



External Legislative Advisory Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, April 20, 2022  
509 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Norfolk – Boardroom  
1:30 pm

Commissioners in Attendance:

Gaylene Kanoyton, Chair, ELAC  
Carl Jackson, (Alternate) City of Portsmouth

Attendees:

Janice Taylor, League of Woman Voters  
Jerri Wilson, City of Newport News  
Jessica Dennis, City of Norfolk  
Ed Reed, Two Capitols Consulting

HRT Staff:

Brian Smith, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Mike Price, Chief Technology Officer  
Gene Cavasos, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Noelle Pinkard, Organizational Advancement Officer  
Marie Arnt, Public Outreach Coordinator  
John Powell, Technology

Meeting commenced at 1:30 pm with a call to order by Commissioner Gaylene Kanoyton, Chair

Lacking a quorum, Chair Kanoyton postponed approval of the minutes from the March 16, 2022 meeting to the May ELAC meeting.

## **Agenda Items**

### **Federal/State Update – Noelle Pinkard**

HRT is focusing on the fiscal year 2023 appropriations process by working with Congressman Scott and Congresswoman Luria as well as both Senators to request community project funding of \$2.4 million to expand and update the paratransit fleet.

Noelle highlighted the educational campaign related to the suspension of statewide gas tax. A discussion ensued concerning making the process more simple for end users. Former President of the local Almagamated Transit Union testified against HB6002 at the Virginia House of Delegates Finance Committee. The bill was ultimately reported out of the committee and referred to House Appropriations for consideration. The Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee will consider the bill on April 27, 2022.



### **Local Coalition Building – Noelle Pinkard**

Noelle reported that HRT staff met with RVA Rapid Transit and has a meeting scheduled with the Regional Transit Advocacy Panel on the need for local grassroots support for transit.

### **Marketing Update – Gene Cavazos**

HRT is promoting Earth Day with a “No Fare on Earth Day” campaign. The information has been promoted through the HRT website, customer alerts, social media, and radio ads. A sample of the radio ad was played for the group.

Several upcoming Job Fairs have been scheduled – one in June at Patrick Henry Mall in Newport News and one in May in Hampton at the HRT Victoria Blvd. location.

### **Procurement Fair – Update – Noelle Pinkard**

Jennifer Dove was unable to attend the ELAC meeting but submitted an update on the upcoming procurement fair scheduled for June.

1. The following agencies have expressed interest in participating and have been contacted about partnering/referring clients:
  - a. Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity
  - b. Black Brand
  - c. The Asian Chamber of Commerce
  - d. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
  - e. VDOT
  - f. Hampton Roads Connector Partners  
Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)
  - g. Economic Development Offices for Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, and Portsmouth
  - h. Hampton Roads Community Action Program
  - i. Connect 757
  - j. United Way of South Hampton Roads
  - k. Women In Transportation
2. Dates of Event: Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, or Wednesday June 29<sup>th</sup> (alternate date)
3. Venue—Dove met with Ted Chavis at Military Circle Mall on 3/30/22 and spoke with him again on 4/18/22 to negotiate utilizing Military Circle Mall at no cost and is waiting for a return call. The Murray Center in Norfolk is an alternative space.



4. The HRT group working on this event will meet Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 pm