

Round 1 Public Engagement REPORT MEMORANDUM June - October 2023

Summary of Public Engagement Activities January 30, 2024



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Round 1 – June to October 2023 Study Kick-Off Public Engagement Summary

Project Overview

Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) is exploring high-capacity transit options that enhance the City of Chesapeake's economy, align with future growth plans and improve connectivity to the regional transportation network.

Connecting Chesapeake: A Study of High-Capacity Transit will evaluate the need for high-capacity transit service and determine the best alternative that improves connections within Chesapeake and to the greater Hampton Roads area, as well as supports the City's economy and growth plans.

Public Engagement Summary

Project Briefing to City Council

Sherri Dawson, HRT's Director of Transit development, presented to the Chesapeake City Council on June 27, 2024. The briefing provided City Council with a high-level understanding of the project and upcoming public involvement outreach.

Project Kick-Off with City of Chesapeake, Chesapeake Economic Development, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

HRT hosted a study planning workshop with the representatives from the City of Chesapeake, Chesapeake Economic Development, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) on July 10, 2023. The objective of the project workshop was to familiarize participants with the study and foster collaboration on ideas for transit-oriented development that aligns with both existing and future development plans in the City. Through a combination of mapping activities and open discussions, the City of Chesapeake communicated details about current and upcoming noteworthy city projects, plans, and initiatives. Additionally, they provided deeper insights into the present and future landscape of the City of Chesapeake. Participants also collaborated on a public involvement plan. The City of Chesapeake was represented with members for the following departments: Parks, Recreation and Tourism, Community Development, Planning, Public Works, Traffic and Communications.

Public Meetings and Pop-Up Event

HRT kicked-off public engagement by hosting two open house style public meetings and a pop-up event to introduce the study to the Chesapeake and Hampton Roads communities and gather public input and feedback.

Locations were within the study area and accessible to an HRT bus stop.

Public Meeting and Pop-Up Event Locations

Public Meeting	Pop-Up Event	Public Meeting
Hyatt Place	Robert Hall Transfer Center	South Norfolk Memorial Library
Chesapeake/Greenbrier	Robert Hall & Military Highway	801 Poindexter Street
709 Eden Way N	Wednesday, Oct. 18	Thursday, Oct. 19
Tuesday, Oct. 17	2-4 p.m.	4-6 p.m.
5-7 p.m.		

Gathering Public Input

The public meetings and pop-up event provided three opportunities for the public to share their input through the following:

- Display Board Comments: Post-It Notes associated with Display Board Topics
- General Comments
- Paper Survey
- Email

Public Input and Community Engagement Report Overview

The following report provides a detailed summary of public input through comments and survey responses, as well as the strategies, tactics and communications material utilized for public outreach and community engagement.

Public Engagement Reach Summary

Public Meeting Attendees: 120

October 17 – Hyatt Place Public Meeting: 32

October 18 - Robert Hall Pop-Up Event: 50-60, 24 (signed in)

October 19 - South Norfolk Library: 28

Public Meeting Display Board Comments - Post-It Notes: 57

October 17 - Hyatt Place Public Meeting: 34

October 19 - South Norfolk Library: 14

General Comments: 9

Completed Surveys: 79

October 17 – Hyatt Place Public Meeting: 14 + 1 additional general comment (suggested alignment map)

October 18 – Robert Hall Pop-Up Event: 30 October 19 – South Norfolk Library: 25

October 15 – South Norion En

Additional: 10

Emailed comment: 1

Website Engagement

- Visits 1,430
- Unique Visitors 1,335
- Page Views 1,871
- Email Signups: 28

Website Traffic Sources

- Social (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram) 708
- Direct 567
- Referral 136
- Search 13

Flyer and Door Hanger Door-to-Door Distribution: 6,300

- Neighborhoods and local Churches: 5,200
- Businesses, retail, hotels, office space, restaurants: 600
- HRT Distribution (HRT Staff and Denise Johnson, HRT Transit Rider Advisory Committee (TRAC)
 Chair): 400
- City of Chesapeake Distribution: 100
 (Libraries, Community Centers, Events and Meetings)

Paid Social Media

- 1,289 Link Clicks
- 27,405 Reach
- 48,630 Impressions

Targeted Outreach

HRT Community Connector Email

Community Calendars

City of Chesapeake Website

City of Chesapeake Employee Internal Email Newsletter

The Virginian-Pilot Clipper Ad (Sunday paper)

News Media Coverage

- WHRO Public Media
- WAVY TV 10
- WHRO Another View Radio (Barbara Hamm Lee) (Meeting Announcement)
- WTKR News Channel 3
- WVEC 13 News Now
- The Virginian-Pilot

Public Meetings and Pop-Up Event – Format and Materials

Public Meetings

Two open house style public meetings were held with opportunities for engagement and feedback with the project team and other attendees.

Stations and Display Boards included the following:

- Study Schedule
- Overview and Study Process
- Modes of High-Capacity Transit
- Existing Roadway Network
- Existing Transit Network
- Preliminary Study Goals
- Study Area Map

Participants were encouraged to visit each station and provide feedback throughout the evening with various opportunities to engage by answering questions and providing comments on the following topics:

- How does the current network perform?
- How do you utilize the network? Does it work for you?
- What do you think about the study goals? Are we missing anything?

Pop-Up Event

The pop-up event was held at the Robert Hall Transfer Center, HRT's top bus transfer center in the City of Chesapeake. The pop-up event featured a scaled down version of the public meeting boards and materials, while providing an opportunity to gather feedback via a survey or comment form and interact with the project team.

The pop-up event was attended by members of the general public, transit riders, bus operators and supervisors, and other HRT staff.

Public Meeting and Pop-Up Event Display Boards

Public meeting and pop-up display boards are posted on the study website here: Connecting Chesapeake Fall Meeting Boards

Public Meeting and Pop-Up Event Survey

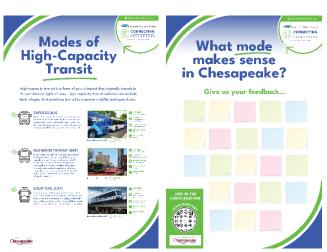
Attendees were also encouraged to complete a short survey related to transportation usage (how often, travel destinations), how they heard about the event and what motivated them to join the conversation.

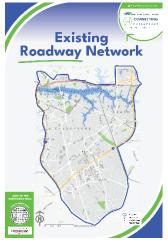
Public Meeting Display Boards

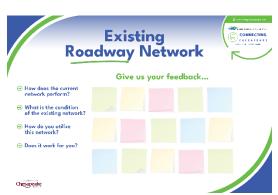


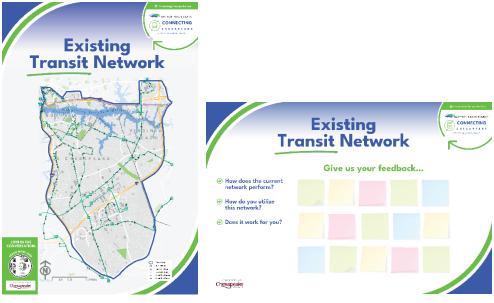














Public Meeting 1: October 17, 2023 - Hyatt Place Greenbrier/Chesapeake













HRT Connecting Chesapeake Fall 2023 Public Meetings and Pop-Up Report

Pop-Up Event: October 18, 2023 – Robert Hall Transfer Center













Public Meeting #2: October 17, 2023 – South Norfolk Library













Public Comments and Survey Summary

Display Board Comments

Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback throughout the meeting on the existing roadway network, existing transit network, study goals, or general feedback, by writing their comments on the post-it note boards.

57 comments were gathered between the two public meetings and pop-up event.

Regarding the existing roadway network, attendees noted heavy congestion (particularly in the Greenbrier and Battlefield areas), as well as lack of sidewalks, walking paths, and crosswalks.

Attendees indicated inefficiencies in the current transit network such as the length of time for trips, lack of amenities (bus shelters), bus stop accessibility issues (distance from desired location, ease of getting to bus stop, etc.) Attendees also commented with suggestions to improve the current (bus) transit service such as new hub in Greenbrier area, expand service to Centerville/Elbow, Hickory and Chesapeake City Park (among others).

A full list of comments can be found in the attached Appendix A: Display Board Public Comments

General Comments

Attendees were also able to leave general comments on a comment sheet.

9 General Comments were received at the Robert Hall Transfer Center pop-up.

Comments were primarily related to existing bus services. Examples included suggested additional bus stops, routes, better access for handicap and expansion of service times/hours. One attendee also indicated the need for light rail expansion.

Additionally, one comment was emailed directly to the project team.

A full list of comments can be found in the attached Appendix B: General Comments

Appendix A: Display Board Public Comments

Display Board Comments: Existing Roadway Network

Count	Comment Topic	Meeting	Comment
_		Location	
1	How does the current	Hyatt	
	network perform?	Place	Too Congested, time consuming travel, lots of place of interest
2	How does the current	Hyatt	
	network perform?	Place	The current roadway doesn't take into account pedestrians/ cyclists
3	What is the condition of	Hyatt	Short green lights congested on Greenbrier Pkwy and Military Hwy congested. Does Not Work!
4	the existing network? What is the condition of	Place Hyatt	congested. Does Not Work!
7	the existing network?	Place	A lot of traffic near the mall
6	What is the condition of	Hyatt	A tot of trume fledr the mail
Ū	the existing network?	Place	Too Congested
7	What is the condition of	Hyatt	100 0011600100
	the existing network?	Place	Deteriorating
8	What is the condition of	Hyatt	Roads are long, straight with little to no sidewalk coverage or safe cross
	the existing network?	Place	walks
9	What is the condition of	South	
	the existing network?	Norfolk	Greenbrier during rush hour and holidays
10	How do you utilize this	Hyatt	
	network?	Place	Drive
11	Does it work for you?	Hyatt	Too much traffic, overbuilt, no right turn lanes. Traffic lights aren't
		Place	synchronized.
12	Does it work for you?	Hyatt	
40		Place	No
13	Does it work for you?	Hyatt Place	Drivers are not mindful of nedestrians either!
14	General Existing Roadway	Hyatt	Drivers are not mindful of pedestrians either!
14	Network Comment	Place	
	Network comment	11000	Need work
15	General Existing Roadway	Hyatt	Sync the Traffic lights along Battlefield Blvd focusing on N. Battlefield
	Network Comment	Place	Oak Grove Road to Military Hwy and Campostella.
16	General Existing Roadway	South	
	Network Comment	Norfolk	Avoid military Hwy specifically around the dealership and K-mart
17	General Existing Roadway	South	
	Network Comment	Norfolk	Military Hwy transfer location
18	General Existing Roadway	South	Sidewalks should be added Campostella Road headed to Portlock Rd
	Network Comment	Norfolk	Dirt path starts at the right side of daily needs going toward Food Lion.
19	General Existing Roadway	South	(Indian Divan) and Kananavilla
20	Network Comment	Norfolk	(Indian River) and Kempsville
20	General Existing Roadway Network Comment	South Norfolk	Good idea would be to avoid Train tracks
21	General Existing Roadway	South	Good idea would be to avoid Train tracks Battlefield Blvd is already bad enough. Oh No!!! I can see Greenbrier
21	Network Comment	Norfolk	Pkwy and Military Hwy as streets where I would absolutely take.
22	General Existing Roadway	South	Light Rail down median at Battlefield median, elevated, with hub at
	Network Comment	Norfolk	Robert Hall spur going down Greenbrier
23	General Existing Roadway	South	
	Network Comment	Norfolk	Focus on Greenbrier for travel as destination point.
			I am a management of the manag

Display Board Comments: Existing Transit Network

Count	Comment Topic	Meeting	Comment
		Location	
24	How does the current	Hyatt	The LR works great but doesn't go very far. Buses take a really long time
	network perform?	Place	because they go too far
25	How does the current	Hyatt	
	network perform?	Place	The current network does not work
26	How does the current	Hyatt	
	network perform?	Place	Doesn't. Too Slow
27	How does the current	Hyatt	
	network perform?	Place	Too Slow, Not Walkable, Lack of Amenities (bus shelters, etc.)
28	How does the current	South	
	network perform?	Norfolk	Transit stop only through Bainbridge only, no transfer
29	How do you utilize this	Hyatt	
	network?	Place	Have to drive to get to bus
30	Does it work for you?	Hyatt	People often Complain about length of trip on HRT for relatively short
		Place	distances because not a direct route.
31	Does it work for you?	Hyatt	
		Place	No
32	General Existing Transit	Hyatt	
	Network Comment	Place	Need a new HRT hub in Greenbrier area. (Mall or Robert Hall).
33	General Existing Transit	Hyatt	, ,
	Network Comment	Place	
			Buses should not serve Summit Point
34	General Existing Transit	Hyatt	Express(max)
	Network Comment	Place	Time Points in this order
			1. seaboard and liberty
			2.Harbor Park
			3.Norfolk state
			4.Military Circle
			5.Indian River
			Omit Robert Hall and Summit Point.
			Move Transfer Location to Greenbrier Mall.
			Maybe difficult to run LR
35	General Existing Transit	Hyatt	There is no Transit line where I live. It would be nice to have it in the
	Network Comment	Place	Centerville/Elbow Road area. Or at the way least sidewalks and bike
			paths.
36	General Existing Transit	Hyatt	It would be great to connect the bus lines from Chesapeake Regional
	Network Comment	Place	medical Center and Chesapeake City Park to Virginia Beach, Hickory, and
			Norfolk International Airport. Just a Suggestion. P.S.: By Hickory,
			Carmichael Way Shopping Center
37	General Existing Transit	Hyatt	
	Network Comment	Place	Light Rail to Military circle by the way of Military Highway to Greenbrier
			Parkway to Kempsville and I-464

Display Board Comments: Modes of Transportation

Count	Comment Topic	Comment	Comment		
	·	Location			
38	What mode makes sense	Hyatt			
	in Chesapeake?	Place	Light Rail for quick travel to Ocean Front		
39	What mode makes sense	Hyatt			
	in Chesapeake?	Place	No light rail, no electric vehicles ever, only diesel. Too unreliable.		
40	What mode makes sense	Hyatt			
	in Chesapeake?	Place	BRT or LRT		
41	What mode makes sense	Hyatt			
	in Chesapeake?	Place	Light Rail or BRT		
42	What mode makes sense	Hyatt			
	in Chesapeake?	Place	Light Rail and Express Bus		
43	What mode makes sense	Hyatt			
	in Chesapeake?	Place	Personal car and Bus		
44	What mode makes sense	Hyatt	Light Rail/ better bus system (one with fewer stops)		
	in Chesapeake?	Place	PC works best right now because our roadways are unaccommodating.		
45	What mode makes sense	South			
	in Chesapeake?	Norfolk	LRT is very popular. Gives you more of a (illegible)		
46	What mode makes sense	South			
	in Chesapeake?	Norfolk	Light rail as a junction for [the] Region Existing interstate network		
47	What mode makes sense	South	Route 13- military circle - So I feel like they should wait an extra 2 min or		
	in Chesapeake?	Norfolk	1 min at bus stops for those that are disabled or unable to reach the bus		
			on time. They should help out the cripple if they are struggling be there		
			be seniors aren't able to function that struggle getting their items on the		
			bus		
48	What mode makes sense	South			
	in Chesapeake?	Norfolk	Chesapeake should have light rail to integrate into Norfolk's system.		

Display Board Comments: Tell Us Your Thoughts!

Count	Comment Topic	Comment	Comment
		Location	
49	What do you think about	Hyatt	
	the study goals?	Place	Add a stop by Woodlake and past railroad tracks at Greenbrier.
50	What do you think about	Hyatt	For seniors, disabled, small kids with parents, not usable. Area is family
	the study goals?	Place	oriented. Have to drive to get to pick-up points. Nothing to shopping
			areas, mall is dead, nothing to city hall. Nothing to VB. Light rail is
			unaffordable. Not used in Norfolk, Better used for money.
51	What do you think about	Hyatt	I think that a Rapid Transit bus from Greenbrier area to the light rail or
	the study goals?	Place	even the Naval Base.
52	What do you think about	Hyatt	Public Transportation isn't just a need to reduce car usage by the
	the study goals?	Place	individual (and create a greener future. It's also a need for those who
			experience house lessness and need a means to get to job interviews,
			doctors appointments, family members, etc. We owe it to our
			community to bring this to our roads for a better Chesapeake.
53	What do you think about	South	
	the study goals?	Norfolk	Study should focus on Frequency as well as capacity.
54	Are we missing anything?	Hyatt	High Capacity Transit requires greater walkability. Local Infrastructure
		Place	needs to be upgraded and additional amenities planned for along side
			this.
55	Are we missing anything?	South	Western Branch, South Norfolk, Greenbrier/Great Bridge, Kempsville,
		Norfolk	Moyock
56	Are we missing anything?	South	
		Norfolk	Permanent placement of bike repair stations at the larger stops.
57	General Comment	Hyatt	
		Place	Multi-long-wage. Inclusiveness is importantln.

Appendix B: General Comments

Count	Comment Topic	Comment	Comment
		Location	
1	General	Robert	
		Hall	
		Transfer	
		Center	Add a stop by Woodlake and past railroad tracks at Greenbrier
2	General	Robert	I think that the city of Chesapeake would benefit more if they had the
		Hall	light rail through the city, mainly services in the high traffic areas such as
		Transfer	the Greenbrier and Battlefield areas. Buses should run later in
		Center	Chesapeake.
3	General	Robert	Transit needs to go to where people want to go not just where they
		Hall	need to go. Why can't we get to a YMCA with a pool by bus? Why can't I
		Transfer	go to a class in Norfolk and get home by transit? The last bus 13 to
		Center	Greenbrier leaves before 5:30pm. Really? I have used transit in other
_			cities and we can do so much better. How about to the airport?
4	General	Robert	The area needs more service, especially for those without other
		Hall	transportation. Especially light rail. Light Rail service doesn't go far
		Transfer	enough! Was in military and have been to many places that had easier
		Center	service- California, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Japan, etc. would be
			easier to get more facilities - parks, attractions, beaches that are available around here.
5	General	Robert	available around here.
5	General	Hall	
		Transfer	Buses to run 24/7
		Center	Buses to full 24/7
6	General	Robert	
U	General	Hall	
		Transfer	Better access for handicapped- Wheel chair needs more room to
		Center	navigate.
7	General	Robert	Replace the (14) HRT on the line with the (24) HRT. The bus connection
•	General	Hall	to the (15) at Robert hall, which is usually missed because of the timing
		Transfer	of arrival. How about half hour trip from 7-3 then 1 hour afterfor the
		Center	(24).
8	General	Robert	
		Hall	
		Transfer	
		Center	The 58 on Cahoon Pkwy needs 2 bus stops.
9	General	Robert	,
		Hall	
		Transfer	We need the cut back bus back. We need the buses that suppose to
		Center	connect be on time. It can be a hour before the next bus.
10	General	Email	Personally, I always felt and believed the following for existing routes:
			I know there were COVID related impacts but hopefully, as some
			agencies have been doing as able, increasing service does bring increase
			in ridership, and I'm hopeful it happens here.
			1. We need a commuter rail points south, west and north of the area
			(Emporia, Franklin, Richmond, NC)
			2. The 14 needs to run on Sundays.
			3. The 14 and 58 both need to run later, maybe until at least 8 or 9 pm
			Monday-Saturday.
			4. The 15 needs to serve Robert Hall earlier on Sundays.
			5. The 6 and 13 need to serve Robert Hall on Sundays
			6. The 57 could use one more evening trip.
			7. The 922 could really benefit from a stop at the Military Hwy station
			because there is a kiss and

ride as well as parking there and it could influence more people to also take the light rail.

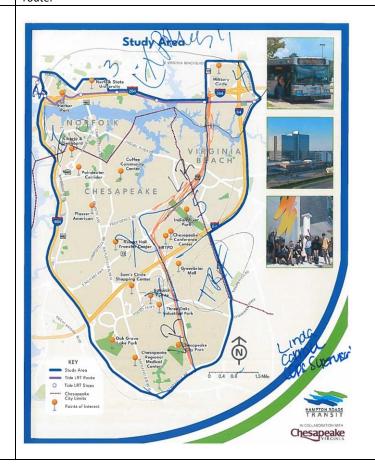
BRT

This is a very good idea and I would be supportive, as I have heard it be discussed. It should start in the West Greenbrier area (there are some professional offices behind the Lowes and Home Depot off of Battlefield. It could also benefit the hospital and other places if it served part of that area) then go up to the Naval base via the light rail stop and the airport. The CHKD off of Oak Grove in Chesapeake always has needed service, at least to some extent. Microtransit would be a good way to fill in many gaps, as long as it ran at least identical hours to the next closest bus route.

There should be an express or limited style bus from Greenbrier area to Norfolk also (perhaps via 464) even if it ran just hourly it can help get people who work in either location to and from their jobs.

BRT could also work in other locations and I am happy you are exploring some of them, and also I'm aware that there has been some talk of WATA (Williamsburg) operating a bus to Yorktown. I hope you can encourage them to make a connection with HRT with that route

11 General Alignment Map Hyatt Place



Public Meeting Survey Results

79 Survey Responses

Summary

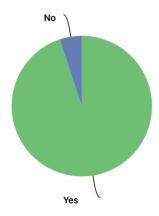
A total of 79 attendees completed the survey, with a majority being transit users who felt improvements are needed to transit service in Chesapeake. Greenbrier, South Norfolk, and Downtown Norfolk were the top three locations respondents visited on a daily basis, with Summit Pointe and Naval Station Norfolk being the least frequented locations. 97% of respondents had ridden some form of high-capacity transit. When asked, "What motivated you to join the conversation on high-capacity transit?", respondents indicated better transit services are needed in Chesapeake, less use of cars and less road congestion. Respondents also answered this question with responses such as: flyer, Ms. Denise (HRT TRAC), and happened to be in the area of the meeting.

More than 50% of respondents heard about the meeting through a flyer, followed by social media and HRT website. The majority of respondents indicated they were non-Hispanic, black or African American and ages of respondents varied.

		October		SURVEY c Meeting		p Event	'		Converse
	Itimodal transp	ortation s	ystem that	can meet	the needs of	vide a comprehensive your community today and ortation needs for the city.			CONNECTING CHESAPEAKE ACTURY OF HIGH GRAPH OF TEMBER
1.	Do you fee O Yes O No	l improver	ments are	needed to	transit service	in Chesapeake?	4.		e you ever ridden on high-capacity transit? (Check all that apply) D Bus rapid transit
2.	How often O Alw O Usu	ays	e public tra	nsit in Har	npton Roads'	,	5.		at motivated you to join the conversation on high-capacity transit in Chesapea
3.	O Rar	100	ivel to the t	ollowina a	reas?		6.	0	v did you hear about this meeting/pop-up event? Social Media
		Daily	Wheely	Monthly	Less han once a month	Nevni		000	Newspaper TV News Fiver
Gn	eenbrier	0	0	0	0	0		00	Email Friend/Family
Su	immit Pointe	0	0	0	0	0		00	HRT Website Other (please specify)
Sh	ım's Club/Walmaı opping Center attlefield)	0	0	0	0	0	7. 8.	110	Codeat is your Ethnicity?
Sn	uth Narfalk	0	0	0	0	0	u.	0	Hispanic Non-Hispanic
	rginia Beach Tow enter	0	0	0	0	0	9.	What	at is your Race? American Indian or Alaska Native
Do	wnlown Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0		00	Asian Black or African American
No	orfulk Naval Statio	n O	0	0	0	0		00	Multiracial Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
Pa	ninsula	0	0	0	0	0		0	White/Caucasian
		1	НАМ	PTON RO	ADS TRANS	IT	10.	What O O	at is your Age? Under 18

Q1: Do you feel improvements are needed to transit service in Chesapeake?

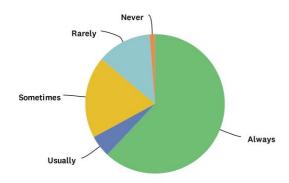
Respondents: 79



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.94%	75
No	5.06%	4
TOTAL		79

Q2: How often do you use public transit in Hampton Roads?

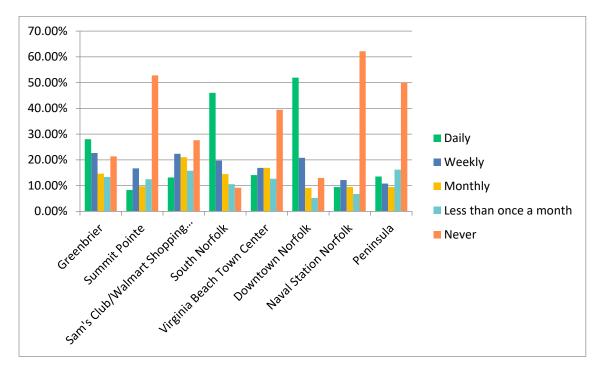
Respondents: 79



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Always	62.03%	49
Usually	5.06%	4
Sometimes	18.99%	15
Rarely	12.66%	10
Never	1.27%	1
TOTAL		79

Q3: How often do you travel to the following areas?

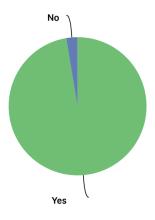
Respondents: 79



	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH	NEVER	TOTAL
Greenbrier	28.00% 21	22.67% 17	14.67% 11	13.33% 10	21.33% 16	75
Summit Pointe	8.33% 6	16.67% 12	9.72% 7	12.50% 9	52.78% 38	72
Sam's Club/Walmart Shopping Center (Battlefield)	13.16% 10	22.37% 17	21.05% 16	15.79% 12	27.63% 21	76
South Norfolk	46.05% 35	19.74% 15	14.47% 11	10.53% 8	9.21% 7	76
Virginia Beach Town Center	14.08% 10	16.90% 12	16.90% 12	12.68%	39.44% 28	71
Downtown Norfolk	51.95% 40	20.78% 16	9.09% 7	5.19% 4	12.99% 10	77
Naval Station Norfolk	9.46%	12.16% 9	9.46% 7	6.76% 5	62.16% 46	74
Peninsula	13.51% 10	10.81%	9.46%	16.22% 12	50.00% 37	74

Q4: Have you ever ridden on high-capacity transit? (i.e. bus rapid transit, light rail, subway/metro)

Respondents: 76 (3 skipped)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	97.37%	4
No	2.63%	2
TOTAL	70	6

Q5: What motivated you to join the conversation on high-capacity transit in Chesapeake? Respondents: 58 (21 skipped)



26 responses indicated a need for increased public transportation

13 responses indicated the flyer motivated them to attend the event(s)

8 responses indicated they heard about the event through Ms. Denise Johnson/HRT TRAC Chair

7 responses indicated a curiosity for the project (how it might impact other areas, how will it impact economy, etc.)

4 responses included sustainability needs, such as less use of cars and less road congestion

2 responses included signage at bus stops

2 responses indicated they attended because they were already in the area (library, pop-up event)

1 respondent indicated disapproval of proposed high-capacity transit in Chesapeake

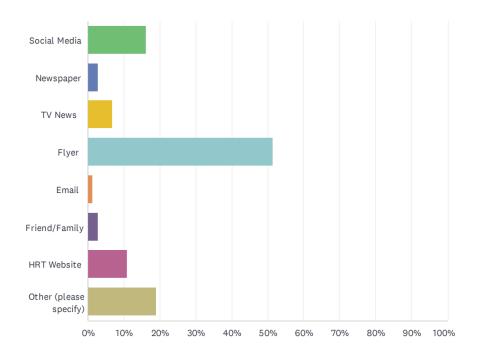
Q5: Open Comments – 58 Total

What motivated you to join the conversation on high-capacity transit in Chesapeake?

Count	Comment
1	The need for it.
2	Because better transportation transit is needed in Chesapeake. I wouldn't have to Uber and Lyft.
3	Pop-up Flyer.
4	The lady who was passing out the flyer and explaining why we should be interested in the family.
5	live in New York.
6	Hate Driving
7	Flyer
8	Chesapeake need better service in bus and transportation period- flyer.
9	Flyer. Mrs. Denise, bus stop signs at Military Circle.
10	Flyer, Mrs. Denise, new bus stop signs at Military Circle.
11	Sometimes put my car in the shop.
12	Invested in how transportation might affect Great Bridge area.
13	Want to use car less.
14	Flyer
15	Ms. Dee
16	Flyer
17	Flyer
18	They need it.
19	Ms. Denise and Ms. Heather
20	work
21	Being in Chesapeake and not being able to commute on time.
22	Pop up dot Vp.
23	Improve the economy of South Norfolk
24	Transit Advocacy.
25	Chance. I was unaware of the meeting, but I'm very interested.
26	Because some of the buses needs to run later and on Sundays too.
27	Chesapeake needs extended services the routes stop running too early.
28	Improve bus routes throughout Chesapeake that are faster and convenient.
29	I work in Chesapeake.
30	Environmentalism, I dislike driving, I want to see less road congestion; A better transit system.
31	We need light rail Chesapeake.
32	Flyer
33	Flyer
34	Flyer
35	Mrs. Donna and the driver on bus 8 at 9:39 this morning.2147 they paid if you what change be part of decision.
36	Driver who drives 15 leaving Evelyn Butts on Wednesdays at 9:48 am and lady passing out fliers.
37	Frequently ride bus and use light rail. interested in service to are. New resident. Lived in VB prior.
38	The better the transit service the more people will relay on HRT services.
39	Lived in Chesapeake all my childhood, Its neglected here.
40	The older lady passing out flyers
41	Need more access to public transit.
42	Reading the Flyer
43	It's needed.
44	Overdue for Chesapeake.
45	Flyer
46	Flyer
47	Mrs. Denise
48	Very needed where gas is high.
49	Light Rail to Greenbrier or Great Bridge, bus runs on night until 10pm and on Sundays and more buses on Greenbrier
49	(including non-pcqt express bus).
50	I am a supervisor who works closely with the public. I often hear the passengers struggle trying to make connection.
JU	I rain a supervisor who works closely with the public. Forten hear the passengers struggle trying to make connection.

51	The Eastside Norfolk extension study alluding to a Chesapeake Regional Study.
52	Making public transit more user friendly and efficient for travel.
53	To have my opinion considered and to influence the options for Connecting Chesapeake
54	Seeking info on what is being planned /proposed.
55	Highly Invested transit professional who is constantly advocating for transit improvements
56	Curiosity. Rode HRT in city of Chesapeake over a decade ago.
57	Don't need another boondoggle for the city to screwup. cost too high, unreliable.
58	The need for a more sustainable mode of transportation that sets cars off the road and promoter community
	involvement.

Q6: How did you hear about this meeting/pop-up event?

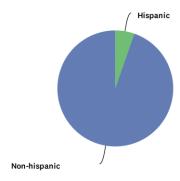


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Social Media	16.22%	12
Newspaper	2.70%	2
TV News	6.76%	5
Flyer	51.35%	38
Email	1.35%	1
Friend/Family	2.70%	2
HRT Website	10.81%	8
Other (please specify)	18.92%	14
Total Respondents: 74		

Other responses included: HRT volunteer, Ms. Denise, Transit Advocacy Group, walking by meeting location (library and Robert Hall Transfer Center), digital sign on Volvo and LinkedIn.

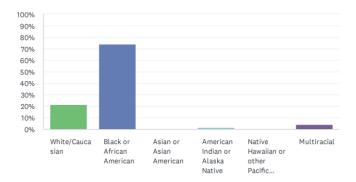
Q7: What is your ethnicity?

Respondents: 75 (4 skipped)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hispanic	5.33%	4
Non-hispanic	94.67%	71
TOTAL		75

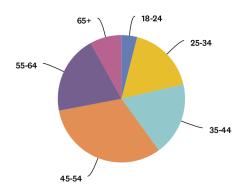
Q8: What is your race?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White/Caucasian	21.62%	16
Black or African American	74.32%	55
Asian or Asian American	0.00%	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.35%	1
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Multiracial	4.05%	3
Total Respondents: 74		

Q9: What is your age?

Respondents: 75 (4 skipped)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	4.00%	3
25-34	17.33%	13
35-44	18.67%	14
45-54	32.00%	24
55-64	20.00%	15
65+	8.00%	6
TOTAL		75

Q10: What is your zip code?

Respondents: 63 (16 skipped)

35	Chesapeake
18	Norfolk
7	Virginia Beach
2	Portsmouth
1	Newport News

Public Engagement Strategies and Tactics

Public Engagement Strategies and Tactics

A variety of strategies and tactics were used to engage the community, deliver awareness, and drive public participation. The team worked closely with HRT to develop content, key messaging, project-branded creative materials, and website updates to serve as the foundation for all communications and promote the public meetings.

Outreach and direct engagement included the following strategies and tactics:

- Website Updates and Announcements
- Collateral Material Developed and Distributed
- Flyer and Door Hanger Door-to-Door Distribution: Residential, Churches and Businesses
- Portable Message Signs
- Comprehensive Social Media Engagement: Organic and Paid
- Direct Engagement and Outreach
- Social Media Shares
- Newspaper Ad Virginian-Pilot Chesapeake Clipper
- Eblast
- Community Calendars
- News Media Engagement: News Release and Earned Media News Media Coverage

Website Updates and Announcements

Connecting Chesapeake Study Website

The public meetings and pop-up event were announced on the study website and the HRT website. All outreach and communications included a link back to the study website to learn more and sign-up for updates.

www.ConnectingChesapeake.com







Your input matters as we shape the future of transit in Chesapeake! Join us for an upcoming Public Meeting or Pop-Up Event. Three opportunities to meet the project team, learn more about the study and share your thoughts on transit in Chesapeake.

Public Meeting 1

Hyatt Place Chesapeake/Greenbrier

Tuesday, October 17, 5-7 p.m. 709 Eden Way N Chesapeake, VA

Served by Bus Routes 13 and 24

Pop-Up Event

Robert Hall HRT Transfer Center

Wednesday, October 18, 2-4 p.m. Robert Hall & Military Highway Chesapeake, VA

Served by Bus Routes 6, 13, 14, 15, 24 and 57

Public Meeting 2

South Norfolk Memorial Library

Thursday, October 19, 4-6 p.m. 801 Poindexter Street Chesapeake, VA

Served by Bus Route 58



ConnectingChesapeake.com Website Traffic Data

The direct engagement and social media generated more than 1,300 unique visitors during the month of October.

- Visits 1,430
- Unique Visitors 1,335
- Page Views 1,871
- Email Signups 28
- Average time spent on site 2:46

Website Traffic Sources

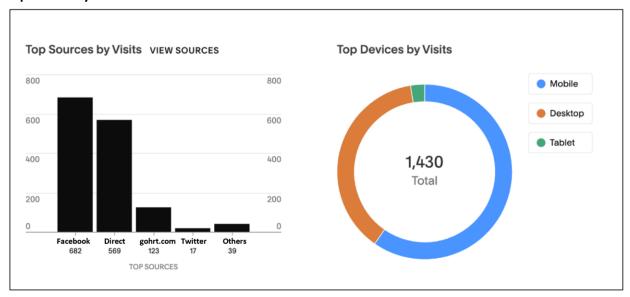
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, LinkedIn 708
- Direct 567
- Referral 136
- Search 13

Page Views

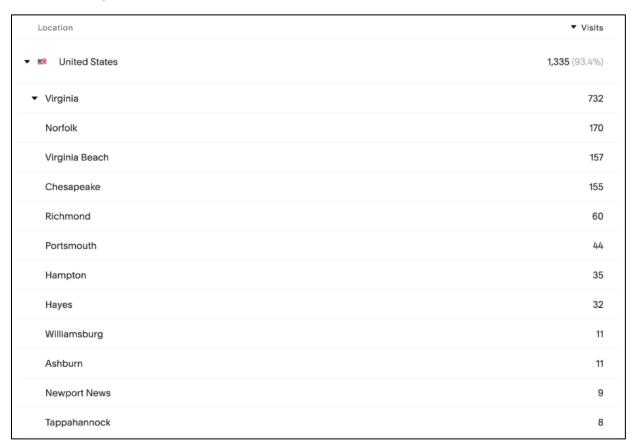
Oct. 2-31, 2023 – 1,850 Total Views

		Time on	Bounce	Exit
Page	Views	Page	Rate	Rate
Home	1,531	0:02:45	83.64%	81.71%
Meetings and Pop-Up Events - October 2023	242	0:01:45	85.71%	48.35%
Project Updates	25	0:00:26	66.67%	24%
Contact	20	0:03:28	100%	60%
Connecting Chesapeake. Connecting the Region				
(blog)	15	0:04:47	0%	33.33%
Project Documents	12	0:03:40	0%	50%
Home	5	0:04:44	0%	40%

Top Source by Visits



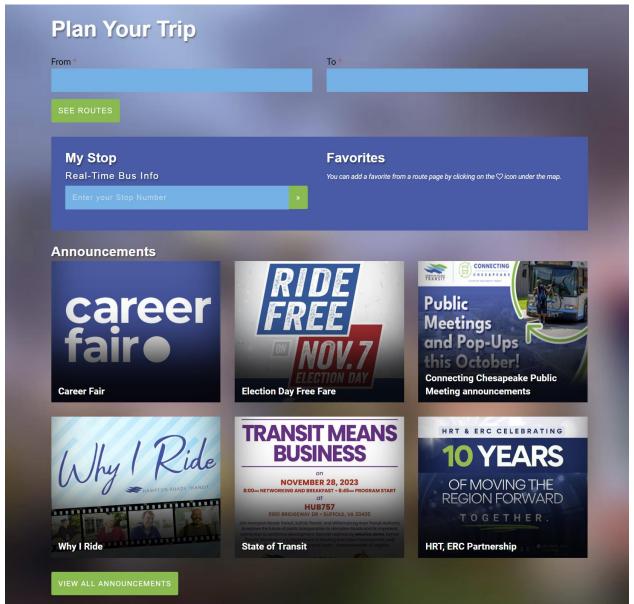
Website Visit by Location



Hampton Roads Transit Website

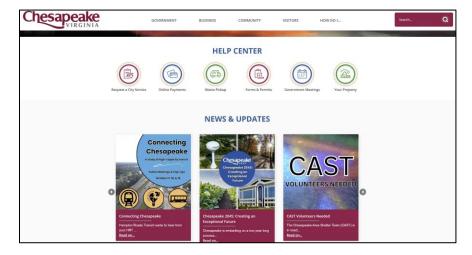
The public meetings and pop-ups were advertised on the HRT website.



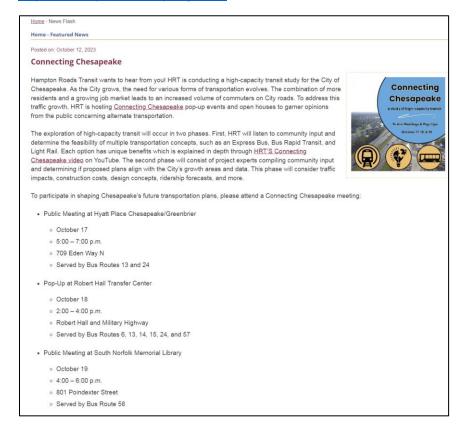


City of Chesapeake Website

The public meetings and pop-up event were advertised on the City of Chesapeake's homepage: City of Chesapeake



A study specific page was also created on the City of Chesapeake's website: City of Chesapeake Study Page Link



Collateral Material Developed and Distributed

Meeting announcement flyers and door hangers were developed and distributed throughout the project study area to neighborhoods, residents, churches, businesses, retail, hotels, office space, and restaurants. Meeting flyers were also distributed by HRT and the City of Chesapeake.

Meeting Flyer English



Door Hanger



Flyer - Spanish



Study Fact Sheet

A 4-page folded fact sheet was developed and distributed to provide a study overview.

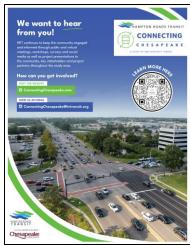


(front page)





(middle spread)



(back page)

Flyer and Door Hanger Door-to-Door Distribution: 6,300

- Neighborhoods and local Churches: 5,200
- Businesses, retail, hotels, office space, restaurants: 600
- HRT Distribution (HRT Staff and HRT TRAC Chair, Denise Johnson): 400
- City of Chesapeake Distribution: 100
 (Libraries, Community Centers, Events and Meetings)

















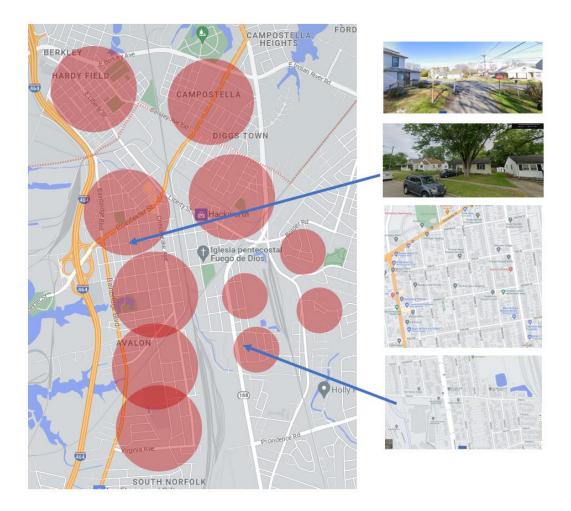
HRT Connecting Chesapeake Outreach Maps

Flyer and Door Hanger Door-To-Door Distribution Maps

South Norfolk

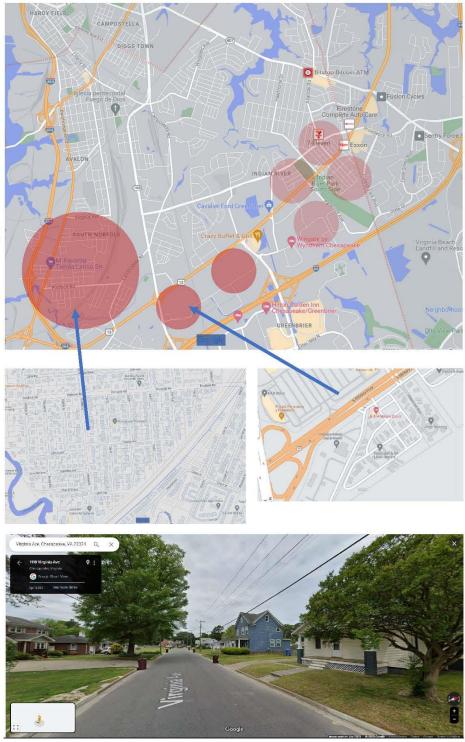
Neighborhoods, Churches and Businesses throughout South Norfolk, along:

- Bainbridge Blvd.
- Poindexter St.
- Campostella Rd.
- Liberty St.
- Chesapeake Ave.
- Atlantic Ave. Battlefield Blvd.



HRT Connecting Chesapeake – Outreach Map

Neighborhoods, Churches and Businesses along Military Hwy



HRT Connecting Chesapeake - Outreach Map

Page 2

Neighborhoods, Churches and Businesses along East Indian River (West of Military Hwy)

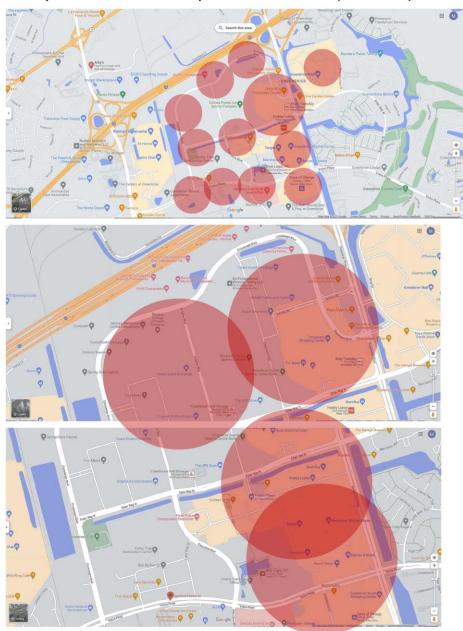






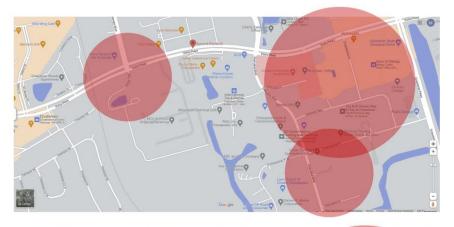


Retail, Restaurants, Hotels, Businesses throughout Greenbrier Parkway – Volvo Parkway – Executive Blvd. – Crossways Blvd. – Battlefield Blvd. (South of I-64)



HRT Connecting Chesapeake – Outreach Map

Page 4







HRT Connecting Chesapeake – Outreach Map

Page 5

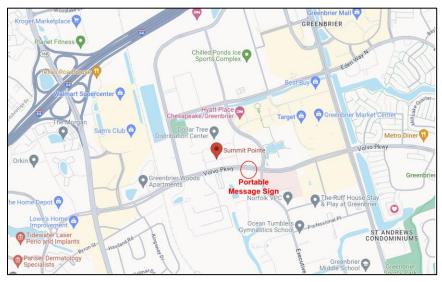
Portable Message Signs

Portable message signs were placed in two high-traffic locations within the study area near the public meeting locations: Location 1: Volvo Parkway and Location 2: Military Highway and Robert Hall Boulevard.

Portable Message Sign 1: Volvo Parkway







Portable Message Sign 2: Military Highway and Robert Hall Boulevard









Comprehensive Social Media Engagement: Paid and Organic

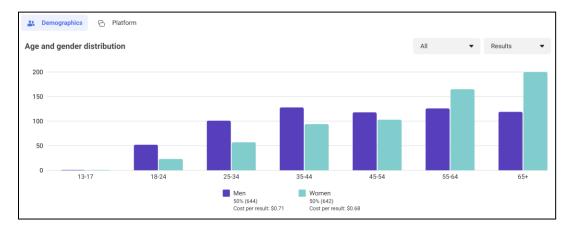
Social media was developed to promote study awareness, the public meetings and pop-up event, and encourage engagement. Social media was delivered on Facebook, X (Twitter) and LinkedIn through traditional posts, stories, polls and reels. Public meeting and pop-up events were created on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Paid Social Media

Run Dates: October 11-19, 2023







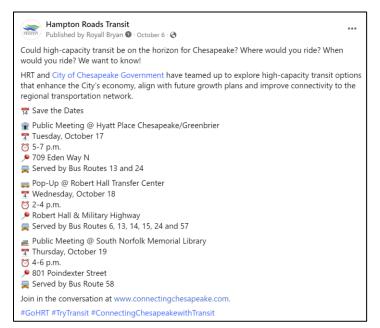
Organic Social Media – Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn

A robust social media campaign was designed to inform the public about the upcoming public meetings, educate the community and stakeholders on high-capacity transit, and encourage engagement and participation.

Tactics included event pages (Facebook and LinkedIn), traditional posts, story polls, reels, videos.

October 6

Link: Facebook Post







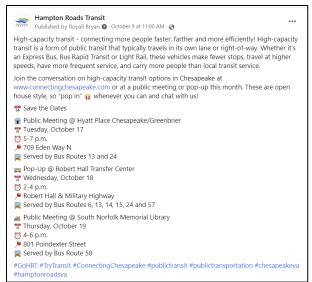
Link: X Post



Link: Instagram post



Link: Facebook Post







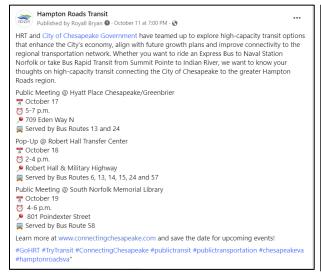
X Post



Instagram post



Link: Facebook Post







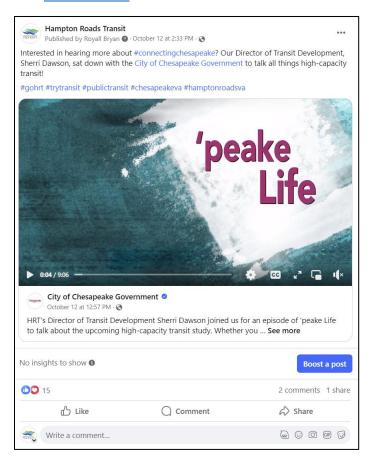
Link: X Post



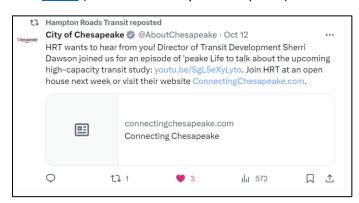
Link: Instagram Post



Link: Facebook Post



Link: X Post (Retweet from City of Chesapeake)



Link: Facebook Post





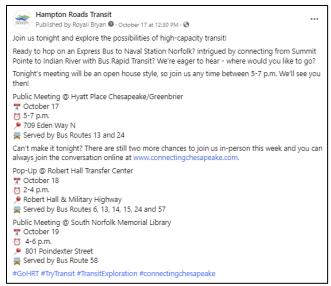
Link: X Post



Link: Instagram Post



Link: Facebook Post







Link: X Post Instagram Post





Link: Facebook Post





Link: X Post



Link: Instagram Post



Link: Facebook Post





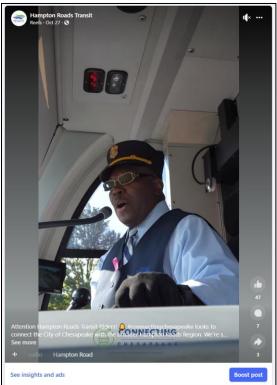
X Post



<u>Instagram Post</u>

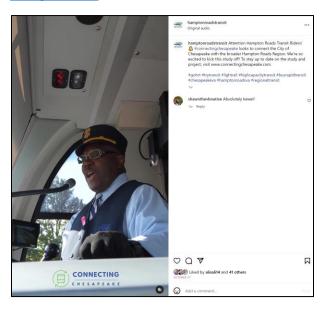


Facebook Reel

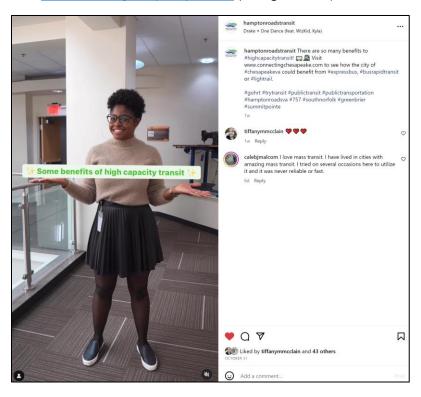




Instagram Reel



Link: Benefits of High-Capacity Transit (Instagram Reel)



Social Media Events

Public Meeting #1: October 17 - Hyatt Place Chesapeake/Greenbrier

Facebook Event

Link: Hyatt Place Chesapeake/Greenbrier

DIN THE CONVERSATION...
Why High-Capacity Transit?

PUBLIC MEETING
Tuesday, Oct. 17
Hyatt Place Chesapeake/Greenbrier
5-7 P.M.

Connecting Chesapeake Public Meeting #1
Hot Place Chesapeake Public Meeting #1

And Briston

Public Meeting #1

And Briston

Converting Chesapeake Public Meeting #1

And Briston

Converting Chesapeake Public Meeting #1

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LinkedIn Event

Link: Hyatt Place Chesapeake/Greenbrier



Boosted Event: Connecting Chesapeake Public Meeting #1

Invite

From Oct 6, 2023, 12:00 AM to Oct 19, 2023, 11:59 PM Event: Connecting Chesapeake Public Meeting #1

3,598 Impressions

HAMPTON MOADS TRANSIT

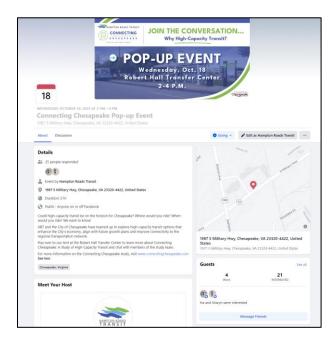
Pop-Up Event: October 18 – Pop-Up at Robert Hall Transfer Center

Facebook Event

LinkedIn Event

Pop-Up at Robert Hall Transfer Center (Facebook)

Pop-Up at Robert Hall Transfer Center (LinkedIn)





Boosted Event: Connecting Chesapeake Pop-up Event From Oct 6, 2023, 12:00 AM to Oct 19, 2023, 11:59 PM

Event: Connecting Chesapeake Pop-up Event

4,442 Impressions

Public Meeting #2: October 19 - South Norfolk Memorial Library

Facebook Event:

LinkedIn Event:

Link: South Norfolk Memorial Library

South Norfolk Memorial Library





Boosted Event: Connecting Chesapeake Public Meeting #2

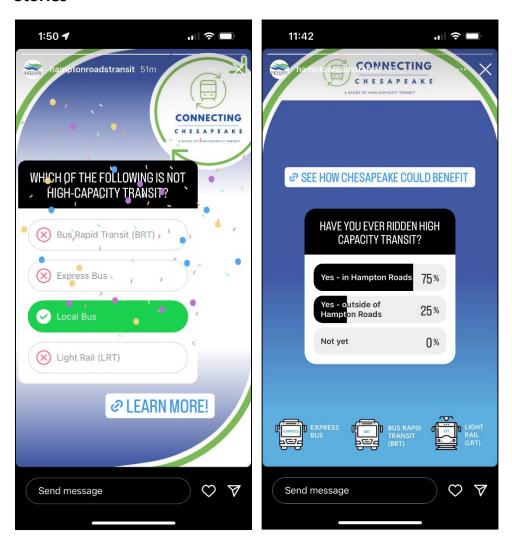
From Oct 6, 2023, 12:00 AM to Oct 19, 2023, 11:59 PM $\,$

Event: Connecting Chesapeake Public Meeting #2

6,130 Impressions

Additional Social Media

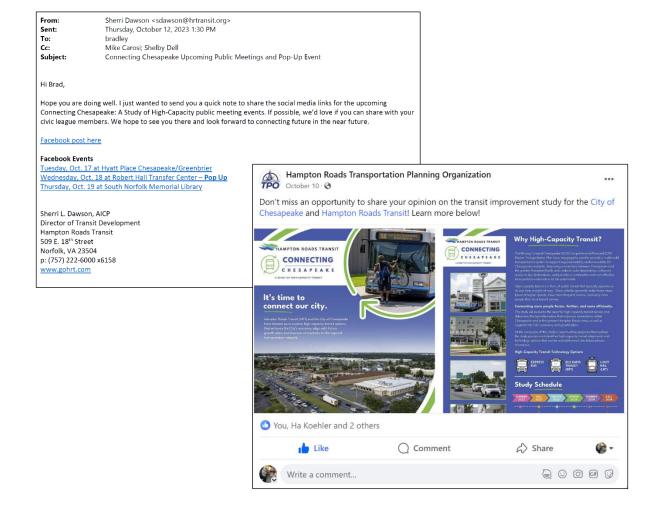
Stories



Direct Engagement and Outreach

The team also conducted direct outreach through social media shares and email to civic leagues, community groups, partners and other stakeholders as listed:

- City of Chesapeake Public Works and Planning Staff
- City of Chesapeake Communications Staff
- City of Chesapeake Internal Newsletter
- South Norfolk Civic League
- Friends of Indian River
- Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO)
- tHRive Young Professionals
- Tidewater Traffic
- Urban League of Hampton Roads
- WHRO Barbara Hamm Lee
- Norfolk State University
- Hampton Roads Chamber



Social Media Shared Posts

Link: <u>Friends of Indian River</u> 1.4k likes | 1.5k followers



Link: City of Chesapeake

31k followers







Link: <u>tHRive Members Group</u>
453 members
2.1k members





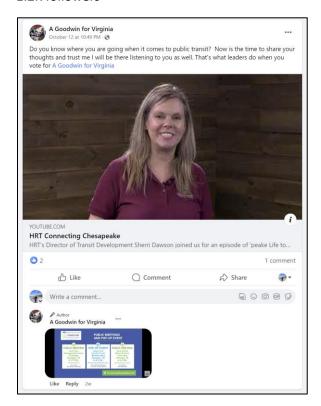
Link: <u>Urban League of Hampton Roads</u> Link: <u>South Norfolk Civic League</u>
3.7K likes | 4.4K followers
1.4K likes | 1.6K followers





Link: A Goodwin for Virginia

1.2K followers



Link: <u>Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization</u>

2,9K followers



A full-sized Newspaper Ad was placed in the Clipper, Chesapeake's local paper.

Circulation: 9,368 residents and businesses



Link: HRT Community Connector eBlast

Sept. 27

Circulation: 7,000

Community Connector



Discover Transit Month



It's Discover Transit Month and we're encouraging everyone to try transit.

Outreach teams have participated in a dozen events where they educated riders about GOPass365, the 757 Express, Park-and-Rides, and how to start a vanpool. This campaign was coordinated in conjunction with the

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and TRAFFIX. <u>Watch the Discover Transit video on Youtube</u>.

Connecting Chesapeake Public Meetings



Hampton Roads Transit and the City of Chesapeake are working together to explore high-capacity transit options to enhance public transportation in the City. HRT and the City are conducting a study to evaluate the need for high-capacity transit service and possible alternatives

to improve connectivity within Chesapeake and to the rest of our service area. You can learn more about the project and offer input at a <u>series of upcoming meetings</u>. The first one is Tuesday, October 17, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Hyatt Place Chesapeake/Greenbrier, located at 709 Eden Way North, Chesapeake, VA, 23320.

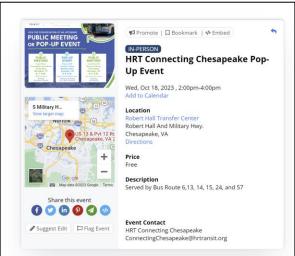
Community Calendars

The Public Meetings and Pop-Up event were posted on local Community Calendars

WAVY Community Calendars

Link: <u>Tuesday, Oct. 17</u> Link: <u>Wednesday, Oct. 18</u> Link: <u>Thursday, Oct. 19</u>





HR Chamber of Commerce Regional Calendar

Link: <u>Tuesday, Oct. 17</u> Link: <u>Wednesday, Oct. 18</u> Link: Thursday, Oct. 19



News Media Engagement:

News Release and Earned Media - News Media Coverage

Link: News Release - Oct. 10, 2023



City's mobility, economy, and growth plans," said Chesapeake Mayor Rick West.

The public is invited to learn more by attending an upcoming open house style public meeting or pop-up event in October. Meeting dates, times and locations are

congestion, and improve safety on parallel roadways."

Public Meeting

Tuesday, October 17, 5 - 7 p.m. Hyatt Place Chesapeake/Greenbrier 709 Eden Way

Served by HRT Bus Routes 13 and 24

Pop-Up Event

Wednesday, October 18, 2 - 4 p.m. Robert Hall Transfer Center Robert Hall Blvd. & Military Highway Served by HRT Bus Routes 6,13, 14, 15, 24 and 57

Public Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 4 - 6 p.m. South Norfolk Memorial Library 801 Poindexter Street Served by HRT Bus Route 58

To learn more, visit the study website at <u>www.connectingchesapeake.com.</u>

HRT's mission is to connect Hampton Roads with transportation solutions that are reliable, safe, efficient and sustainable. For more information on transit services, visit gohrt.com.

###

amy B. Jordan

Director, Communications & Business Development

October 10, 2023

757 222-6000, ext. 6523



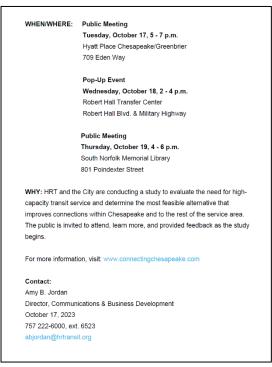
Customer Service | Paratransit | Contact
3400 Victoria Boulevard, Hampton, VA 23661 • 509 East 18th Street, Norfolk, VA 23504
© 2022 Hampton Roads Transit

News Media Advisory

News Media Advisory – Oct. 18, 2023

A news media advisory was sent to the local media the week of the public meetings, inviting them to attend the meetings or schedule interviews with Sherri Dawson.





Earned Media – News Media Coverage

Oct. 10 | WHRO News

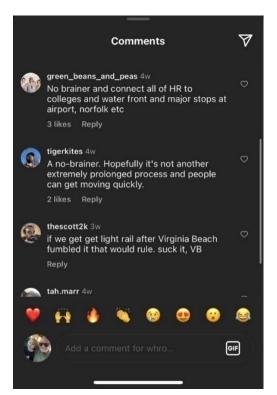
Link: Hampton Roads Transit looks at potential rapid transit, light rail options in Chesapeake



WHRO News - Social Media







Oct. 11 | WAVY News 10

Link: Connecting Chesapeake: City, HRT exploring high-capacity transit options





WAVY News 10 Social Media

Link: https://twitter.com/WAVY News/status/1711924850820854103?s=20



October 12 – WHRO Another View Radio – Barbara Hamm Lee Public Meetings and Pop-Up Event Announcement



Link: Another View Radio October 12

October 16 | The Virginian-Pilot

Residents invited to share feedback as Hampton Roads Transit explores 'high-capacity' options in Chesapeake

NEWS > ENVIRONMENT

Residents invited to share feedback as Hampton Roads Transit explores 'high-capacity' options in Chesapeake



Jonathon Gruenke/Daily Press
Hampton Roads Transit and the city of Chesapeake began conducting a study this summer to look at high-capacity transit options and determine the most feasible alternative that improves connections within Chesapeake and to the rest of the region.



By NATALIE ANDERSON | natalie.anderson@virginiamedia.com | Staff writer

CHESAPEAKE — Hampton Roads residents have the opportunity this week to weigh in on a study exploring more transit services, including express buses or light rail, for the region.

Hampton Roads Transit and the city of Chesapeake began conducting a study this summer to look at high-capacity transit options and determine the most feasible alternative that improves connections within Chesapeake and to the rest of the region. High-capacity transit typically operates in its own lane or right-of-way and provides more frequent service while making fewer stops, traveling at higher speeds and carrying more people than local transit service.

"High-Capacity Transit technologies could include express bus, light rail or a bus rapid transit (BRT) line," said Sherri Dawson, HRT Director of Transit Development, in a statement. "We're excited to get the Chesapeake community involved as we initiate the study and start to explore alternatives."

The study is anticipated to be completed by the fall of next year. This week, members of the public can learn more and share feedback by attending the following public meetings:







Sponsored Links



Odd Trick That Gets Rid Of Dust (You'll Wish You Tried It Sooner)

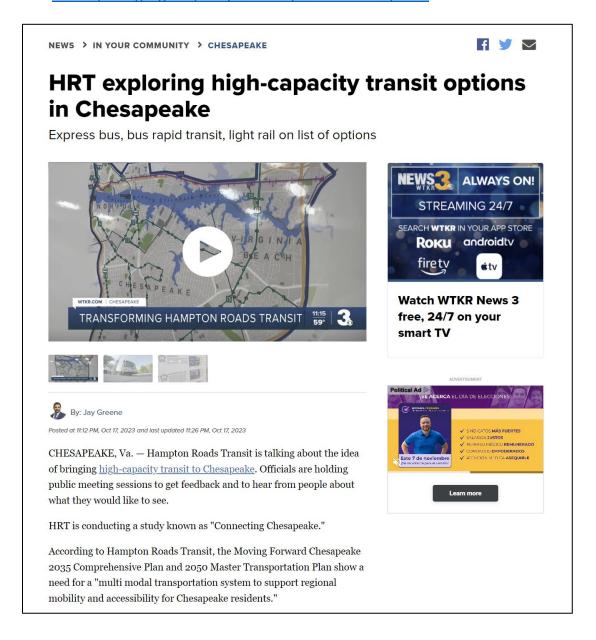


The Virginian-Pilot Social Media



October 17 | WTKR News Channel 3

Link: HRT exploring high-capacity transit options in Chesapeake



Link: New high-speed public transportation could be coming to Chesapeake

CHESAPEAKI

New high-speed public transportation could be coming to Chesapeake

The goal is to meet the needs of the community by connecting the Greenbrier area and the Summit Pointe development.



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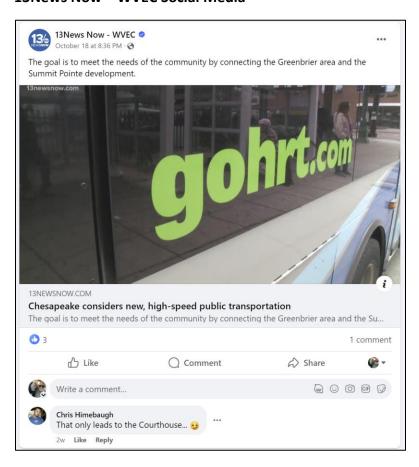


 $\label{eq:chesapeake} \text{CHESAPEAKE, Va.} - \text{A new transit service could be coming to the city of Chesapeake}.$

With the city continuing to grow, Hampton Roads Transit launched a study over the summer to figure out the need for a new form of transportation — high-capacity transit.

High-capacity transportation typically travels at a higher speed, makes fewer stops and carries more people.

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Additional Online Broadcast

Link: Online Broadcast Interview with Liz Vaughn: City of Chesapeake's 'Peake Life

