



**Document #2:**

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

**Zoom Meeting:** February 8, 2023 – 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Attended:** Theodore L. Chandler, Jr., Cliff Fleet, Wilson Flohr, Moses Foster, Thomas R. Frantz, Greg Gilligan, Nancy Grden, Ross Grogg, Mitch Haddon, Bob Holsworth, Sarah Jane Kirkland, Peggy Layne, Christopher Lloyd, John W. Martin, John F. Reinhart, Laura Robidoux, James Spore, Bryan Stephens

**Absent:** Brian Anderson, Aubrey L. Layne

**Agenda Items:**

1. Welcome and Minutes Approval
2. New Board Members Approval
3. Initiative Updates
4. Committee Reports
5. RVA757 Connects' 2023 Budget and Funding
6. Communications Update – Website Relaunch
7. February 22 Board/MIC Meeting Agenda
8. Old Business / New Business
9. Executive Session

**Welcome and Minutes Approval**

The Executive Committee (EC) unanimously approved the January 11 EC meeting minutes.

**New Board Members Approval**

Bringing in a class of new directors has been a great success. The following new directors were unanimously approved:

- Martin J. Barrington, Chairman, Anheuser-Busch InBev
- Donald Graul, President and CEO, Branch Group
- Thomas J. McInerney, President and CEO, Genworth
- Ting Xu, Chairwoman and Co-Founder, Evergreen Enterprises

These directors will be introduced at the Board/MIC meeting on February 22.

Bill Nash of CarMax would like to support RVA757 Connects but is unable to participate on the board of directors. He is looking to his executives to represent CarMax.

## Initiative Updates

- I-64 Gap Project: VDOT's grant application has received \$25M. VDOT is moving ahead with construction.
- Walk/Bike Trails: \$93M is available for Virginia trails, with \$3M dedicated to a new trails' office. Although a law to fund a certain number of trails has passed, the BoAT and Fall Line Trail were not specifically mentioned. The next step is to explore how to include these trails in the budget, given the funding criteria. A definitive plan will be created once a new head of office is hired.
- Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan Initiative: The final Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28 and will include the final reports from TeleGeography and InterGlobix about other Global Internet Hubs and where we stand. An emerging strategies discussion will be held by the Steering Committee. The resulting report and map will be reviewed by the EC prior to its release.

This initiative's economic development impact goes beyond the megaregion throughout the state of Virginia. Support from the state and localities will be indispensable. The future of this initiative could morph into something new, like an independent entity.

- Passenger Rail: There are no updates at this time.

## Committee Reports

- Nominations & Governance: New directors of the board were voted in. Current changes to the bylaws are on hold but are queued up for additional changes down the line.
- MIC: The co-chairs are coordinating catch-up meetings with their regional MIC members. These meetings will provide an opportunity to clarify the intent and purpose of the MIC and explore the benefits of collaborating with our organization.
- Development: The first quarter of 2023 emphasizes a need to follow up on pledge renewals. Financial commitment forms will be sent along with invoices for all upcoming pledge renewals. The committee will be ready to provide reminder phone calls when requested by Laura Robidoux.

Another goal is to explore new sources of funding to support specific initiatives, such as university foundations or outside grants. An annual meeting for higher education leaders may increase engagement and find complementary initiatives and activities that are appropriate for university investment.

Funders will be contacted and thanked in appreciation for their support of RVA757 Connects' organization and priorities. They are the root of our organization's success.

Creating a branding piece, such as a cardstock overview, will provide a clear, concise, and consistent message. A book containing directors' bios is in the process of being constructed.

The Virtual Innovation Spotlight webinar provides a general demonstration of what's happening in the community. It's completely unique programming. Greg will provide participation and engagement data at a later meeting. The next goal is to increase engagement.

- Gov. Relations: Updates were provided for the following categories:
  - Workforce
  - VCCS
  - Jefferson Lab
  - Site readiness
  - Rail Service
  - Richmond Marine Terminal
  - Pharma cluster

The Gov. Relations committee will remain small until further notice.

### **RVA757 Connects' 2023 Budget and Funding**

The 2022-2023 carryover and projected funding are as expected. The EC unanimously approved the 2023 budget.

### **Communications Update – Website Relaunch**

Website updates will highlight the four major initiatives as well as events such as the Virtual Innovation Spotlights and Convergence. Changes will be made more quickly and easily. The website will be launched in the next couple weeks. The EC will get a sneak peek of the new website at the next meeting.

### **February 22 Board/MIC Meeting Agenda**

The February 22 Board/MIC meeting agenda was reviewed and approved. Jason El Koubi, President and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), will be the featured speaker. The Greater Richmond Partnership and Hampton Roads Alliance will be provided a separate meeting to share their updates and requests.

### **Old Business / New Business**

On February 2, RVA757 Connects' staff met with local city/county officials from around the megaregion. They requested to remain informed about priority development, since these are projects that benefit the entire megaregion.

### **Executive Session**

The Executive Session commenced at 9:07 a.m.