

Document #7:

Updates on Initiatives

As of January 5, 2024

Global Internet Hub:

- **Meetings:** The Council continues to meet on a monthly basis. First meeting of the year is slated for Tuesday January 9. A meeting is planned for January 12 with officials from GO Virginia and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) on potentially funding part of the initiative in the Strategic Plan. A meeting is slated for January 25 with IT directors from the City of Richmond, and Henrico, Hanover, and Chesterfield counties to begin the conversation about seeing if there is a need for a fiber ring in the Richmond region.
- **Finances:** Invoices have been sent to two Council members for funding of the Global Internet Hub Council. We are requesting financial commitments from other Council members. Discussion is underway with the Hampton Roads Community Foundation about the stipulation in the grant about having matching funds from The Community Foundation for a greater Richmond.
- **PCs for People:** PCs for People executives are still enthusiastic about adding the megaregion as a new market. We are setting up a virtual meeting with executives from Hampton Roads companies as a precursor informational gathering. PCs for People executives will visit Richmond, Williamsburg, and Hampton Roads in February for an actual site visit and to hold three meetings (one in Richmond, Williamsburg, and Hampton Roads) with potential investors.

Passenger Rail:

- A meeting is being planned for the first quarter with representatives of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and the regional planning district commissions along with the RVA757 Connects Rail Committee.

Bike/Walk Trails:

- John and Greg are making a presentation on Tuesday January 9 before the Tidewater Trails Alliance board. The plan is to really help jumpstart this initiative with that group. The president of the group indicates there is movement among board members to change the name of the trail away from the Birthplace of America Trail (BoAT). The presentation will go over reasons why the name should be changed. We also are suggesting ways that the group can become more effective organization in advancing this cause. We are following the EC-approved RVA757 Connects Trails plan.

Four Key Job-Generating Industries:

- The plan is to weave awareness of those four industry clusters into our communications. For instance, the January Virtual Innovation Spotlight webinar featured ivWatch, a life sciences company based in Newport News. We will also try to focus attention on jobs/workforce development.