



Meeting Minutes of the External Legislative Affairs Committee of Hampton Roads Transit

Wednesday, November 5th, 2025 - 1:30pm
3400 Victoria Boulevard, Hampton, VA in Person – Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Goodwin called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners in attendance:

Commissioner Anthony Goodwin, ELAC Chair, Portsmouth
Commissioner Roland White, Hampton

Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) staff in attendance:

Alexis Majied, Chief Communications Officer
Amy Jordan, Director of Business Development
Noelle Pinkard, Organizational Advancement Officer
Petra Jovanovic, Executive Assistant
Thomas Becher, Communications Manager
John Powell, Telecommunications Specialist
Caleb Smith, Military and Government Affairs Outreach Liaison
Jayda Aldegón, Government & Commission Relations Intern

Others in attendance via phone/(Zoom)/In-Person:

Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group
Jeremiah Van Auken, The Ferguson Group
Jeffrey Burke, The Ferguson Group
Sheri Neil, City of Portsmouth
Janice Taylor, HRT Paratransit Advisory Committee
Cassidy Taylor, Access Point Public Affairs
Mindy Carlin, Access Point Public Affairs
Gretchen Heal, Hampton Roads Chamber
Jerri Wilson, City of Newport News
Megan Gribble, City of Portsmouth

Approval of October 15th, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Goodwin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 2025 and October 2025 External and Legislative Advisory Committee. Lacking a quorum, the vote was postponed until the December ELAC meeting.

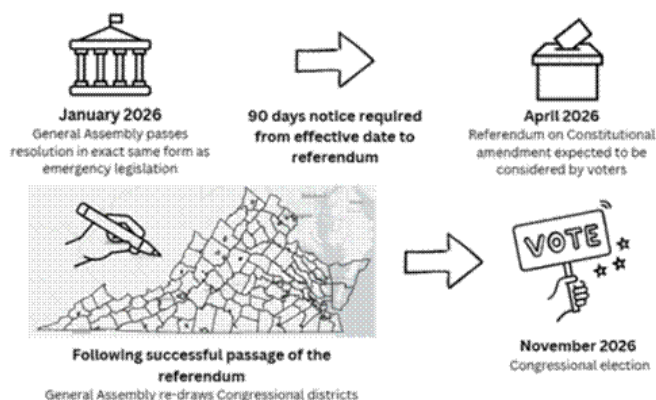
Federal Legislative Report

Mike Miller and Jeremiah Van Auken of The Ferguson Group provided the federal legislative update noting that there have been no bills of interest introduced since the start of the government shutdown. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will be holding a hearing for the Department of Transportation Under Secretary of Policy nominee Mr. Ryan McCormack on November 5th and a hearing is scheduled for November 6th on National Transportation Safety Board and Surface Transformation Board Nominees.

State Legislative Update

Mindy Carlin of Access Point provided the state legislative update by reviewing HB6007 legislation introduced by Delegate Willett concerning redistricting efforts. The proposed constitutional amendment would allow the Virginia General Assembly to modify one or more Congressional district(s) mid-decade if another state conducts a redistricting of its own Congressional districts outside the usual process. This legislation would not abolish the redistricting commission created in 2020 but creates an “option” for the legislature to act if defined circumstances are met. The bill enables districts to be re-drawn between January 1, 2025, and October 31, 2030, and was passed by the House of Delegates and Senate by a party-line vote in a Special Session the week of October 27, 2025. The Governor has no official role in the process on this matter.

The following chart was presented to outline next steps:



Ms. Carlin continued her report with an economic and revenue update, noting that the House Appropriations Committee met in October 2020 to review statewide revenue projections. Revenue projections exceeded the forecast for September by 9.8% (\$294 million), and year-to-date revenues are ahead of expectations by 7.9% (\$561 million). Job growth is trending lower but remains positive at 1%. Virginia continues to outperform national averages on unemployment and labor force participation. Inflation remains around 3%. Consumer spending continues to grow steadily at both national and state levels. And, lastly, September figures indicate \$2.2 billion is available for budgeting purposes.

Ms. Carlin reminded the committee of the MERIT program review process noting that November 21, 2025, marks the end of the 45-day public comment period. The remaining timeline is as follows:

- November-December 2025 – Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) to review public comment and provide final review and feedback.
- December 9, 2025 – Presentation on proposed changes to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)
- January 2026 – CTB to vote on adoption of proposed changes.

Local Advocacy Council Presentations

Noelle Pinkard reported that HRT concluded all advocacy meetings with City Councils with the exception of the City of Hampton. HRT is working closely with the city staff on proposed changes to the System Optimization Plan. Once those changes are finalized, a meeting with the City Council will be scheduled.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Chair Goodwin reminded the Committee that applications for transit grants at the state level are open. He also noted the importance of HRT using these funds for various projects, including ones connected with the military. As these conversations are ongoing, once more information is available, an update will be provided to the committee.

Marketing & Strategic Communications Department update

Alexis Majied presented the Committee with a Marketing and Communications update.

HRT's marketing team hosted Mayor Glover on a bus ride-along couple of weeks ago. We were happy to host him for a bus ride from Downtown Portsmouth to Rivers casino and will soon share this with our followers on social media.

The State of Transit event was held on October 21st, 2025 with over 200 guests in attendance. The event brought together leaders of the region's three transit agencies, legislators from across the area, and business representatives. The keynote speaker was Paul P. Skoutelas, President and CEO of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Panel discussions were led by transit leaders including William E. Harrell, President & CEO of Hampton Roads Transit (HRT); Matthew Scalia, Executive Director of Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA); and Maria Ptakowski, Transit Manager for Suffolk Transit. State Del. Jackie Hope Glass (93rd District) and state Sen. J.D. "Danny" Diggs (24th District) were part of legislative panel discussion.

HRT was able to successfully carry over 10,000 riders on light rail to and from Norfolk State University homecoming game on Saturday, October 25th, 2025. HRT provided extended hours as well as free rides on the Tide Light Rail that day in support of the homecoming parade.

New and Old Business

Safety Town in Portsmouth celebrated its 50th anniversary on October 22nd, 2025. Chair Goodwin thanked HRT for its partnership and participation. HRT provided bus signage and other items that helped children familiarize themselves with public transportation.

Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.