



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

Zoom Meeting: October 5, 2022 – 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Attended: Theodore L. Chandler, Jr., Cliff Fleet, Wilson Flohr, Moses Foster, Thomas R. Frantz, Greg Gilligan, Mitch Haddon, Sarah Jane Kirkland, Peggy Layne, John W. Martin, John F. Reinhart, James Spore, and Laura Robidoux

Absent: Nancy Grden, Bob Holsworth, Aubrey L. Layne

Agenda Items:

September 7, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – Approval

September 20 Board/MIC Meeting Recap & Discussion

- Meeting Minutes
- Breakout Session Notes
- EC Discussion on RVA757 Connects' Path Forward on Trail Support

Nominations – Corporate Governance Discussion and Update on RVA Board-Building Plan

Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan Initiative Update

- Report on September 29, 2022 GIH Steering Committee

Government Relations Update

- Planning Schedule for 2023 Legislative Agenda
- Content for Convergence 2022

Convergence 2022

Old Business/New Business

- Letters of Support: Virginia Natural Gas and Fiber Optic Ring

September 7, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Executive Committee (EC) unanimously approved the September 7th EC meeting minutes.



September 20, 2022 Board/MIC Meeting Recap and Discussion Relating to the BoAT Trail/Virginia Capital Trail Expansion

The EC approved the board/MIC meeting minutes from the September 20th meeting.

A discussion followed the minutes approval.

Mr. Martin said the big takeaway from the board breakout sessions included:

1. Directors and MIC members said RVA757 Connects is focused on the right priorities.
2. The general consensus on the Birthplace of America Trail or BoAT trail (from Williamsburg to Fort Monroe on the Peninsula and from Williamsburg across the Surry Ferry to the ocean front, both as an extension of the Virginia Capital Trail) was that it is worthy of a priority for RVA757 Connects to work on.

Board/MIC members thought the six ways that RVA757 Connects can help with the BoAT initiative were right. Mr. Martin said that he has been invited to speak at the Virginia Capital Trail Foundation board meeting later in October to provide an update on the BoAT and to tell that board that RVA757 Connects is supportive of the BoAT effort.

3. There was a general consensus that RVA757 Connects' actions in the I-64 Gap initiative is a good model to follow for all priorities.
4. Mr. Martin noted that the General Assembly recently approved – and the governor signed – a bill allocating \$93 million in state funds for bike trails in Virginia. VDOT plans to use a small portion of these funds for a standalone office. The remaining money will be distributed to help build and support trails across Virginia. This opportunity will be the immediate focus of advocacy efforts.

During Convergence 2022, Mr. Martin said that Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sheppard Miller will be attending and may speak to trail-related priorities.

Mr. Martin noted that RVA757 Connects wants to follow the trail-related planning process in formulating plans for improving passenger rail service. We have been working with a small rail committee on how we can remove barriers for greater rail service, not only between the two regions, but to other destinations. Recommendations will come to the EC in November and the full board in December. The rail plan would be the last piece of the big four RVA757 Connects initiatives.

Next Steps:

- RVA757 Connects' staff will send out the approved Board/MIC meeting minutes.
- RVA757 Connects' staff will focus on the state's \$93 million funding, making a case for all the new trails across the megaregion.
- RVA757 Connects' staff will focus on the rail plan.

Nominations Committee – Corporate Governance Discussion

The EC reviewed the Nominations Committee's corporate governance recommendations, which have been discussed for the last couple of meetings. The changes include board terms, requirements of board directors, and funding levels. Some of these recommendations would be changes to the By-laws.

Theodore L. Chandler Jr., the board's co-chair, said the committee's recommendations should be shared with the full board in advance to get their input now, moving towards a full board vote on the changes in the December meeting. Getting input through a collaborative process is an important way to fully engage the board.

It was suggested that the levels of sponsorship from board members should be listed in descending order. For instance, the order for corporate directors representing companies, the corporate financial support should be listed first with Gold Level (\$50,000-plus), then Silver Level, and then Bronze Level. The document currently shows the opposite order for funding levels.

Next Steps:

- Send out the nominations committee's corporate governance recommendations (after the order of financial sponsorship levels have been reorganized) to the full board, asking for their input by a certain time so the document can be updated and reviewed at the December board meeting.

Update on Board-Building Plan for RVA Region

Mr. Martin updated the EC on recruitment. The idea is to have a full board in place by year-end with an equal representation from the Richmond and Hampton Roads regions. About 10 director positions are available to be filled on the Richmond side of the RVA757 Connects. (We will run the exact number for a future EC meeting).

Current Activity:

Jeff Wassmer from Spectrum accepted the board of directors invitation.



The EC voted to appoint two new members to the board:

- Thomas Ransom has been the Virginia regional president since October 2021 for Truist Financial Corp., which was created in 2019 from the merger of regional banks BB&T Corp. and SunTrust Banks Inc. He is a native of Urbanna and graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 1999.
- Donald Graul has been CEO since December 2020 of Branch Group, a Roanoke-based full-service construction company with divisional offices in Henrico County and Virginia Beach. Mr. Graul has more than 40 years working in the industry. Before joining Branch Group, he served as President of construction and connected communities for Parsons Corporation. The Branch Group wants to build its presence in the megaregion.
- Mr. Martin recently approached an executive at Capital One to explore re-approaching Capital One.

Prospective Directors:

Mitch Haddon, Mr. Chandler, and Mr. Martin got together and identified about 15 prospective directors to approach in the next month or so.

EC members said it would be helpful to review candidates against a matrix – location, equity, age, demographics – and apply those characteristics for consideration.

Ideally, we would like to identify people and have EC approval prior to the Richmond Management Roundtable on Nov. 21 (it was postponed from a September meeting date).

All new members will be introduced at the December 13th Board/MIC meeting.

Next Steps:

- Send welcome letter and packet of information to the two new board members.
- Invite Donald Graul with an understanding to provide a financial commitment.
- Update website to reflect the new board members.



Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan Initiative Update

The Global Internet Hub Steering Committee is gaining traction. The third meeting was held on September 29. The committee is in the process of hiring consultants.

Committee participants have high level of participation. For instance, Meta (Facebook) and CarMax have offered physical meetings spaces. The committee is moving forward as scheduled and updates will be shared as needed.

Government Relations Update

The Government Relations Committee, led by co-chairs Ross Grogg and Christopher Lloyd, have a planning schedule for the 2023 legislative agenda. They plan to look at the legislative priorities from ChamberRVA and Hampton Roads Chamber to suggest an agenda for RVA757 Connects.

The co-chairs also will speak at Convergence 2022.

Next Step:

- Invite Ross / Chris to a November EC meeting to present a straw man 2023 legislative agenda.

Convergence 2022

More than 80 people have signed up for the annual interregional gathering – this year to be held on October 13 in Williamsburg.

Secretary of Transportation Sheppard Miller will speak during the afternoon. It is planned to recognize his leadership in closing the I-64 Gap effort.

Aubrey Layne will be keynote speaker.

Old Business/New Business

Two recent Letters of Support have been issued: Virginia Natural Gas and the Fiber Optic Ring. Mr. Martin mentioned that Mr. Chandler and Mr. Frantz always review letters prior to RVA757 Connects' sending out any letters. Mr. Chandler and Mr. Frantz sign all endorsement letters. Any topics that haven't been previously discussed and approved by the EC will be brought up prior to RVA757 Connects' endorsement.

The EC meeting ended at 9:11 a.m.