



External Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, January 19, 2022  
1:30 PM (Virtual Meeting)

**Commissioners in Attendance**

Gaylene Kanoyton, Chair, ELAC  
Amelia Ross-Hammond, City of Virginia Beach  
August B. Bullock, City of Newport News  
Carl Jackson (Alternate), City of Portsmouth

**Attendees**

Jessica Dennis, City of Norfolk  
Debra Bryan, City of Virginia Beach  
Amy Inman, City of Norfolk  
Lisa Barkovic, Holland & Knight  
Megan Gribble, City of Virginia Beach  
Janice Taylor, League of Women Voters

**HRT Staff**

Ray Amoruso, Chief of Planning and Development  
Marie Arnt, Marketing/Communications  
Gene Cavasos, Director, Marketing and Communications  
Jennifer Dove, Civil Rights and Grants Coordinator  
Brenda Green, Finance  
Noelle Pinkard, Organizational Advancement Officer  
John Powell, Technology  
Brian Smith, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Meeting commenced at 1:35 pm with a call to order by Commissioner Gaylene Kanoyton, Chair

**Agenda Items**

**Federal Update**

Lisa Barkovic with Holland & Knight gave the committee an update on federal legislation by showing a power point with these updates. (attached)

FTA Apportionments and Funding Competitions – full funding not available – should have more information by February 18, 2022. HRT submitted application in November to FTA for Bus and Bus facilities grant award– are waiting for FTA to make announcement.

U.S. Department of Transportation Grants Opening – RAISE – \$1.5B available during this round  
Congressional Update – pending in the Transportation Appropriations Bill is \$5M for Parks Facility Replacement.



Brian – but can you share anymore insight on the current state of things – when will congress act on FY22 THUD Appropriations Bill. HRT has been trying to locate some good information on what additional formula funding might be coming, but have not heard yet.

Lisa – probably will not see any talks until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February – has to go to Rules Committee, House and then Senate.

Chair Kanoyton thanked Lisa for the Federal Update to committee members.

### **Approval of Minutes – December 8, 2021**

Chair Kanoyton then noted that we had not approved the minutes from the previous meeting and asked if everyone had read them.

Motion to Accept – Commissioner Bullock  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Commissioner Ross-Hammond

Minutes approved.

### **State Update**

Brian Smith reported that the General Assmebly is now underway and we have some very important legislation that we need to oppose – HB 978; SB 363; SB 512. These bills are looking to remove \$20M annually from the Hampton Roads regional transit fund. Mr. Harrell had sent the information to Commission members and City Managers.

Noelle – none of the Patrons of these bills are from the Hampton Roads area – we are monitoring these bills very closely. We are working with city liaisons, Chamber groups and other organizations in Hampton Roads and Brian does have a list of organizations that are standing in opposition to these bills.

Meetings have been held with Senator Lucas and Senator Spruill – both Senators are supporters of Hampton Roads Transit.

Other legislation (Gas Tax)– HB 1059 would suspend the imposition of the gas tax and has an emergency clause, which would make it effective upon Governors signature. HB 297 which suspends the increase in gas tax. HB 541 which was submitted which lowers the increase of the gas tax.

When will these bills come up in committee – Noelle gave an update on the timing of these bills to come before committee and if any dates are known. Chair Kanoyton asked that the committee be notified when these are coming up on committee so that people can speak in opposition to the General Assembly members.

Recommend that HRT put together some talking points so that everyone is on the same page and have various advocates to speak up.

Carl Jackson – would oppose all of these bills since it would hurt regional transit. Recordation Tax – can other localities that receive this funding be contacted to see if they are working on this legislation as well?



Since we are early in the Session and there have been some conversations about this but nothing out in public yet.

Janice Taylor with League of Women Voters asked if they can get letters that have talking points and encourage them to use and do call in's so they can be a part of this discussion.

Look into a program called "Every Action" , "Action Network" - these type of programs are already there and if HRT can get this we can use to get letters out and information to elected officials.

Brian noted that staff can work on this and bring back to committee/commission to get this done.

**Transit Day – February 3, 2022**

**Transit Equity Day – February 4, 2022**

These two should go together – why are they separate?

Noelle noted that she has been working with Bob Crumm at the TPO about this date and it was a day that no boards, commissions were meeting and did not conflict with any meetings.

Chair Kanoyton said that they should look at having both days together since Transit Equity Day would be better for various populations that need to utilize public transit.

HRT should look at having Transit Equity Day be a part each year on February 4<sup>th</sup> and promote this among the region.

Brian Smith noted the TPO named the day Hampton Roads Transit Day and it is their activity – (Not HRT). Brian asked Noelle if they can talk with them about this separate date to lobby for transportation.

**Minority Procurement Fair**

Talked at previous meeting to talk about a Minority Procurement Fair – Chair Kanoyton had talked with Jennifer Dove to put together a list for this event. Jennifer spoke up and noted that she had met with her. List of organizations that promote this fair and could look at something in the Spring.

VDOT did a Minority Procurement Fair when they were getting ready for the construction of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel.

Small Woman And Minority businesses (SWAM) should also be included in this action as well.

Brian Smith talked to the group that HRT has been holding internal meetings to discuss the upcoming weather that could impact services. Update will come out again at 5PM. HRT is activity preparing for adjustments in service. Will be getting out the word to customers, local media, directly to customers at transit centers, social media, customer alerts, onboard announcements, press release.



Ray Amoruso – plan is to cease service Friday at 7:00 pm – Saturday will be running Snow Emergency Routes – which is 18 routes as opposed to 83 routes. All information is on website under Snow Emergency Plan.

At the end of the meeting, Janice Taylor spoke up asking to see if she can volunteer to assist with the planning of the Minority Procurement Fair – she has had some experience with event planning.

Chair Kanoyton closed the meeting at 2:05 pm.