



**Document #4**  
**Board/MIC Meeting Minutes – Part A**  
**June 28, 2022: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Virtual via Zoom**

**Call to Order**

Theodore L. Chandler, Jr., Co-chair, called the June 28, 2022 Board of Directors / Megaregion Institutional Council (MIC) meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Mr. Chandler reminded the group that RVA757 Connects is on a long-term journey, one where we have made a great deal of short-term progress. The Board/MIC can remain engaged by utilizing the Documents Portal to view items such as the March 2022 Board/MIC Meeting Minutes, 2021 Tax Filing, and Monthly 2022 Financial Update Reports.

Mr. Chandler welcomed Nancy Grden, the new President and CEO of Reinvent Hampton Roads, to the Executive Committee. Jim Spore is newly retired from his position at Reinvent Hampton Roads, but he has graciously agreed to continue to serve on RVA757 Connects' Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has been expanded to 12 positions.

Board resolutions were presented honoring two key leaders who inspired the I-64 Innovation Corridor: James E. Ukrop and Dr. Eugene P. Trani. The Board/MIC unanimously approved both resolutions. The resolutions will be posted in the Documents Portal. Mr. Ukrop and Dr. Trani thanked the Board of Directors.

**Updates on RVA757 Connects**

John W. Martin, President & CEO of RVA757 Connects, provided operational updates including a review of the organizational structure, 2022 priorities, and communications updates.

Communications updates include: The next Innovation Spotlight on August 2 will feature Greenswell Growers – Hydroponic Farming in Goochland County. The I-64 Innovation Corridor Opportunity Study Executive Summary Report will be mailed out to Virginia's federal delegation, General Assembly members, Governor's office, Secretaries, Virginia state agency heads, and stakeholders of RVA757 Connects. The database is nearly to 2,000 individuals, well on our way toward the 5,000-person goal for 2022.

**I-64 Gap Project**

Ross Grogg, co-chair of RVA757 Connects' Government Relations Committee, provided an update on the I-64 Gap Project, one of RVA757 Connects' priorities.

RVA757 Connects has been advocating for the widening of the 29-mile gap on I-64 from the Bottoms Bridge to Lightfoot exits. The project would cost an estimated \$750 million to expand this section to three lanes. Prior to 2022, there was no funding allocated to this priority.

State lawmakers approved a state budget, which Governor Glenn Youngkin signed into law on June 22, calling for a commitment of up to \$470 million in state funds for the project:

- \$210 million in the current fiscal year that ends June 30;
- \$110 million in fiscal year 2024; and
- \$150 million in fiscal year 2023 if there is a revenue surplus from the current fiscal year.

In addition to the funding from the General Assembly, the Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CVTA) approved \$100 million to be used in a future year to go toward the I-64 construction, and VDOT has applied for a \$150 million federal grant which is expected to be awarded (amount TBD) in late summer or early fall.



There is a potential for this entire project to be funded. Other plausible sources of funding include Smart Scale and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC).

This initiative has become a model for RVA757 Connects:

- 1) The Board of Directors voted in late 2020 to make the I-64 Gap Project a priority.
- 2) RVA757 Connects identified key benefits and pathways of closing the 29-mile I-64 gap.
- 3) RVA757 Connects went on record advocating for the I-64 Gap Project by creating a white paper and sending a letter to Secretary Valentine, who responded in support of our efforts. Our organization also briefed candidates during their campaigns for office.
- 4) RVA757 Connects crafted Op Eds for public awareness.
- 5) RVA757 Connects sent letters of support to General Assembly members.
- 6) RVA757 Connects provided support and endorsement for VDOT's federal grant application.
- 7) RVA757 Connects solicited letters of support for VDOT's grant.

The success of this outreach is due to the active engagement of the RVA757 Connects Board of Directors and MIC.

### **Global Internet Hub**

John W. Martin reviewed the key components of becoming a Global Internet Hub (GIH) and the benefits for the I-64 Innovation Corridor. Pursuing this international recognition (GIH) is not for the designation itself but rather for what an advanced digital infrastructure will mean for our businesses, communities, and future economic development potential.

Mr. Martin continued to provide an update on this priority focus area creating a strategic plan to become a Global Internet Hub. Next steps:

1. Establish a Steering Committee.
2. Conduct a Comprehensive Situation Review and Identify Strategic Action Plans.
3. Hire Top International Consultants to Help Formulate Key Action Plans.
4. Bring All Action Plans Together in a Comprehensive Implementation Plan.
5. Through every step, grow awareness, advance support, and increase engagement in becoming a Global Internet Hub.

Mr. Martin reported that GO Virginia has awarded a planning grant for this effort.

### **Member Initiative: Virginia Natural Gas Pipeline Improvement Update**

Morgan Whayland, Director of Government Affairs for Virginia Natural Gas, provided an update on the progress of the Virginia Natural Gas Pipeline Improvement Plan. Virginia Natural Gas is a local distribution company with 310,000 customers, including major military installations and significant employers – Newport News Shipbuilding (aircraft carriers and subs), WestRock, Purina, Port of Virginia, and the Oceanfront resort area in Virginia Beach.

The service territory of Virginia Natural Gas sits at the end of two interstate natural gas pipelines which are operating at capacity and are fully subscribed. Virginia Natural Gas has entered into an agreement with Williams' Transco Gas for the Commonwealth Energy Connector project and TC Energy's Columbia Gas Transmission for the Virginia Reliability Project that together will provide needed additional capacity for the region. The project is expected to be primarily an enhancement of the region's existing natural gas infrastructure. This project will address the need for additional capacity in the region to meet the organic growth demand as well as major, new development opportunities in the area.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) certificate is expected to be filed in August 2022 by both Williams and TC Energy. Continued support is crucial as regulatory needs continue to be met.

Contact information for follow up questions: [mawhayla@southernco.com](mailto:mawhayla@southernco.com) and 757-319-2350.



### **Convergence 2022 Interregional Bus Tour**

Brian Anderson and Bryan Stephens provided a planning update for Convergence 2022.

The general overview of the October 13-14, 2022 event includes:

- **October 13:** 7 a.m. RVA delegation rides bus to Hampton Roads. Meets the 757 delegation. Tour begins in Hampton Roads.
- **Evening:** Late afternoon, the bus takes both delegations to Williamsburg. Overnight stay with social, program, and dinner. Governor Youngkin has been invited to speak as keynote.
- **October 14:** Tour continues in the morning around Richmond. In the afternoon, the 757 delegation returns to Hampton Roads by 5 p.m.

A more detailed agenda will be finalized in August.

Pricing includes the following:

- Ticket Cost: \$125 per person
  - Covers Food + Transportation
- Rooms at Williamsburg Lodge on Reserve: \$265 + taxes

It was suggested to include new companies and young, and emerging leaders. Sponsorships will be extended to fund the inclusion of young leaders. A sponsorship sheet will be sent out to the Board/MIC.

### **Megaregion Institutional Council (MIC) Update**

Brian Anderson and Bryan Stephens provided updates from the MIC's June 10 meeting. This included:

1. Priorities Related to Future Planning
  - A general update and discussion were held on RVA757 Connects' 2022 priorities.
  - The MIC members agreed RVA757 Connects continues to be on track – focused on the right initiatives and is making incredible progress.
2. Identify New Areas That Would Benefit from RVA757 Connects' Support

During a robust discussion, several new considerations surfaced and were supported by the group. These included:

  - Continue to reinforce RVA757 Connects' Why and How.
  - Make sure we prioritize our initiatives.
  - Promote how Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is being advanced through our initiatives.
  - Educate the full Board/MIC on current economic development collaboration.
  - Start the discussion on long range planning.
  - Create RVA757 Connects' position papers.
3. MIC's Overall Next Steps

The group recapped the MIC's next organizational planning steps:

  - Meeting minutes will be sent to the full MIC to keep everyone updated.
  - Contact MIC members who did not attend this meeting to ask for their support at the next meeting.
  - Share highlights of the MIC meeting with the Board/MIC on June 28.
  - Share concept of preparing topical white papers that tie into our future legislative agenda with the RVA757 Connects' Executive Committee and Government Relations Committee.
  - Hold next MIC meeting prior to RVA/757 Connects' September 20 Board meeting.



### **What's Ahead: The Future of Megaregions and the I-64 Innovation Corridor**

John W. Martin led a group discussion on the future of megaregions and the I-64 Innovation Corridor. Details are included in *Attachment B: Future of RVA757 Connects*.

Referenced in this conversation is the I-64 Innovation Corridor Opportunity Study, which is available on RVA757 Connects' website: <https://www.rva757connects.com/>.

### **Thank you and Wrap Up**

Thomas R. Frantz, Co-Chair of RVA757 Connects, provided closing comments on what RVA757 Connects is all about – Connections, Collaboration, Innovation, and Growth. Mr. Frantz thanked everyone for their continual support and asked everyone to have these key dates on their calendars:

1. **Remaining 2022 Board/MIC Meetings in Williamsburg**
  - September 20: 10-12 a.m.
  - December 13: 10-12 a.m.
2. **Convergence 2022: Interregional Bus Trip with Overnight in Williamsburg**
  - Thursday, October 13 - Friday October 14
3. **Innovation Spotlights via Zoom**
  - First Tuesday of every month – 12 to 1 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.