



# Meeting Minutes of the Smart Cities & Innovation Committee

Friday, January 17, 2020 ▪ 12:00 PM  
Board Room ▪ 3400 Victoria Blvd., Hampton, VA

The Smart Cities and Innovations Committee (SCIC) convened at 12:02 pm on Friday, January 17, 2020.

## Commissioners in attendance

Chairperson, Commissioner Andria McClellan (Norfolk) *{phone via HRT Norfolk}*  
Commissioner Dr. Patricia Woodbury (Newport News)  
Commissioner Jimmy Gray (Hampton)

## Hampton Roads Transit Staff in attendance

Erin Glenn, Interim Chief Information Officer & Chief Technology Officer *{phone}*  
Kamlesh Chowdhary, Director of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)  
Brian Smith, Chief of Staff  
Conner Burns, Chief Financial Officer  
Shelia Gullede, Technology Project Manager, SCIC Secretary

## Additional Attendees

Denise Johnson, TRAC  
Janice Taylor, PAC *{phone}*  
Judith Brown, League of Women Voters, South Hampton Roads *{phone}*

The SCIC meeting package contained the Agenda and October/December 2019 Meeting Minutes. It was distributed electronically to all Commissioners in advance of the meeting and posted to Hampton Roads Transit's [SCIC website](#). The Action Items and 2019 HRT Technology Accomplishments were distributed at the meeting.

## AGENDA – January 17, 2020

1. Old Business
  - a. Updates on Local Smart Cities Initiatives
2. New Business
  - a. IT Governance/Costs
  - b. On-demand Transit Solutions
3. Adjournment

## Opening Remarks

Commissioner McClellan initiated discussion from the Fare Collection Working Group. Erin Glenn provided details from the recently completed mobile ticketing pilot program, technical/funding options moving forward and the competitive market for potential providers. She noted some of the potential challenges in hardware/software portability between carriers.

# 1. Old Business

## a. Updates on Local Smart Cities Initiatives

### **GTFS/Real-Time Transit**

- Ms. Glenn briefly discussed ongoing website work in preparation for real-time data.

### **Broadband**

- In response to Commissioner Dr. Woodbury inquiry on the status of the southside's broadband project, she was advised that five cities have voted in favor and currently pending State corporate commission to provide the paperwork; expectation of RFP award for design build by March.

### **Mobile First / Mobile Payments**

- Ms. Glenn reported on one of the demos she attended in which the vendor offered mobile ticketing as well as the ability for stored value. Commissioner Gray added that this should be implemented system-wide, across all modes when this is available; Ms. Glenn agreed, noting that the goal is to have one solution for all modes.
- Discussion ensued on necessity of external assistance to draft RFP that has a high degree of complexity and detail since HRT does not currently have resources available for this effort. Comm. Woodbury advised that it should be streamlined to the extent possible. Conner Burns and Brian Smith noted that a similar process was undertaken with the paratransit RFP to leverage expertise from market consultant and add value from experience of other transit agencies.
- Mr. Burns detailed the expected award and execution timeframe as well as the duration for grant funding. He and Dr. Smith will research the funding structure and provide a firm answer at the February SCIC meeting.
- Dr. Smith confirmed the Federal and local funding for mobile ticketing is not yet 100% funded. He will discuss this funding with Grants Administration and DBE Officer for reporting at the next meeting.

### **Microtransit**

- Comm. McClellan provided an overview of the microtransit presentation that was given by RideCo at the conclusion of the Dec. SCIC meeting for those that were unable to attend.
  - Dr. Smith provided an update on strategic planning effort for microtransit services. Workshop members reviewed and scored seven criteria that would indicate a high probability of success for this type of service and identified eight preliminary pilot zones. Two of the initial sites are in Newport News and Virginia Beach.
  - Pursuing special State grant funding for this demo project that is very data driven; cautiously optimistic that this demo could be operational the latter half of next fiscal year.
- Comm. McClellan discussed her participation and recent presentation at the Norfolk Commission for Persons with Disabilities, noting that there is organization that provides paratransit and microtransit services. After interest was expressed from SCIC members, Comm. McClellan asked the SCIC administrative liaison to facilitate upcoming visits from microtransit providers to present to the SCIC in March or April.

- Dr. Smith will confer with HRT legal counsel to ensure the timing of their visit precedes any possible solicitation actions.
- Mr. Burns will address solicitation parameters with HRT Procurement.
- Brief review and discussion of the microtransit/personal mobility services as presented in the report from Sam Sink, HRT Planning & Development ensued. She found only one instance of a transit agency with a formal partnership with an e-scooter company and noted that these providers are receptive to an agreement with HRT. She advised that clear policy language for differentiating upright e-scooters from personal mobility devices which are protected under ADA would be needed.

### AV/EV/Alternative Transportation

- Comm. McClellan requested that Ray Amoruso provide an update on the autonomous bus pilot at an upcoming SCIC meeting.

## 2. New Business

### a. Other Smart City Initiatives

Commissioner McClellan noted that data scientists are starting to dig into how data works within smart cities for a local, upcoming initiative with [CityLab](#):

### **Building a Data-Driven Future: Digital Cities 2019 Revealed**

The winners of this year's Digital Cities Survey from the Center for Digital Government are those making smart investments in technologies from infrastructure and citizen engagement to data storage and cybersecurity.

PATRICK GROVES, GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY | NOVEMBER 16, 2019

#### **First Place Winners**

#### **NORFOLK, VA., 1ST PLACE, 125,000-249,999 POPULATION CATEGORY**

The city that borders the world's largest naval base needs to stay at the forefront of IT best practices and challenges to keep pace with its federal neighbor.

But it's mainly the city's residents who have motivated IT modernization efforts at this seaport. CIO Steven DeBerry said Norfolk has shifted to a citizen-centric and connected government throughout his five-year tenure as the head of IT.

"In the last four years we've spent a lot of time on rebuilding and refreshing infrastructure, whether it was public safety infrastructure or the computer refresh," DeBerry said. "I spent a lot of time with metrics in presenting the case and it's more than refreshing old computers because with new business processes and new business systems, you need faster computing capability."

The faster internal processes aren't something the public readily sees, though glimpses can be gleaned from the Norfolk open data portal, which showcases 32 data sets from public safety to the work of local artists.

### b. HRT Technology 2019 Accomplishments

Ms. Glenn noted several of the IT advancements and accomplishments achieved last year that will be included in an upcoming HRT Marketing report.

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm

The next SCIC meeting will be on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at noon in HRT's Norfolk Office