



Document #6:

## Committee Update Reports

As of January 5, 2024

**NOTE:** Committee chairs need to schedule meetings for 2024 that feed into the executive committee and board meeting dates. Please advise staff of these dates.

### Development

- All 2023 pledges have been received except one individual pledge. Another company who has historically donated but does not sign a pledge hasn't contributed yet in 2023 (a reminder email was sent in late December). The Committee will work to secure 2024 pledges from remaining outstanding donors/companies in the next two months. Invoices will be sent out at the end of the first quarter.
- With the planned arrival of a Development Director, the Committee will work on a comprehensive plan for 2024.

### Governance & Nominations

- The Committee is looking into a possible revision of the composition of the Executive Committee for 2024 and beyond. The committee, with help from the staff, will look into a Best Practice Operations handbook (this follows the Employee Handbook that was created in 2023). Committee is considering expanding the RVA757 Connects board to include representatives from the Eastern Shore.

### Government Relations

- The new session of the General Assembly begins on Wednesday January 10. Chris Lloyd and Ross Grogg presented last month the proposed 2024 Legislative Agenda to the EC. The two of them are monitoring developments in the General Assembly. A letter, along with a digital asset map and a RVA757 Connects brochure, was mailed in late December to all members of the General Assembly (new and returning members). See below for the copy of the letter.

### Communications

- Greg Gilligan is working on topics and securing speakers for the Virtual Innovation Spotlight webinars. The RVA757 Connects three-panel brochure is being slightly revised so another print run can be done in January (we have nearly used the initial run of 1,000 brochures). A Communications Committee is being created. Part of the Committee's work will be to create a Speakers Bureau to continue to get the word out about RVA757 Connects.

Dear General Assembly member:

Congratulations on your election to the Virginia General Assembly. Thank you for your dedicated public service. We want to introduce you to the economic power of being a Global Internet Hub.

First let us explain who we are. RVA757 Connects is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the economic success and quality of life for everyone in the Richmond region (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757), an area we call the I-64 Innovation Corridor. Our group is run by top leaders representing business, community, and higher education. We are following a national model where nearby cities don't compete, but rather collaborate on initiatives that advance both regions.

Please see the enclosed brochure or visit our website ([www.rva757connects.com](http://www.rva757connects.com)) to learn more about our organization. The brochure outlines our initiatives and lists our board members.

One of our key initiatives is to make the I-64 Innovation Corridor one of the world's recognized Global Internet Hubs. This bold plan – a once-in-a-generation opportunity – will transform the economies of Virginia and of the Richmond-to-Hampton Roads megaregion.

Global Internet Hubs form the backbone of seamless global connectivity. These hubs play a vital role in facilitating the efficient exchange of internet traffic, improving network performance, and enabling the growth and development of the internet ecosystem. Cities and regions that become Global Internet Hubs realize significant advantages in job and economic growth.

Please take a look at the second enclosed brochure to more fully appreciate what a Global Internet Hub is, why it is important, and how we are becoming one. Keep folding it open and turn it over – it becomes a 3-foot by 2-foot map showcasing the digital assets in the I-64 Innovation Corridor, graphically showing that it takes both regions together to become a world class Global Internet Hub.

As discussions heat up over data centers, we hope you will keep this map top of mind to fully appreciate that the Global Internet Hub is more than just data centers. The map visually shows the comprehensive nature of our entire digital infrastructure – from subsea cables and fiber networks to data centers and internet exchange points. The narrative throughout the brochure explains why investing in digital infrastructure in the I-64 Innovation Corridor will ensure that the high-paying IT/Tech jobs of the future and the industries of tomorrow will be here. In turn, this will help attract companies and grow our megaregion's overall workforce and economic prosperity.

Here's how you can help. Learn more about this topic. Start here: [www.globalinternethub.org](http://www.globalinternethub.org). Ensure we have the right incentives in place to encourage private investments in the development of our world-class digital infrastructure. Join RVA757 Connects in signaling to the world that the I-64 Innovation Corridor is becoming a Global Internet Hub.

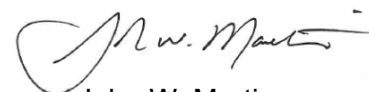
Please reach out if you have any questions or need any further information.



Theodore L. Chandler Jr.  
Co-Chairman



Thomas R. Frantz  
Co-Chairman



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