



Document #2b

Board/MIC Meeting Minutes
Nov. 15, 2023, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
100% Via Zoom – No In-person

Call to Order:

Theodore L. Chandler, Jr., Co-chair of RVA757 Connects, called the November 15, 2023, Board of Directors/Megaregion Institutional Council (MIC) meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Mr. Chandler acknowledged the new members added to the Board in 2023 and honored the life and impact of John O. “Dubby” Wynne.

Update on RVA757 Connects:

John W. Martin, President and CEO of RVA757 Connects, gave an overview of the top 10 I-64 Innovation Corridor-related topics to celebrate in 2023:

1. Growing Economic Development Partnerships (Thank You MIC)
2. Ramped Up Rail Planning with DRPT (Thank Your RVA757 Connects Rail Committee)
3. Record Crowd and Sponsors at Convergence 2023 – (Thank You Chambers)
4. Record Gift Support and Materials Created (Thank you RVA757 Connects Development Committee)
5. New Directors Added and Employee Policy Book Created (Thank you RVA757 Connects Governance and Nominations Committee)
6. Springfield-Franconia Rail Bridge Funding Awarded \$100 Million Grant (Thanks to everyone who was involved)
7. Jefferson Lab Win and Announcement (Thanks to everyone who was involved)
8. RVA757 Connects Communications – Earned media and Innovation Spotlight Gained Traction (Thank You Greg Gilligan)
9. RVA757 Connects Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan Launched and New Council Created (Thank You Global Internet Hub Strategic Planning Committee)
10. I-64 Fully Funded and Groundbreaking (Thanks to everyone who was involved)

Mr. Martin went over the results of the 2023 Year-End Board/MIC Annual Performance Survey findings. The survey garnered a 68% response rate among directors and MIC members with overwhelmingly positive results. Satisfaction with RVA757 Connects’ overall 2023 performance is 95% (top two box score).



Initiatives Updates

Mr. Martin gave updates on RVA757 Connects initiatives and the progress being made.

- I-64 Gap: Groundbreaking took place November 13, 2023
- Global Internet Hub: The Global Internet Hub Council is now meeting on a monthly basis advancing the plan. We received a grant from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation to support this work.
- Rail: RVA757 Connects co-sponsored a paper authored by Danny Plaughter from Virginians for High Speed Rail titled: "Virginia's Passenger Rail: Keys to Further Success."
- Trails: The groundbreaking on the Fall Line trail portion in Henrico County was held on October 18, 2023.

Committee Updates:

- **Development:** Mitch Haddon gave an update on the Committee, including sending thank you notes to all donors and the creation of the Board Bio Book and directory.
- **Governance & Nominations:** Moses Foster gave an update on board recruitment, Employee Handbook, and plans to review EC composition in 2024.
- **Government Relations:** Chris Lloyd and Ross Grogg gave an update on the results of the November 7 Virginia elections and the budget suggestions document that RVA757 Connects sent to the Administration for consideration.
- **Communications:** Greg Gilligan, Vice President of Operations, gave an update on the relaunch of the RVA757 Connects' website and the Innovation Spotlight series and the increased engagement both have seen over the last year.

Update on GO Virginia:

Nancy Grden and Wilson Flohr Jr. gave an update on GO Virginia. They pointed to the successful collaboration between Region 4 (Richmond) and Region 5 (Hampton Roads). GO Virginia has funded two of RVA757 Connects' strategic initiatives (Opportunity Study and Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan).

Discussion on RVA757 Connects Future Initiatives:

The generative part of the meeting centered on potential RVA757 Connects' initiatives for 2023 and beyond. Topics discussed included:

- Investing in talent development.
- Supporting VCCS' HIRE Virginia (www.HireVirginia.com).
- Broadening RVA757 Connects' footprint - the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Charlottesville region.
- Learning more about other megaregions and their plans like Research Triangle, East Texas, Cascadia, etc.

These topics and others will be discussed further as 2024 plans are finalized.



Adjourn:

Thomas R. Frantz, Co-Chair of RVA757 Connects, thanked everyone for their input, support, and engagement. Mr. Frantz reminded everyone:

- RVA757 Connects success is based on convening, connecting, and collaborating.
- Our work advancing the I-64 Innovation Corridor started with the Port of Virginia.
- This has now grown to digital infrastructure development.
- People want to be close to global connectors like the marine port, subsea cables, and space port.
- Greater success in the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion will lead to greater success for our Commonwealth.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.