Document #2:
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 29, 2023

In-Person Meeting: June 29, 2023 – 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Williamsburg Lodge

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

Invited guests: Jason El Koubi (VEDP), Abigail Wescott (VEDP), Angela Oakes (Greater Richmond Partnership), Doug Smith (Hampton Roads Alliance), and Vinay Nagpal (InterGlobix)

Attendees: Theodore L. Chandler, Jr., Cliff Fleet, Wilson Flohr, Moses Foster, Thomas R. Frantz, Nancy Grden, Greg Gilligan (via Zoom), Ross Grogg, Mitch Haddon, Bob Holsworth (via Zoom), Sarah Jane Kirkland, Jason El Koubi, Peggy Layne, Christopher Lloyd, John W. Martin, Vinay Nagpal, Angela Oakes, Laura Robidoux, Doug Smith, James Spore, Bryan Stephens, Abigail Wescott

Agenda Items for business meeting for EC members only (11 a.m. to noon)
1. Welcome and Minutes Approval – EC June 8 Meeting Minutes
2. Government Relations Update – Ross Grogg / Chris Lloyd
3. Development Committee update – Mitch Haddon
4. Discussion and updates on RVA757 Connects' Projects
5. Discussion on RVA757 Connects staff support
6. Old business/new business

Agenda items for EC members and invited guests (Noon to 2 p.m.)
1. Noon – 12:30 p.m.: Lunch with invited guests
1. RVA757 Connects and Economic Development Ecosystem Alignment
2. Global Internet Hub Plan
3. Convergence 2023 – Draft Agenda

Welcome and Minutes Approval
John Martin opened the meeting with an overview of the purpose and goals of this in-person meeting with invited guests. The Executive Committee (EC) unanimously approved the June 8, 2023 EC meeting minutes.

Government Relations Update
Ross Grogg and Chris Lloyd provided a general update on the primary elections. The Commonwealth's budget is still under negotiation.

It is anticipated to see some data center pushback in the I-64 Innovation Corridor as a trickle down from Northern Virginia (NOVA). Perceived energy supply is a concern for industry leaders.

The timetable for the legislative agenda is on hold until after the election. In the interim, now is a good time to raise awareness of RVA757 Connects by sending an introductory letter to electoral candidates.

Development Committee Update
Mitch Haddon provided a general fundraising update. All 2023 invoices are out. About half of them have been paid. All renewal requests have been sent along with the invoices.

A thank you letter campaign is underway. The Development Committee is sending customized thank you letters to all donors. The lead funders are being personally contacted by Theodore L. Chandler, Thomas R. Frantz, and John W. Martin.

The EC thanked Mitch Haddon and the Development Committee members for their work.

Governance and Nominations Update
Five recruitment requests are out and awaiting confirmation. These individuals will be contacted to confirm their decisions.

Discussion and Updates on RVA757 Connects' Projects
General updates were provided for the following projects:

1. Rail: The Long Bridge project is the gateway to the rest of the state for rail. The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) just released an approved five-year plan. RVA757 Connects will convene a planning meeting with the megaregion's Planning District Commissions (PDCs), DRPT, and Virginia Passenger Rail Authority to discuss the next 5-year plan. This meeting is scheduled for July 10.

2. Air: This topic was recently added to the Convergence agenda as part of the transportation update. Perry Miller, President and CEO of the Capital Region Airport Commission, was suggested as a speaker to present on the airports during the event. The Peninsula Airport Commission and Norfolk Airport Authority partnered with the cities of Norfolk, Newport News, and Hampton to pursue a GO Virginia grant to fund a "regional aviation, aerospace, and unmanned systems assessment."

3. Road: The I-64 Gap construction starts in late 2023, which provides an opportunity for a press release to share priority progress.

4. Trail: The BoAT trail and Fall Line Trail are not included in current legislated funding for trails. RVA757 Connects is now working with representatives for both trails. Together, all parties will advance a collective case for investment in these two trails.

5. Global Internet Hub (GIH): Mr. Martin reviewed the status of the 10 strategies in the GIH Strategic Plan. The first step is to turn the Steering Committee into a GIH Council. RVA757 Connects will set up a meeting with the Alliance of Hampton Roads, Greater Richmond Partnership, and Virginia Economic Development Partnership to discuss a site-readiness preparation initiative for data centers.

   Convergence 2023 will be the official unveiling of the GIH Strategic Plan report. Thank you to GO Virginia, who was instrumental in this effort.

6. Convergence 2023: John Martin shared the draft Convergence 2023 agenda, reviewed the topics, and noted all of the suggestions from the group. A list of elected leaders to invite is being created.

Discussion on RVA757 Connects' Staff Support
The EC held an executive session to discuss staff support.

Old Business/New Business
N/A

Agenda Items for EC Members and Invited Guests
Invited guests arrived and lunch was served from noon to 12:30 p.m.

RVA757 Connects and Economic Development Ecosystem Alignment
Attendees provided personal introductions. John Martin provided an overview of the purpose of this meeting.

The top two topics discussed were both related to becoming a GIH:
1. Certifying data center sites
2. How to best roll out the GIH plan in conjunction with economic development partners

The group reviewed RVA757 Connects' organizational goals and action plan for 2023 and heard status updates for each priority area.

Jason El Koubi, President and CEO of VEDP, shared his view on the benefits of collaboration, particularly with the four industry clusters that hold the greatest potential for the future of the megaregion. Research from the I-64 Innovation Corridor Opportunity Study provides the data to make a case for our organization's priority areas and collaborative methodology.

Global Internet Hub Plan
John Martin provided an overview of the process used to create the GIH Strategic Plan and reviewed the 10 steps contained in the GIH goals and action plan.

There is a natural progression for data center growth in southern Virginia and the I-64 Innovation Corridor. In preparation for this new interest for data center growth in other locations outside of NOVA in Virginia, it was recommended to prepare zone sites for site developers and share benefits of site development with the general population and elected officials.

VEDP's study on Virginia's data center sales and use tax exemption will be used later in the year to educate the newly elected General Assembly.

Convergence 2023 – Draft agenda
The full group reviewed the Convergence 2023 draft agenda.

September 28 will be used as a major event to showcase the importance of data infrastructure, including data centers. Convergence will also be used as a platform to announce the I-64 Innovation Corridor's ascension in becoming a GIH. Jeff Goettman, Chief of Staff in the Governor's office, was suggested as a presenter.

The Data Center Coalition (DCC) will be contacted to open up a conversation about the I-64 Innovation Corridor.

The Hampton Roads Alliance has also recently finished a data center study. It's time to start exploring the next steps. One of these key steps will include an education component for all parties, including local and state officials.

Regions four and five of GO Virginia are interested in site certification and development for the I-64 Innovation Corridor. The next window to apply for a grant closes in September. The decision to apply for this grant will need to be made soon.