



Meeting of the External Legislative Affairs Committee

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 • 1:30 p.m.
509 E. 18th Street, Norfolk, VA

A meeting of the External Legislative Affairs Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at 509 E. 18th Street, Norfolk, VA.

The meeting is open to the public and in accordance with the Board's operating procedures and in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, there will be an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the meeting.

The agenda and supporting materials are included in this package for your review.



Meeting of the External Legislative Affairs Committee (ELAC)

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 • 1:30 p.m.
509 E. 18th Street, Norfolk, VA

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Previous Minutes
3. General Assembly Recap
4. Transformational Transit Outreach Update
5. Adjournment



Meeting Minutes of the External Legislative Affairs Committee (ELAC)

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 • 1:30 p.m.
509 E. 18th Street, Norfolk, VA

Call to Order

A quorum was not attained and Commissioner Kanoyton called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance:

Gaylene Kanoyton, Hampton
Mayor John Rowe, Portsmouth

Hampton Roads Transit staff in attendance:

Ray Amoruso
Gene Cavasos
Rodney Davis
Joe Dillard Jr.
Shanti Mullen
Brian Smith

Additional Attendees:

Judith Brown, League of Women Voters of South H.R.
Carl Jackson, City of Portsmouth
Delceno Miles, The Miles Agency

Approval of January 2019 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

January 28, 2019 Legislative Day

Mr. Joe Dillard discussed the legislative day event. Mr. Dillard advised on a list of legislators whom commissioners can communicate HRT's need for dedicated funding, with the purpose of them supporting HRT's position during the General Assembly.

Mr. Dillard discussed a reception taking place, which would provide a good platform to discuss HRT's objectives. This event will be located at the Main Street station.

Mr. Dillard further discussed conversing with legislators about ridership within their respective districts. Ms. Judith Brown, League of Women Voters of South H.R., suggested taking the chair of the Paratransit Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Kanoyton asked if there is a schedule in place for the day. Mr. Dillard advised he will create a schedule. In addition, Mr. Dillard advised on the potential timeframe, which could start at 7:00 a.m. to approximately 9:00 p.m. Commissioner Kanoyton requested to have the schedule set up and sent to all commissioners sometime this week.

General Assembly Update

Mr. Dillard discussed SB1680 and HB2553 -- both which HRT will support. Dr. Brian Smith further discussed state funding being performance-based, which will be implemented July 1, 2019. Dr. Smith advised as it stands now HRT will receive less funding. Currently, we do not know by how much, nor are we privy to the actual deposits into the Transit fund. This information will probably be known in March.

Dr. Smith advised how this change in process puts HRT in a precarious financial position which may require future service cuts and potential fare increases.

Senator Morty Mason proposed SB1680 enacting any mass transit provider that receives less funding as a direct result of the performance-based allocation process may be eligible for supplemental/transitional funding, which HRT supports.

Del. Robert M. "Bob" Thomas, Jr. proposed HB2553 endorsing the enactment of allocating supplemental operating funds in fiscal year 2020 to any transit provider negatively impacted as a direct result of the performance-based allocation process.

Mr. Dillard further advised on the proposed delay on performance metrics presented by Senator George Barker, which requests additional time before the performance-based funding goes into effect.

It was discussed, that HRT is more focused on obtaining supplemental/transition funding assistance; however, if the bills holding harmless on metrics do not pass, then HRT will support delaying performance metrics.

Mr. Carl Jackson, City of Portsmouth, inquired if there is a budget assumption. Dr. Smith and Mr. Ray Amoruso advised the state will come forward \$750,000 less and the recommendation will come in May and takes effect in July.

Mayor John Rowe, City of Portsmouth, inquired which areas will benefit from this implementation and which will not. Dr. Smith advised rural areas will benefit, while urban areas may not. Dr. Smith further explained on the different costs associated with doing business for a transit entity such as HRT, to that of a small transit agency. Nonetheless, all transit agencies, regardless of the size/regions, are all being scored on the same performance measures. Special consideration has not been given to HRT for having light rail or ferry. Fairfax was hit the hardest; they are more supportive of delaying.

Dr. Smith discussed topics on a handout.

Lobbying on behalf of HRT was discussed. Commissioner Kanoyton inquired if talking points will be provided. Mr. Dillard advised, yes.

Transformational Transit Pop-Up Schedule

Mr. Dillard discussed pop-up schedules and showed a slide show depicting dates, times, locations, and corresponding cities.

Commissioner Kanoyton inquired about the survey process -- whether people are filling out surveys early in the morning at pop-up locations. Mr. Rodney Davis advised yes, surveys are being filled out. Mr. Davis discussed the actions he has been taking to conduct surveys. Mr. Davis advised on having more time to present surveys at the transfer centers. Mr. Davis is focusing on customers going to work. Mr. Davis further advised he has completed surveys at DNTC, Silverleaf, and at the Hampton Transit Centers. There are 15 locations where surveys will be conducted; surveys include 12 questions.

Action Item: Commissioner Kanoyton requested to have the survey emailed to all of the commissioners.

Dr. Smith mentioned how he appreciates Mr. Davis and his team's efforts of going out and speaking to the customers to support the transition. Dr. Smith advised that going forward, HRT will embark on surveying small focus groups which will continue throughout the process, which is very exciting.

Mrs. Delceno Miles advised the meeting with legislative assistants in December was quite successful.

Action Item: Commissioner Kanoyton advised email those who attended the meeting in December to advise on bills that HRT supports.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.