



External Legislative Advisory Committee Minutes
Wednesday, June 16, 2022
1:30 PM – Virtual Meeting

Commissioners in Attendance:

Gaylene Kanoyton, Chair, ELAC
Commissioner August Bullock, Newport News
Carl Jackson, (Alternate) City of Portsmouth

Attendees:

Janice Taylor, League of Woman Voters
Ed Reed, Two Capitols Consulting
David Westcott, City of Chesapeake
Adisa Muse
Jerri Wilson, City of Newport News

HRT Staff:

Brian Smith, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mike Price, Chief Information Officer
Alexis Majied, Chief Communications and External Affairs 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

Chair Kanoyton asked for motion to approve minutes from May 18, 2022, ELAC meeting. Commissioner Bullock made the motion; seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Minutes approved by committee.

Legislative Update – Noelle Pinkard

Federal

Noelle stated that both Senator Warner and Senator Kane have submitted appropriations requests for Hampton Roads Transit for new paratransit vehicles and an expansion to our existing fleet.

Since we were not able to submit this request for the House budget appropriations for this year we requested that both senators do so in their budget. We are hoping that this request does



make it through the end budget. Congress will be going on recess soon, so this may not be voted on till next year since there are also federal elections in November 2022.

State

Noelle reported that Governor Youngkin has until June 16th to propose any amendments to the budget or veto of any items. She noted that he is still seeking to have the gas tax holiday as a part of this year's budget. This gas relief would be for the months of July, August and September. The tax relief would amount to a \$437M reduction in statewide transportation funding. This cut would have an impact to HRT of about \$2.8M.

Since we don't know what's actually been proposed yet, we cannot communicate to our elected officials – but we are ready as soon as we see what the governor is proposing, to take action.

Chair Kanoyton stated that it is important to make people aware of this and how the loss of these funds could impact people who use transit every day.

Commissioner Bullock pointed out that we also need to focus on our bus operators in terms of how it could impact them. If operators and transit riders can see how the impacts of this are to the actual rider, bus routes, and run times. If we need to get a campaign out, let's focus on our riders too.

Marketing and Communications – Gene Cavazos

Chair Kanoyton asked Gene to give an update on Marketing and Communications.

Gene spoke about the Juneteenth Parade that was held in Newport News on Saturday, June 11th. There were about 26 employees who participated along with having an HRT bus with the new 757 Express wrap. This new logo will be a part of the expanded bus services that will begin in Hampton/Newport News in October. The parade had a great turnout and was a success.

HRT will be hosting 3 community meetings this week for the Naval Station Norfolk Transit Study. The meetings will bring the community up to date on the study and highlight the proposed alignment from Newtown Road station to Military Circle Mall. Also highlighting the proposed redevelopment of this mall area.

The meetings will be held:

- Wednesday, June 15th from 5:00-7:00 pm at Military Circle (near the food court)
- Thursday, June 16th – 12:00-2:00 pm – this will be a “pop up” at the Newtown Road Station
- Thursday, June 16th – 5:00-7:00 pm at Calvary Presbyterian Church on Kempsville Road (across from Newtown Station park & ride location)



Information on these meeting is available on the HRT website, through all our social media channels(also paid postings), radio spots, YouTube commercial, Customer Alerts, door hangers were delivered to the neighborhoods near the proposed alignments, flyers to businesses located in this area. Working with our consultants, emails were sent out to anyone who has attended a prior meeting or submitted comments and are in the database. A News Release was sent out and information was emailed to Commissioners from Mr. Harrell.

HRT will be hosting a job fair on Friday, June 17th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at our Norfolk office.

Procurement Fair – Jennifer Dove

Alexis Majied gave an update on behalf of Jennifer who was not able to attend the meeting. The information about the upcoming Procurement Fair has been posted on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and an event was created on Facebook for people to set a calendar to attend. Information was sent out to all vendors who have been invited and another invitation for those who wish to attend and learn more about becoming a DBE and/or guidelines.

Chair Kanoyton expressed some concerns about who we are mailing these invitations to – are we reaching out to those minority businesses that are already established or ones that are new – these are the people she would like to see invited.

Many of these minority businesses are not sure how the process works so it will be very important to have vendors there who can answer questions and assist with the process. She also recommended that we reach out to the local Chamber of Commerce – Peninsula and Southside; each city has a local TV station they can get information out.

Chair Kanoyton asked if we had sent this to all elected officials to include city, state and federal. Noelle noted that we can certainly do that as she has a database with all contact information. She will make sure this gets out.

Chair Kanoyton asked if there is any further information to share with the group – Alexis noted her report was done – at this time the Chair thanked and welcomed Alexis back to HRT.

Old/New Business

Chair Kanoyton asked if there was any old or new business to share with the committee?

There being none, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.