



External Legislative Advisory Committee Minutes  
Wednesday July 19th, 2023  
Hampton, VA  
1:30 PM

Commissioners in Attendance:

August Bullock, Chair, ELAC  
Alt-Commissioner Brian Swets, Portsmouth

Attendees:

Maddy Busse, Two Capitols Consulting  
Edward Reed, Two Capitols Consulting

HRT Staff:

Alexis Majied, Chief Communications Officer  
Noelle Pinkard, Organizational Advancement Officer  
Petra Jovanovic, Executive Assistant, Marketing and Strategic Communications  
Ray Amoruso, Chief Planning & Development Officer  
John Powell, Telecommunications Specialist, Technology

The meeting commenced at 1:30 pm with a call to order by Commissioner August Bullock, Chair.

Chair Bullock asked for motion to approve minutes from March 15, 2023, and May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ELAC meetings. Lacking a quorum, the minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

**Legislative Update – Noelle Pinkard**

**Federal Update**

On July 19, 2023, after a very contentious mark-up, the House Appropriations committee approved its FY 2024 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) bill by a 32-26 party-line vote. House Appropriators decided to view the budget caps provided under the debt limit deal as a ceiling, not a floor, and as a result, decided to make major reductions to the overall funding levels. They are providing DOT with \$21.9 billion—a reduction from \$29 billion. On the Senate side, mark-up of the FY 2024 THUD bill is expected this week, however, the bill text has not been released at this time.

**State Update**

The summer progresses without word from budget conferees on when work might continue on the Virginia budget.



## **Marketing & Strategic Communications Department update**

Alexis Majied presented Marketing and Communications updates. On Friday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Hampton Roads Transit celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Elizabeth River Ferry at the North Landing Dock in Portsmouth. The Mayor of Portsmouth Shannon Glover, Elizabeth River Crossings CEO Anna Bonet, and Norfolk by Boat owner, David Jordan were among the guest speakers.

Earlier in June Hampton Roads Transit launched its Operation Lifesaver Safety Campaign. HRT received \$20,000 from Operation Lifesaver to promote light rail safety from June through September of 2023. HRT was one of six agencies across the nation to receive this funding and received the highest award amongst all agencies. The safety campaign kicked off with a train wrap unveiling event on Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Norfolk Tide Facility. This wrapped light rail train is running throughout the City of Norfolk until mid-September, sharing important safety reminders with riders, drivers and pedestrians.

Commissioner Bullock talked about HRT's intention to hold a General Assembly Event in Fall of 2023 to welcome new and returning members. This event would take place in late November or early December and would be an opportunity for HRT continue to build relationships with members of the Virginia General Assembly.

Commissioner Bullock gave an update regarding HRT Resolution for Transit Equity Day/Rosa Parks' birthday in the form of written proclamation. More information about this will be provided in following months.

The "Day in a life of Commuter" will be held on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Congressman Bobby Scott will join HRT staff and ride the Route 112 from the Newport News Transit Center to Patrick Henry Mall. HRT is looking forward to continuing this event with other officials from Hampton Roads.

The meeting adjourned at 2pm.