



**January 27, 2021 RVA-757 Connects' Board of Directors
& Megaregion Institutional Council (MIC)
Zoom Meeting 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

Attendees: Brian Anderson, Sherrie Armstrong, Shawn Avery, Terry Banez, Gilbert Bland, Bob Blue, Jennifer Boykin, Henry Broaddus, John Broderick, Ted Chandler, Anne Conner, Robert A. Crum, Brian Davis, Robert Duvall, Dawna Ellis, Cliff Fleet, Wilson Flohr Jr., Moses Foster, Tom Frantz, Robbyn Gayer, Ross Grogg, Kasia Grzelkowski, Mitch Hadden, Renee Haltom, Martha Heeter, Bob Holsworth, Brad Hulse, Martin A. Joseph, Howard Kern, Sarah Jane Kirkland, John R. Lawson, Peggy Layne, Harry Lester, Chris Lloyd, John Luke, John Martin, Bob McKenna, J.D. Myers, Kevin Page, John Reinhart, Bernard Robinson Sr., Brian Rountree, Doug Smith, Jim Spore, Bryan K. Stephens, My Lan Tran, Jim Ukrop, John "Dubby" Wynne

Welcome and Meeting Goals

Tom Frantz welcomed everyone and gave a general overview of RVA-757 Connects' mission, performance measures, journey to date, meeting goals, and agenda.

RVA-757 Connects - Now More Than Ever

John Martin presented an overview of megaregions and the opportunity presented by the COVID-19 trend related to the growth of remote workers. In addition, Mr. Martin shared how innovation corridors are emerging as one of the next battle grounds for economic development, pointing to two nearby examples - the Washington-Baltimore region and central North Carolina region.

Our Work and Our Resources

Mr. Martin shared RVA-757 Connects' top priorities for 2021 and beyond:

Short-Term Priorities (2021):

- Run our 501c3
- Advance the "I-64 Innovation Corridor" positioning
- Implement the GO Virginia Talent Pipeline Study
- Showcase and support our members' initiatives (for example offshore wind industry)
- Accelerate the understanding of digital connections
- Increase R&D collaboration

Long-Term Priorities:

- Support the completion of the Virginia Capital Trail
- Remove barriers to increase passenger rail service
- Advocate for I-64 widening (29-mile gap from RIC to Williamsburg)

Attendees were informed that these priorities would be discussed in the second half of this meeting (breakout sessions) and would be included on a follow-up survey. The goal is to ensure the full Board and Megaregion Institutional Council (MIC) support RVA-757 Connects' priorities.

Marketing Communications

John Martin and Moses Foster reviewed the RVA-757 Connects' Communications Plan, including the new I-64 Innovation Corridor positioning, logo, branding assets, and the preliminary direction of RVA-757 Connects' new website.

GoVirginia Grant Overview

John Martin shared highlights of the GoVirginia grant, deliverables, Research Council composition, and project schedule.

Board & MIC Recruitment Update

Ted Chandler shared the strategy in recruiting the next wave of board members to include greater diversity and the next generation of top leaders. Mr. Chandler also reinforced the role and power of the MIC and the need for organizations to financially support RVA-757 Connects.

Where We Are Headed – Small Group Breakout Sessions

All members were moved into small breakout session groups for 45 minutes to discuss the following questions:

1. What's the headline you hope to see about RVA-757 Connects in a Virginia Business January 2030 cover story on our organization?
2. List the greatest strengths and weaknesses of the RVA-757 Connects. (Internal – related to the organization's operations, leadership, structure, members, finances, etc.)
3. What are the greatest opportunities and threats facing the RVA-757 Connects? (External – related to the environment in which we operate, stakeholders, etc.)
4. Help us prioritize the 2021 initiatives discussed today.
5. Finally, is there one RVA-757 Connects' initiative that you would like to actively support?

Members provided directional input for RVA-757 Connects' future. An Executive Committee member led each breakout session. Highlights of these sessions will be shared with all RVA-757 Connects' Board of Directors and MIC members.

Meeting Wrap-up

Tom Frantz closed the meeting with a brief recap of the organization and its promise. Tom informed everyone that a meeting survey will be sent out to gather people's input on the meeting's success as well as to collect final input on RVA-757 Connects' priorities. Mr. Frantz ended his remarks by sharing his genuine appreciation for everyone's time and support of RVA-757 Connects.