



Document #2:

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

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

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

Absent: Nancy Grden, Mitch Haddon, Aubrey L. Layne

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Minutes Approval
2. Communications Update – Website Relaunch
3. Discuss Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan
 - Our Why
 - Understanding a Global Internet Hub
 - Our 10 Recommendations
 - Next Steps
4. Board/MIC Meeting Takeaways
5. Old Business / New Business

Welcome and Minutes Approval

The Executive Committee (EC) unanimously approved the February 8 EC meeting minutes.

Communications Update – Website Relaunch

Greg Gilligan provided an overview of our organization’s new website layout and features. A local independent contractor was used to help construct this new website. Now, RVA757 Connects’ staff will swiftly make site changes, such as the addition of director bios or updates on the Virtual Innovation Spotlight webinars and annual Convergence events.

This new website hyper focuses on our mission and four key initiatives. Collaboration between our stakeholders and other entities will be featured on the website. An additional page will showcase priorities outside of the four key initiatives.

Next Steps:

- A bio book will be created for the board of directors.
- Website updates will be provided as needed.

Discuss Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan

Executive Committee members shared enthusiastic support for the 10 emerging strategies developed by the Steering Committee. There was a discussion about the plan's potential for inclusivity, its widespread impact, and its affect on high paying jobs. Statewide organizations such as GO Virginia and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) will be provided a full disclosure of the report content and next steps.

RVA757 Connects' staff and Dr. Holsworth are working on the final report. There is currently a PowerPoint deck detailing the consultants' findings. This information will be transitioned into a Word document strategic plan report, containing the next steps to maximize this opportunity for the megaregion and the Commonwealth. Not required by GO Virginia, we are exploring a map as an additional component to this report will be an executive summary map of current and future digital infrastructure assets to visualize these next steps.

Plan funding will be sought from multiple sources for the plan's next steps. This initiative has the potential to grow into a new association that will drive the implementation of the Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan.

The EC will continue to be updated on progress as it occurs. A draft of the plan will be shared with the group for feedback. If needed, additional meetings may be scheduled to discuss the plan in greater detail.

Next Steps:

- Continue to share updates with the EC as they arise.

Board/MIC Meeting Takeaways

Jason El Koubi, President and CEO of the VEDP, shared his appreciation for our organization's priorities and efforts. He will be invited to a future in-person EC meeting, scheduled for May or June. A meeting will also be scheduled with the heads of the economic development organizations in Richmond and Hampton Roads over the next couple of months.

Next Step:

- Lock in a week for an in-person EC meeting with Jason El Koubi.

Old Business / New Business

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority requested a letter of support for the authority's federal grant application for the Franconia-Springfield Bypass Project. This letter has been shared with the passenger rail subcommittee and co-chairs. Our organization will continue staying active in the process over the Long Bridge construction.

The meeting ended at 9:14 a.m.