

**MEDIA ADVISORY – OCTOBER 22, 2021**

**Media Advisory: Convergence 2021 Event – October 27, 2021**

Hear Leaders from Marseille, France, and Learn the Latest Insights from a Landmark Study On the Future of the Richmond-Hampton Roads Megaregion.

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**What:**

The [ChamberRVA](#) and the [Hampton Roads Chamber](#) are hosting Convergence 2021, the second annual one-day leadership forum on how [RVA757 Connects](#) is advancing the I-64 Innovation Corridor – the 8,000-square-mile Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion.

The increasing movement of goods, people, and capital between nearby metropolitan regions are creating the new competitive units in the global economy. More than 70 percent of our nation's population and jobs are aligned with 11 U.S. megaregions. Convergence 2021 will feature the transformative strategies making the I-64 Innovation Corridor a megaregion, which includes becoming a top 15 global internet hub.

**When and Where:**

This year's Convergence 2021 will be held on October 27 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Williamsburg Community Center. This is an **in-person event** and is open to all who register through ChamberRVA: <http://go.chamberrva.com/events/details/convergence-conference-2021-5704>

Media representatives will be provided an exclusive Zoom link to stream the event.

**Who:**

Convergence 2021 will bring together community, business, and higher education leaders from across the I-64 Innovation Corridor.

**Vinay Nagpal**, global internet strategist and President of InterGlobix, will share insights on the value to local residents, businesses, and the entire community in being a Global Internet Hub. Two **leaders from Marseille, France**, will share how their port city became a global internet hub in five years and offer suggestions on what the I-64 Innovation Corridor can do to accelerate its trajectory in becoming the next global internet hub.

In addition, Convergence 2021 will unveil the **latest insights from the I-64 Innovation Corridor Study** on what defines our megaregion today and its promise for tomorrow.

## MORE BELOW ON CONVERGENCE 2021 SPEAKERS

**Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.**, the new Senior Vice President & Chief of Staff of Sentara Healthcare, former Secretary of Finance and Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia, will introduce and facilitate the keynote international session featuring:

- **Vinay Nagpal**  
President, InterGlobix  
Chairman, NVTG Data Center & Cloud Community  
Executive Director & Founding Member, IEIC  
*Understanding Global Internet Hubs and the Benefits They Provide Residents, Businesses and Entire Communities*
- **Mike Hollands (From Marseille)**  
Senior Director, Market Development  
Interxion: A Digital Realty Company  
*Building a Global Internet Hub in Marseille*
- **Alexander Antonakas (From Marseille)**  
Responsible Studies, Cooperation & Partnerships  
Grand Maritime Port of Marseille  
*The importance of Public-Private Partnerships in Becoming a Global Internet Hub*

The international session will be followed by a local I-64 Innovation Corridor perspective – *what's happening here to advance our megaregion as a global internet hub*. Economic development officials from Henrico, Virginia Beach, and higher education leaders from both Virginia Commonwealth University and Old Dominion University will share how everyone is working toward global internet hub status. Regional speakers include:

- **Barbara D. Boyan, Ph.D.**  
Dean of VCU College of Engineering  
Panel Facilitator
- **Anthony Romanello**  
Executive Director  
Henrico Economic Development Authority
- **Raymond K. White**  
Business Development Coordinator  
Virginia Beach Department of Economic Development
- **Morris W. Foster**  
Vice President for Research  
Old Dominion University
- **Paul F. Rocheleau**  
Executive Director of Strategic Development  
Virginia Commonwealth University

**John W. Martin**, President and CEO of RVA757 Connects, will share key findings from the just-completed I-64 Innovation Corridor Today and Tomorrow Study. This will include insights on the market shifts shaping the future of industries and occupations in our megaregion and the future of where and how we will work.

Convergence 2021 sponsors include:



**ChamberRVA** is dedicated to building a dynamic network of businesses that are working together to create a more livable, equitable, and prosperous future for everyone who calls RVA home.

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**Hampton Roads Chamber** is the premier pro-business organization serving as an Impactful Advocate, Powerful Economic Partner, Inspiring Ignitor, and Regional Collaborator setting the conditions for businesses to succeed.

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**RVA757 Connects** is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving the economic success and quality of life for everyone in the RVA and 757 regions. We are an inclusive, mutually supportive network of leaders representing community, business, and higher education. We identify, support, and advance major opportunities, initiatives, and projects that will meaningfully benefit both Richmond and Hampton Roads for generations to come.

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