

## **Global Internet Hub Strategic Plan Next Steps**



February 8, 2024

	Strategic Imperative	Lead Org.	Action Framework	Immediate Next Steps
1.	Global Internet Hub: Establish a Global Internet Hub Council	GIH Council RVA757 Connects	<ul> <li>Turn the Steering Committee into GIH Council. Council members agreed to fund 2024 activities (#2-10 below). \$119,000 has been provided to date. In 2025, the Council will evolve into more of a Digital Infrastructure Association for the corridor.</li> <li>Hired Vinay Nagpal as a consultant</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Recruit more members to the council.</li><li>Work on a value proposition for next year.</li></ul>
2.	Local Stakeholder Awareness: Through outreach and education, increase awareness, familiarity, and support among local stakeholders in the I-64 Innovation Corridor for digital infrastructure development.	GIH Council RVA757 Connects	<ul> <li>Create a presentation deck and handout (map) to explain the essence of a GIH (completed).</li> <li>Make presentations to local governments, business organizations, and other stakeholders with the plan as a handout. (Briefing Presentations made to Virginia Beach, Suffolk, and General Assembly Technology Committee, Ashland Town Council.) Plan to make presentation to the Richmond Real Estate Group.</li> <li>Appeared in articles in Virginia Business and NPR</li> <li>Long-term: explore certification program.</li> </ul>	Formulate an outreach plan for each jurisdiction.
3.	Global Investor Awareness: Increase international awareness of and familiarity with the I-64 Innovation Corridor among the global digital infrastructure community, in general, and digital infrastructure investors, in particular. Attract additional international subsea cables.	Hampton Roads Alliance Greater Richmond Partnership RVA757 Connects	<ul> <li>Maintain and update the Global Internet Hub website.</li> <li>Place an Executive Summary map of the I-64 Innovation Corridor's digital assets along with the Strategic Plan's highlights in global trade publications.</li> <li>Create a roadshow presentation about the I-64 Innovation Corridor as a GIH for state and local economic development agencies to use as appropriate.</li> <li>Identify the most important GIH international events. Determine overlap with the Alliance and GRP.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Finalize discussion map insertion into InterGlobix magazine (25K circulation x 75% US distribution).</li> <li>Discuss major digital infrastructure events with economic development partners – what we would appreciate Vinay Nagpal doing and not doing).</li> </ul>
4.	Terrestrial Networks: Support the growth of robust local internet networks and routes connecting other hub markets.	GIH Council RVA757 Connects	Have the GIH Council create a comprehensive inventory of established and planned networks. Put this annual inventory on the globalinternethub.org website.	<ul> <li>Identify and use existing resources to help create the inventory. Share with the terrestrial network industry for confirmation.</li> <li>Discuss project with DHCD.</li> </ul>
5.	Subsea Cables: Attract additional international subsea cables 5A Secure additional landing sites 5B Diversify Cable Landing Stations 5C Work on no-anchor protection zone	Virginia Beach Hampton Roads Alliance RVA757 Connects	<ul> <li>Planning and building subsea cables takes 6-8 years. Now is the time to influence the next 10-12 cables needed for the East Coast.</li> <li>Advance Virginia's shoreline as an opportunity for more subsea cable landings.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Package this opportunity in a PowerPoint deck (TeleGeography is standing by to assist).</li> <li>Approach investors and operators.</li> <li>Work with appropriate parties to accelerate the adoption of a no-anchor protection zone</li> </ul>
6.	Data Centers: Support the growth of data centers.	Hampton Roads Alliance Greater Richmond Partnership Virginia Beach Henrico County	<ul> <li>Now is the time to support data center growth given Amazon's announcement and NOVA's Issues.</li> <li>Support local and regional economic development organizations in inventorying and packaging viable data center sites in the I-64 Innovation Corridor.</li> <li>Work to repeal the 2035 sunset law for state tax incentives for data centers. This tax will game back in 2035 upless it is aliminated.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reach out to JLARC concerning its report</li> <li>Continue briefing General Assembly on prodata centers</li> <li>Work with economic development groups to finalize decision on site-ready plan and funding.</li> </ul>

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7.	IX and IXPs: Encourage the growth of IXs and IXPs – Internet Exchanges and Internet Exchange Points.	Hampton Roads Alliance RVA757 Connects	•	Hampton Roads doesn't have an IX or IXPs yet. It needs one. Possible extension from Richmond to Hampton Roads for on-ramp of DE-CIX exchange.	•	Support DE-CIX's exploration.
8.	Network Rings: Explore the potential of an I-64 Innovation Corridor network ring from Hampton Roads to Richmond. 8A Support the competition of the 757 fiber ring 8B Help the RVA region explore the need for local ring 8C Examine the potential of an I-64 Corridor Loop	Hampton Roads PDC City of Richmond RVA757 Connects		Support 757 leaders in implementing their fiber ring. Affirm their investment.  In RVA, convene local governments to consider the need for and the benefits of a Richmond fiber ring.  Explore unique community service opportunities where a ring can advance cybersecurity, healthcare, safety, and municipal governments.	٠	Continue working to explore the value of a Richmond region ring with IT leaders from Richmond region's four largest municipalities. Leaders agreed to meet again to continue the conversation – probably in April.
9.	Reliable Energy: Promote Dominion Energy's ability to provide reliable and inexpensive power and help establish a proactive collaboration between local governments and Dominion to remove potential obstacles to data center development.	Dominion Energy Entire Council		Support Dominion Energy's education of municipalities and counties on what it takes to support data centers.  We must build awareness of this topic. Share the real story of Dominion's energy capacity as the optimal place to expand data center presence in Virginia.  Work with Dominion Energy to map the most viable data center sites in the I-64 Innovation Corridor.  Support local and regional economic development organizations in inventorying and packaging viable data center sites in the I-64 Innovation Corridor (Same as #6).	•	Include Dominion Energy's latest POV and related plans in RVA757 Connects' awareness and education program targeting local governments (See Initiative #2).
10	. <b>Workforce:</b> Provide a growing tech-savvy workforce.	Hampton Roads Workforce Council  Capital Region Workforce Partnership  RVA757 Connects		During the Council's first year, work to ensure that existing talent pipeline programs – badges, certifications, and degree programs offered in workforce training, public and private schools, community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, and other educational providers – are understood by the digital infrastructure ecosystem.  Assess the needs of companies in the digital infrastructure ecosystem for both tech talent and its necessary support services. Ensure that the digital infrastructure ecosystem's talent needs are being met.	•	Work with the two leading regional workforce councils to create briefing deck for SHEV (College Presidents Council), VCCS (regions 4 and 5).  Build on the TEConomy Partners' report on Strategic Pathways for Advancing Data Sciences in Hampton Roads