

- Jitney buses are used in Arizona. UBER is the future. Timeless vehicle.
- 0-30 mph for autonomous vehicles
- Autonomous buses

Attendee asked, What about transportation funding to improve bus shortages now? No

response. However, stated the following:

- As for HRT, we like to see more innovation (General consensus with also Delegates Stolle and Yancey)
- He opined Uber is work friendly, laptop and how to get most productive time in traveling
- There needs to be a discussion. Start building towards the future
- Accessing the vehicles, assisted for the medical needs, Medicaid pays to take client to hospital
- He would like to see HRT buses which are smaller where there are less people
- We need smaller buses that are on-time. Discussed the scale ridership.

Solutions with various situations

How to grow ridership?

Note: Delegate Davis used the ridership report. Janice Taylor provided the May 2018 Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads Meeting Report which contained other transit information

Family members won't have to worry about their loved ones who ride the bus again, if their relatives are stranded

IV. Discussed transit in the General Assembly 8 recent years - and in 2018

Delegate Glenn Davis talked about funding

Statewide funding cliff. Will expire in 2019

MD defaulted

Bond would have to pay for new buses

2013 - Transportation funding overhaul - have many good features, but it allows HR to use gas tax money only for road projects, not public transit of any kind.

Need for dedicated funding

Have to have all the region's will have to get together.

- we have a hard time working together (the cities)
- decision-makers don't ride the buses
- each city funds

Mentioned Core 20

- data driven plan

- Northern VA works together

Regions are strong

Delegate Glenn Davis advised HRT needs a vision and in technology

2016 - Penalties For assault of transit operators - this issue was **not resolved**, and may come up again in 2019

2018 - Expanded governance of HRT (TDCHR) - having some legislators on the governing board of HRT (TDCHR). This issue was **not resolved**.

2018 - Dedicated funding for capital - Hampton Roads was left out of the transit funding bill, as all funds went to Northern Virginia, particularly Metro.

2019 - Current funding in HR does not allow long-range, strategic and regional planning. Hampton Roads still badly needs **dedicated transit funding** the region can count on.

Made him aware of what we need

- High Capacity transit to Norfolk airport and Naval base (light rail expansion)
- Bus Rapid transit to the Peninsula - key to future connection with the southside
- Considering new technologies (online retailers, autonomous vehicles, ride hailing networks) and their impact on congestion

IV. Concluding remarks - How can we work together

- Discussion
- *Our opinion was, Delegate Glenn is very data driven and willing to work with HRT

The meeting format was provided by the League of Women Voters

The report was submitted and prepared by Ms. Janice Taylor, Paratransit Advisory Committee Chair

Messrs. Keith Johnson and Rodney Davis b8th from HRT, were gracious in providing transit data city-by-city for these meetings.

Meeting with Senator Wagner on Thursday, October 4, 2018 was cancelled due to an emergency.

The next Paratransit Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Board Room at 3400 Victoria Blvd, Hampton (location subject to change due to ongoing construction)

G. Transit Ridership Advisory Sub-Committee (TRAC) – Mr. Jamie Battle

6. Old and New Business

Title VI – Update

Norfolk Westside Transit Study Update

7. Comments by Commission Members

8. Closed Session (as necessary)

9. Adjournment at 2:15p.m.

The next TDCHR meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Board Room at 3400 Victoria Boulevard, Hampton, VA