



**Meeting of the External / Legislative Affairs Committee of Hampton Roads Transit**

Wednesday, March 18th, 2026 at 1:30pm.  
3400 Victoria Blvd, Hampton - In Person - Zoom

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  
Commissioner Amelia Ross- Hammond, Virginia Beach  
Commissioner Marcellus Harris, Newport News

**Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) staff in attendance:**

Alexis Majied, Chief Communications Officer  
Noelle Pinkard, Organizational Advancement Officer  
Thomas Becher, Communications Manager  
Amy Jordan, Director of Business Development  
John Powell, Telecommunications Specialist  
Caleb Smith, Military and Government Affairs Outreach Liaison  
Jayda Aldegón, Hampton Roads Transit  
Petra Jovanovic, Executive Assistant Marketing and Strategic Communications  
Reagan Reaves, Executive Assistant/Mail room Attendant

**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, League of Women Voters  
Jerri Wilson, City of Newport News

**Approval of February 18th, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Goodwin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, External and Legislative Advisory Committee (ELAC) meeting. Commissioner White made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Harris. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

**Federal Legislative Report**

Jeremiah Van Auken with the Ferguson Group delivered the federal legislative update. The House and Senate are both in session this week and will remain in session until March 27. The Department of Homeland Security is still shutdown due to a lapse in funding. Conversations in Congress are ongoing to fund the Department. The Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Development and the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure are working on the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill, but the text is not expected to be released for many more months. For Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations, HRT submitted a project request to Congresswoman Kiggans; Congressman Scott; Senator Kaine; and Senator Warner for Mobile Telescoping Security Units. Additionally, President Trump is expected to release his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2027 in the next few weeks.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator Marc Molinaro announced on February 13, 2026, that he intends to step down from his position at FTA Administrator on February 20, 2026. No information on potential replacements has been announced. Not immediately pertinent to HRT, but FTA announced the opening of the FY 2026 All Stations Accessibility Program, making \$686 million available to help legacy rail stations become more accessible to people with disabilities and mobility needs. Hampton Roads Transit was awarded \$10,620,000 through FTA's Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program for their purchase of replacement buses.

HRT's visit to DC is scheduled for March 23-24. TFG has been working closely with HRT's legislative affairs team to organize meetings and talking points for the upcoming March advocacy trip. Meeting requests have been sent to the Hampton Roads congressional delegation and to other offices of interest.

### **State Legislative Update**

Caleb Smith with HRT delivered the state legislative update. The 2026 General Assembly session ended on March 13, 2026. The Governor now has 30 days to sign, veto, or amend legislation. The General Assembly ended without passing a 2027-2028 budget due to differences between the House and Senate. HRT has informed the Hampton Roads delegation and the budget conferees about our priorities. HRT will also send a letter to the Governor asking for a transit-friendly budget. The General Assembly will reconvene in mid-April to vote on the budget and consider the Governor's actions. The two main bills HRT was tracking, HJ28 from Delegate Alex Askew and HB1241 from Delegate Bonita Anthony, passed the House and Senate and are awaiting signature from the Governor.

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

Alexis Majied presented the Committee with a Marketing and Communications update. The Marketing and Strategic Communications public outreach team has been super busy over the past several weeks conducting internal and external outreach for GoMobile and the System Optimization Plan, otherwise known as the SOP. We have scheduled a second round of SOP outreach for the cities of Hampton, Norfolk, and Newport News, the cities where most of the changes will take place. We will be hosting three additional pop-ups and six additional open houses.

On Monday, we held a successful Media event in partnership with the Norfolk Tides, the City of Norfolk, and the Interim Gaming Hall. The event's purpose was to inform the media of the transit and parking options available to fans for all home games of the

2026 baseball season. Once again, Hampton Roads Transit will be offering free rides to and from home games on The Tide light rail and Elizabeth River ferry.

On Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8, Hampton Roads Transit hosted the Virginia State Bus and Maintenance Roadeo competition. Bus and maintenance teams representing transit agencies from across the Commonwealth competed in several events to determine who is the best of the best. HRT's own Reginald Charity won the bus operator portion and will represent the state in the International Bus Roadeo to be held May 15-19 in Salt Lake City.

And finally, March is the Transit Employee Appreciation Month. The Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads adopted a resolution last month proclaiming March as Transit Employee Appreciation Month. Residents, businesses, and community organizations are encouraged to recognize and show your appreciation for the hard work and dedication of transit employees.

### **New and Old Business**

Noelle provided an update to the Committee that HRT submitted State grant applications on February 1, 2026. HRT is currently waiting for an update on that issue. Once more information is available, the committee will be updated.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.