**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

A quorum was attained and Commissioner Kanoyton called the meeting to order at 1:32 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 Cavasos, 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 September 2020 Meeting Minutes**

There were no recorded minutes of the September External & Legislative Affairs Committee. The Zoom was recorded and saved to the cloud.

**Approval of 2021 Legislative Priorities**

Chairwoman Kanoyton recognized Mr. Dillard to bring an update on the feedback concerning the TDCHR Draft 2021 Legislative Priorities. Mr. Dillard stated that he received no feedback on the draft legislative items. Mr. Dillard called on Ron Jordan to go in depth on the current draft 2021 legislative priorities. Mr. Jordan shared that with the current pandemic it was predicted that this legislative session may have bill limits and be virtual for some chambers. Commissioner McClellan moved for adoption and Mayor Rowe made the second motion. The 2021 Legislative Priorities draft was approved for full recommendation by the External and Legislative Affairs Committee.

Hampton Roads Transit continues to lobby in support all Hazard Pay consideration for essential employees. 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 slatted 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.

**757 Express**

Mr. Gene Cavaos shared that the unveiling of the 757 Express graphics and video. He shared that the marketing team was gearing up to make a push in getting the message out supporting our new regional backbone network coined the 757 Express. Commissioner Kanyoton and Commissioner McClellan both shared that they wanted to be involved and be able to share more information within their respective networks when available.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.