

Subject: Community Advisory Committee Meeting #2 General meeting and group discussion notes	
Client: Hampton Roads Transit	HRT Doc. Control No. DR-009-49947-PLO11
Project: Virginia Beach Transit Extension Study	Project No: 111287.003
Meeting Date: June 24, 2009	Meeting Location: VB Economic Development Boardroom
Notes by: Delceno Miles - The Miles Agency	

**Attendees:**

Refer to attached attendee sign-in sheets

**Topics Discussed:**

See Attached Agenda

**Action/Notes:**

1. Councilman Jim Wood welcomed all.
2. Oscar Gonzalez and Eric Nelson, both of HDR Engineering, Inc., shared a Power Point presentation providing an update and status on the Virginia Beach Transit Extension Study. They addressed general questions about project terminology, the marketing of the public meeting coming up on June 30<sup>th</sup>, Station Areas, Vehicle Storage Maintenance Facility (VSMF) issues and East of Birdneck Alternatives.
3. It was suggested that the June 30<sup>th</sup> public meeting notice be posted on the city's cable access station – VBTV. HRT will check on this.
4. It was also suggested that the meeting time for the next CAC meeting be earlier in the day. HRT will speak with CAC members to determine the majority's preference when scheduling the next meeting.
5. Group discussions followed the presentation. Those notes follow this section.
6. Following the group discussions, Councilman Wood thanked everyone for coming.

## **Group Discussion Summary Notes**

### **Group #1**

#### **Birdneck and East of Birdneck**

- Birdneck approved for 45 mph
- LRT, on Birdneck will cause community impacts
- Concern about children's safety in this area
- What will the train speed be on Birdneck?
- Employee parking facility for residents or tourists?

- Work with Oceanfront hotels – easy flow from Birdneck to Oceanfront
- Norfolk Avenue has less traffic for rail
- Not for pushing people out of homes
- Potential hotel at Convention Center
- Look at 19<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and what is going on there
- Why can't hotel there be upgraded to Convention Hotel?
- 17<sup>th</sup> to be redeveloped – be aware of city plans
- Employee/visitor parking (safe place). Law Enforcement Training Center – then access to station
- Issues with parking in neighborhoods around Oceanfront
- Commuter friendly into Oceanfront
- Blue line (East of Birdneck Option B-1) may be best option

### **Lynnhaven**

- How far would the structure be elevated in feet and length?
- Problems with getting out of neighborhood

### **Town Center**

- Constitution/Independence grade separation
- How to get across 3 streets and still make people feel it is a neighborhood

### **General**

- What kind of stops?
- Go through at grade parking at Town Center and have station

## **Group #2**

### **Birdneck/East of Birdneck Alternatives**

- Speed limit through neighborhoods
- VDOT approved 45 mph on Birdneck
- Should not be high speed in community pockets (Seatack)
- Members of Rehoboth Baptist cannot turn left going South on Birdneck Road to enter their church
- Option B1 would better serve Seatack – less encroachment on residents, retail and churches (Rehoboth Baptist & St. Stephen's Church of God in Christ)
- Already have congestion problems on Birdneck
- Parking and traffic from Dome site
- Redevelop 17<sup>th</sup> Street and mobile home park
- Rail line(East of Birdneck Option A-1) should help people get to work particularly those who are poor
- Need to review BRT vs. LRT (how much turning space is needed for BRT and the fuel – gas vs. electric regarding air quality)
- There must be a North – South feeder
- How will LRT impact and create opportunities for jobs? Will residents impacted by LRT and where the train runs through benefit much from it?