



Joint Subcommittee to Study Hampton Roads Public Transit Systems

September 23, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building, House Room B-205

<https://studies.viriniageneralassembly.gov/studies/793>

The Joint Subcommittee to Study Hampton Roads Public Transit Systems (the Joint Subcommittee) met in Richmond with Delegate Alex Q. Askew, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with the election of the chair and vice-chair and adoption of a virtual meeting policy, followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Joint Subcommittee's meetings webpage](#).

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Joint Subcommittee elected Delegate Alex Q. Askew as chair and Senator L. Louise Lucas as vice-chair.

Adoption of Virtual Meeting Policy

Nikhil Edward, Legislative Counsel, Division of Legislative Services

Mr. Edward gave an overview of the virtual meeting policy and the Joint Subcommittee adopted the policy.

HJR 28 (Askew, 2026) Overview

Stephen Kindermann, Lead Senior Legislative Counsel, Division of Legislative Services

Mr. Kindermann provided an overview of HJR 28, including members, objectives, and specifications of the technical working group, and reviewed the proposed work plan for 2026 and 2027.

Discussion of Proposed Interim Work Plan

The members discussed the proposed work plan. Delegate Bonita G. Anthony made note of HB 1241 (Anthony, 2026) that became law as Chapter 760 of the Acts of Assembly of 2026 and potential coordination with the efforts in the Hampton Roads region with that bill's provisions.

Presentation: Public Transportation Funding in Virginia

Allan Fye, Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Mr. Fye provided an overview of public transportation funding in the Commonwealth. He reviewed the transit agencies in the Commonwealth, as well as the different sources of transportation funding available. He explained the differences between operating and capital

¹ **Members Present:** Alex Q. Askew (chair), Senator L. Louise Lucas (vice-chair), Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, Delegate Robert S. Bloxom, Jr. (virtual), Delegate Jackie H. Glass (virtual), Secretary Nick M. Donohue, Hon. Jimmy Gray, Joe L. Harmon III, Noelle Pinkard, Matthew Scalia, Maria V. Ptakowski

Members Absent: Senator Mamie E. Locke, Senator Aaron R. Rouse

funding and their uses and provided data regarding the operating and capital funding for Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA), and Suffolk Transit. He provided data for TRIP (Transit Ridership Incentive Program) funding and other special funding for those transit agencies. He also addressed future Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund projections, federal funding, and additional funding programs from state and regional funds.

Presentation: Hampton Roads Transit

Karen Kitsis, Chief Planning and Development Officer, Hampton Roads Transit

Angela Glass, Chief Finance Officer, Hampton Roads Transit

Ms. Kitsis provided an overview of HRT operations, including ridership and geographic scope of service. She discussed the 757 Express service, discussed technology in transit, including some of the digital services that HRT provides, and provided an overview of ridership data. She explained the System Optimization Plan and the new OnDemand MicroTransit service.

Ms. Glass then reviewed HRT funding, including a breakdown of federal, state, and local funding sources, explained HRT's cost allocation agreement, and explained the breakdown of operating cost allocation by service.

Presentation: Williamsburg Area Transit Authority

Matthew Scalia, Executive Director, Williamsburg Area Transit Authority

Mr. Scalia provided an overview of WATA's service and ridership and a comparison of the ridership of key routes. He discussed the transit strategic plan for 2027-2030, WATA's technology offerings, and two construction projects: the WATA North Transit Center and the Operations & Maintenance Facility. He concluded with an overview of funding data, including fiscal year 2027 revenue, and emphasized the need for clarity and predictability in funding.

Presentation: Suffolk Transit

Maria V. Ptakowski, CCTM, Transit Manager, Public Works - Operations, City of Suffolk

Ms. Ptakowski provided an overview of Suffolk Transit's operations, including its structure, modes of transit, ridership, and service. She provided a more detailed explanation of Suffolk Transit's vehicles and ADA paratransit, as well as technology, specifically bus tracking via the ETA SPOT application and a website. She concluded with an overview of federal, state, and local funding sources.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Subcommittee has not yet been scheduled.



For more information, see the [*Joint Subcommittee's website*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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