

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

A quorum was attained and Commissioner Kanoyton called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance:

Gaylene Kanoyton, Hampton
Councilwoman Andria McClellan, Norfolk
Amelia Ross-Hammond, Virginia Beach
Mayor John Rowe, Portsmouth

Hampton Roads Transit staff in attendance:

Gene Cavazos, Director of Marketing & Communication
Joe Dillard, Organizational Advancement Officer
John Powell, Telecommunications Specialist
Dr. Brian Smith Chief of Staff

Additional Attendees:

Johnna Cossaboon, Advantus Strategies
The Honorable Thelma Drake, Norfolk
Delceno Miles, The Miles Agency
Sherri Neil, City of Portsmouth
Carl Jackson, City of Portsmouth
Ron Jordan, Advantus Strategies
Janice Taylor, League of Women Voters South H.R

Approval of June 2020 Meeting Minutes

The June meeting minutes were approved.

Federal COVID-19 Policy Update

Chairwoman Kanoyton recognized Mr. Dillard to bring an update on the Federal/ Policy update. Mr. Dillard started the conversation around the HEROES Act funding for hazard pay. Hampton Roads Transit continues to lobby in support all Hazard Pay consideration for essential employees. Mr. Dillard share that HRT has been in contact with Senator Mark Warner's office to host a Zoom Town Hall with our Transit Union employees to discuss hazard pay and lobby for continued support. Mr. Dillard stated that he has now put the Senator's office in direct contact with Union President Amanda Malone.

Mr. Dillard also acknowledged that Senator Mitt Romney has introduced the Patriots Pay Plan which also provided hazard pay funding. Though its drastically different from the language

included in the HEROES Act, it does provide additional funding to those essential employees whom work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Dillard also stated that the United States Senate will be taking up all legislation concerning COVID-19 relief. The Senate Republicans are slated to introduce its version of the HEROES Act which Mr. Dillard referred to as "CARES 2." INVEST Act is now being considered to replace the FAST Act in reauthorization of our surface transportation bill.

Commissioner Kanoyton shared that the National NAACP has a robust agenda concerning its public transit program and we should lean into it to gain support.

State Update

Mr. Dillard shared that the Virginia General Assembly Special Session has been set for August 18th. Mr. Dillard stated he and other staff have been meeting with our state elected officials and are confident that this special session will only entertain bills that are focused on Police Reform and the State Budget. Mr. Dillard then called on Ron Jordan to further detail the state update. Dr. Smith also weighed in.

Mr. Jordan started to explain the current state of regional funding in SB 1038. He detailed that VML and other localities had some issues with losing its state recordation tax however, the solution would have to be solved by the state and not consider changing any new funding we have.

The Honorable Thelma Drake stated that she has spoke with VML staff to inform them that the money was in fact for transit in Hampton Roads. Commissioner Rowe as Ron to speak offline in an effort to get the correct information to VML before it becomes a further problem.

Facebook Town Hall with Mr. Harrell

Mr. Dillard stated that he was working with Delceno Miles to set up a virtual Facebook Town Hall discussion with Mr. William Harrell. The target date is Mid August. Ms. Miles stated that this virtual Town Hall was not the "Moving Hampton Roads II" and that was still being planned.

Chairwoman Kanoyton thanked everyone for joining the Zoom meeting and concluded the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.