



## RVA757 CONNECTS PRORITIES & OUR WORKING MODEL



**John W. Martin,**

President and CEO of RVA757 Connects

4 Gap Model | Global Internet Hub | BoAT Trail/Virginia Capital Trail  
Expansion | Passenger Rail | Members' Initiatives



**3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Convening, Connecting, and  
Collaborating to Advance  
the I- 64 Innovation Corridor**





**What we're  
all about . . .**

**Convene**

**Connect**

**Collaborate**

**Innovate**

**Grow**

# Convening, Connecting, and Collaborating to Advance the I- 64 Innovation Corridor



- 20 Min.**      **RVA757 Connects' Priorities & Our Working Model**  
John W. Martin, President and CEO of RVA757 Connects
  
- 10 Min.**      **I-64 Innovation Corridor's Political Will & Might**  
Ross Grogg, Co-chair, RVA757 Connects, Government Relations Committee
  
- 30 Min.**      **Advancing the I-64 Innovation Corridor's Transportation Infrastructure**  
Virginia Secretary of Transportation, W. Sheppard Miller III
  
- 30 Min.**      **What's Next & Open Discussion**



# Convening, Connecting, and Collaborating to Advance the I- 64 Innovation Corridor



**20 Min.**      **RVA757 Connects' Priorities & Our Working Model**  
John W. Martin, President and CEO of RVA757 Connects

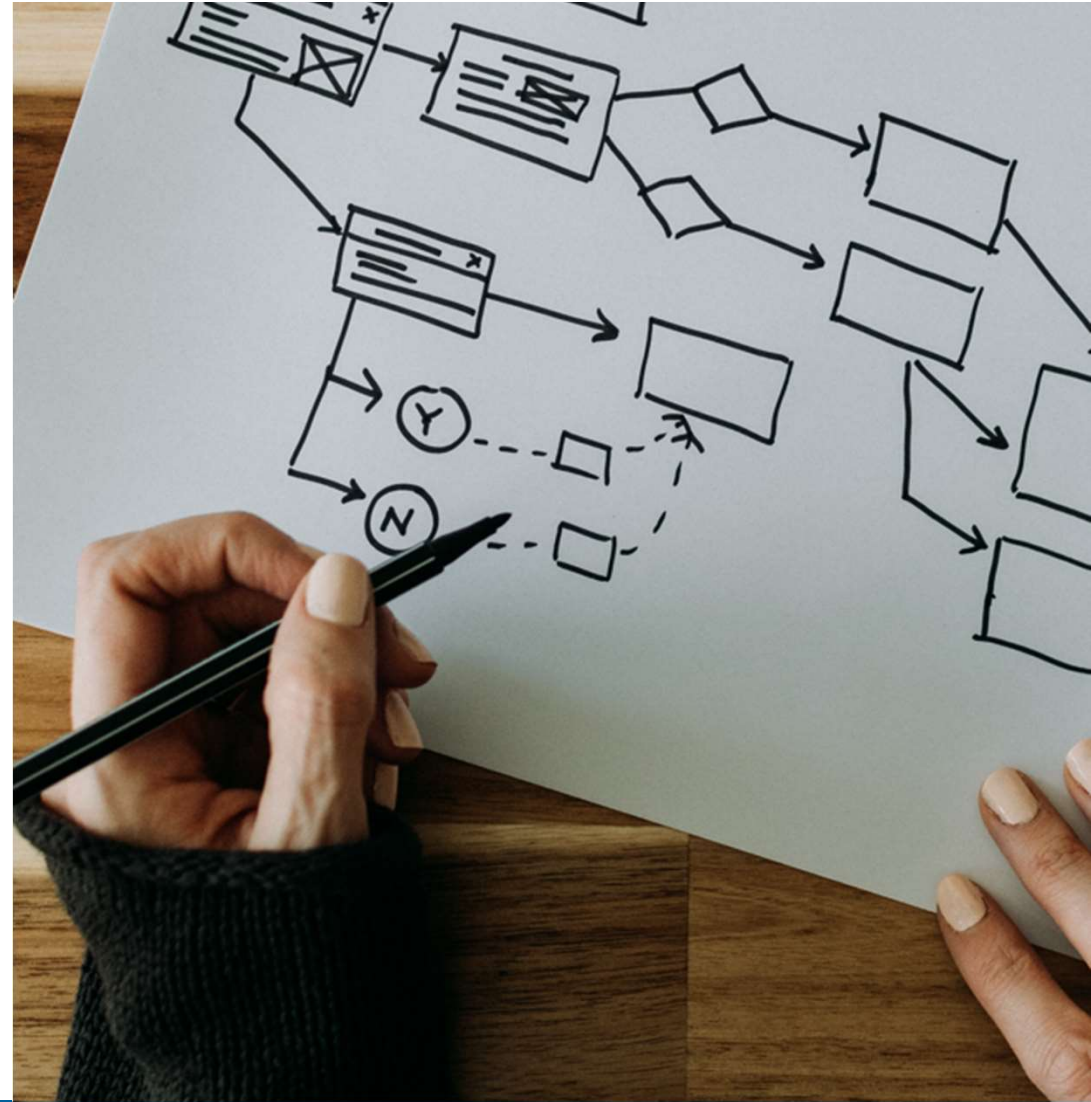
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**30 Min.**      **Advancing the I-64 Innovation Corridor's Transportation Infrastructure**  
Virginia Secretary of Transportation, W. Sheppard Miller III

**30 Min.**      **What's Next & Open Discussion**



# A Quick Overview



*Cities around the world have learned that **intentional collaboration, not competition**, with nearby metro areas drives scale and the economic success of both localities.*

# The Original Three Megaregions



**Boston's  
Rt.128 Corridor**

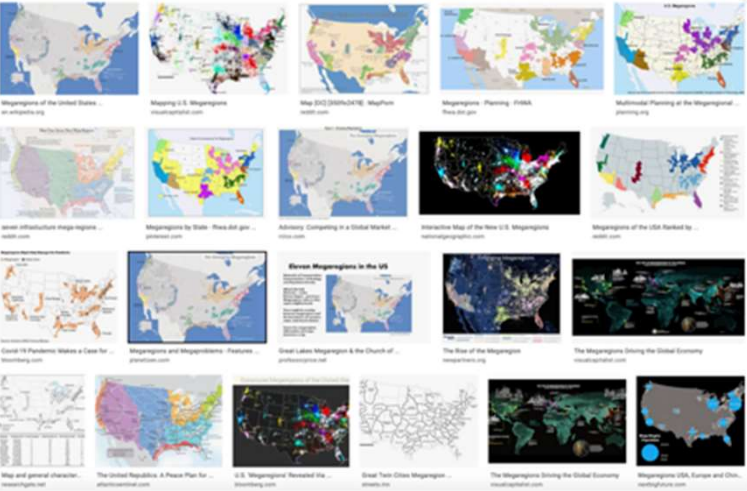


**North Carolina's  
Research Triangle**



**California's  
Silicon Valley**

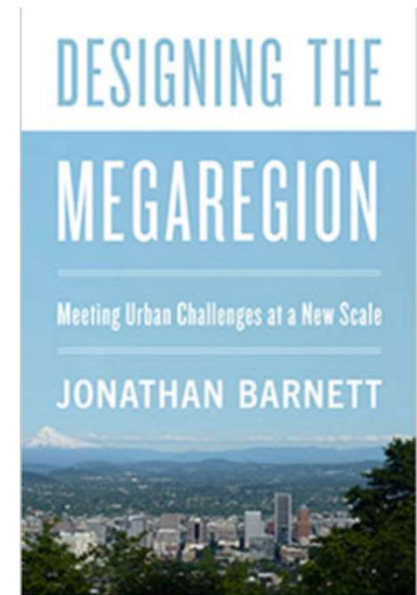
# Today's U.S. Map of Megaregions



## Consider these facts

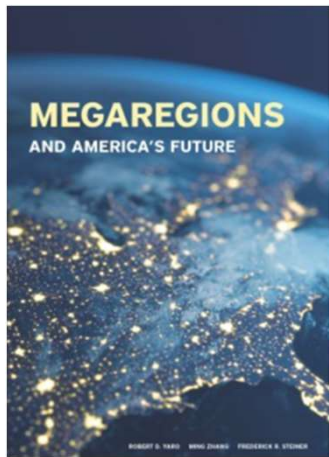
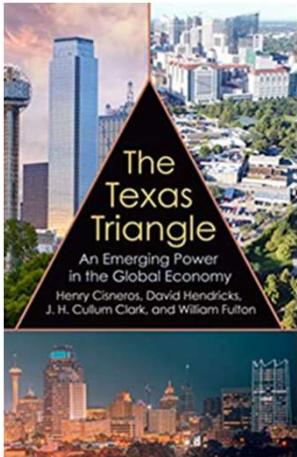


- US population will grow by 67 million in the next 30 years
- 88% of that growth in the US megaregions
- By 2050, country's share of people 65+ will reach 22% (14% today).
- By 2045, the US Population will be predominantly non-white, requiring attention to growing racial and economic inequality.
- Throw in climate change and sea level rise.
- These are mega issues . . .





# The Megaregion Perspective Is Gaining Traction



This block contains two overlapping screenshots of news websites. The top screenshot is from Brookings, showing a report titled 'In the age of American 'megaregions,' we must rethink governance across jurisdictions' by Tracy Hudson Lee and Annelise Geiger, dated May 7, 2020. It features a purple background with the text 'Staying home saves lives.' and '#AloneTogether'. The bottom screenshot is from Bloomberg, showing an article titled 'The Coronavirus Pandemic Makes a Case for Megaregions' with the sub-headline 'As multistate pacts emerge across the U.S., a once-obscure planning framework is being used to help coordinate reopening local economies.' The article includes a photo of a person walking a dog on a bridge overlooking a city skyline.

One can view the Richmond–Hampton Roads relationship from several perspectives:



### **Regional Collaborators**

Two neighboring regions that are collaborating to help each other thrive and grow in a global economy.

### **The 12th Megaregion**

While relatively smaller than most megaregions, this area meets the common criteria for being a megaregion: a contiguous area with more than one major city center; a large, combined population; and significant output measured by GDP.

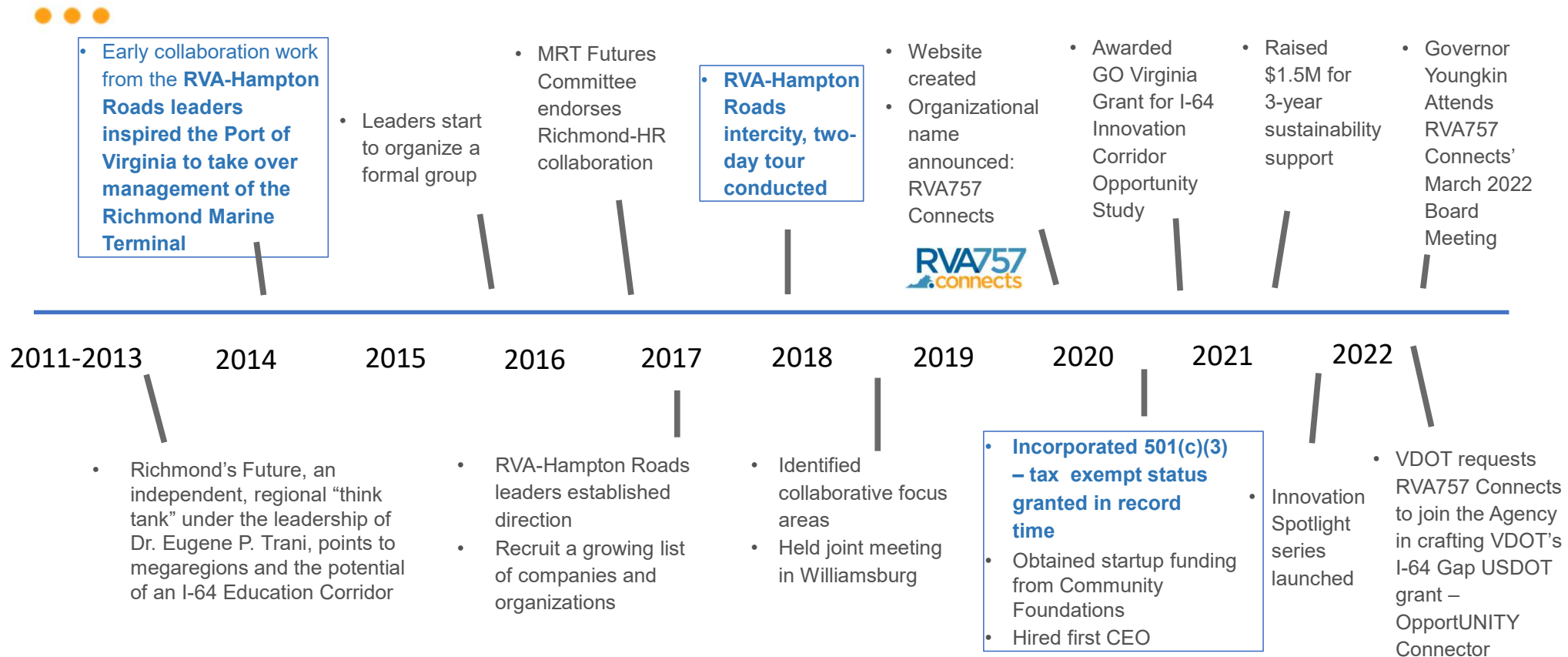
### **An Innovation Corridor**

The I-64 Innovation Corridor that runs from Richmond to Hampton Roads along I-64.

Given the rise of innovation corridors in the markets surrounding Richmond and Hampton Roads, RVA757 Connects is most often using the I-64 Innovation Corridor designation.



# 10 Years of Collaboration



## **Our Purpose**

Improve the economic success and quality of life for everyone in the RVA and 757 regions.

## **Our Mission**

We identify, support, and advance major opportunities, initiatives, and projects that will meaningfully benefit our communities for generations to come.



# Organizational Structure

## Board of Directors

75 Director Positions

## Board Executive Committee

Ted Chandler\*  
Cliff Fleet  
Wilson Flohr  
Moses Foster  
Tom Frantz\*  
Nancy Grden  
Bob Holsworth

Mitch Hadden  
Sarah Jane Kirkland  
Aubrey Layne  
Peggy Layne  
John Martin  
John Reinhart  
Jim Spore

\*Co-chairs of Board

## Megaregion Institutional Council (The "MIC")

21 Organizations

### Nominations Committee

Moses Foster  
Sarahjane Kirkland

### Development Committee

Mitch Haddon

### Government Relations Committee

Ross Grogg  
Chris Lloyd

### Communications Committee

Greg Gilligan

### Ad Hoc

(Not a Board Committee)

- I-64 Innovation Corridor Opportunity Study Research Council
- Global Internet Work Group
- Global Internet Hub Steering Committee

### STAFF:

**CEO:** John W. Martin

**Business Manager:** Laura Robidoux

**Communications Director:** Greg Gilligan

# Megaregion Institutional Council (aka “MIC”)

*Planning and implementation organizations from both regions*

RVA MIC Members	757 MIC Members
PlanRVA	HRPDC
Community Foundation for a greater Richmond	Hampton Roads Community Foundation
ChamberRVA	Chamber Hampton Roads
	Virginia Peninsula Chamber
	Greater Williamsburg Chamber Business Council
Greater Richmond Partnership	Hampton Roads Alliance
GOVirginia (Region 4)	GOVirginia (Region 5)
Capital Region Workforce Partnership	Hampton Roads Workforce Council
	CIVIC Leadership Institute
Grow Capital Jobs Foundation	Reinvent Hampton Roads
Management Round Table (MRT)	Hampton Roads Business Roundtable

*In addition, the Virginia Hispanic Chamber and Asian Chamber serve on the MIC.*

## 2022 Board of Directors

Co-Chairmen		
Theodore L. Chandler, Jr.	Co-founder and Managing Director	NRV
Thomas R. Frantz	Partner	Williams Mullen

Directors		
Name	Title	Organization
Dr. Makola M. Abdulla	President	Virginia State University
Monique Adams	Executive Director	757 Angels
Javaune Adams-Gaston	President	Norfolk State University
Matt Anderson	Executive Vice President	Colliers International
Sherrie Armstrong	President/CEO	Community Foundation for a greater Richmond
Glenn Ballard	President/CEO	Dragonfli Group, LLC
Gilbert T. Bland	President and Chairman	Urban League of Hampton Roads
Robert M. Blue	Chairman and President/CEO	Dominion Energy
Jamie Booth	Director of Client Solutions	Hourigan
Jennifer R. Boykin	Executive Vice President and President	Newport News Ship Building
Anne Conner	President, Public Finance and Community Investment	TowneBank
Kelsey Daugherty	Richmond Community Leader	
Robby Demeria	Chief of Staff	Phlow Corporation
Deborah M. DiCroce	President/CEO	Hampton Roads Community Foundation
William B. Downey	CEO	Riverside Health System
Robert Duvall	President	Virginia Natural Gas
Stephen A. Edwards	CEO and Executive Director	The Port of Virginia
Dawna L. Ellis	Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer	Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate
Cliff Fleet	President/CEO	Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Moses Foster	President/CEO	West Cary Group
Calvin W. "Woody" Fowler, Jr.	Partner	Williams Mullen
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Ross Grogg	Vice President	Kemper Consulting
Kasia Grzelkowski	President/CEO	VersAbility
Mitch Haddon	President/CEO	ColonialWebb Contractors Company

Renee S. Haltom	Vice President and Regional Executive	Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond
William R. Harvey	President	Hampton University
Todd P. Haymore	Managing Director	Hunton Andrews Kurth
Brian O. Hemphill	President	Old Dominion University
Stuart Henderson	Director	Jefferson Lab
Graham Henshaw	Executive Director	Alan B. Miller Entrepreneurship Center, William & Mary
Bob Holsworth	Managing Partner	DecideSmart
Lisa Howard	President/CEO	E3: Elevate Early Education & The New E3 School
Harvey L. Johnson	Partner, Chief Executive Officer	PBMares
Martin A. Joseph	President/CEO	360 IT PARTNERS
Sarah Jane Kirkland	President/CEO	CIVIC Leadership Institute
John R. Lawson, II	Executive Chairman	W. M. Jordan Company
Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.	Senior Corporate Vice President and Chief of Staff	Sentara Healthcare
Peggy Layne	Community Volunteer, Retired	Dominion Energy
Harry T. Lester	Chairman	Hampton Roads Business Roundtable
Christopher D. Lloyd	Senior Vice President and Director, Infrastructure and Economic Development	McGuireWoods Consulting
John A. Luke, Jr.	Chairman	WestRock Company
John W. Martin	President/CEO	SIR & the Institute for Tomorrow
J.D. Myers, II	Senior Vice President, Region Manager of Virginia	Cox Communications
Michael Rao	President	VCU
John F. Reinhart	Retired, Executive Director Emeritus	The Port of Virginia
Bernard Robinson, Sr.	Founder and President	Networking Technologies and Support (NTS)
Brian Rountree	Senior Vice President and Market Manager	Bank of America
Katherine A. Rowe	President	William & Mary
Maria Tedesco	President	Atlantic Union Bank
Rony Thomas	President/CEO	LifeNet Health
Bruce Thompson	CEO	Gold Key
Jim Ukrop	Co-Founder and Managing Director	NRV
Tom Walker	CEO	DroneUp
Laura White	Chief Risk Officer	PRA Group
Alan Witt	Dean	Luter School of Business, Christopher Newport University
John O. "Dubby" Wynne	Retired President/CEO	Landmark Communications

# RVA757 Connects' Corporate Supporters



## . . . And RVA757 Connects' Individual Supporters



- Theodore L. Chandler, Jr.
- Kelsey Daugherty
- Cliff Fleet
- Wilson H. Flohr, Jr.
- Thomas R. Frantz
- Moses Foster
- Robbyn Gayer
- Ross Grogg
- Kasia Grzelkowski
- Bob Holsworth
- Martin A. Joseph
- Jim Kibler
- Sarah Jane Kirkland
- Peggy Layne
- Harry T. Lester
- John A. Luke, Jr.
- John W. Martin
- John F. Reinhart
- Bernard Robinson, Sr.
- Douglas L. Smith
- James Spore
- Jim Ukrop
- John O. "Dubby" Wynne



# wwwRVA757Connects.com

**RVA757**  
connects

MENU

**JUST RELEASED**  
I-64 Innovation Corridor Opportunity Study - [Executive Summary](#)

**Igniting a new corridor of innovation.**

**At this very moment, there is an incredible opportunity to drive the future success of Hampton Roads (757) and Greater Richmond (RVA).**

With the creation of RVA757 Connects, RVA and 757 are joining forces to spark the I-64 Innovation Corridor — an 8,000 square mile region that runs from Richmond to Hampton Roads along interstate I-64. Through the I-64 Innovation Corridor we connect, collaborate, and create new ways to deliver business opportunities, scientific breakthroughs, world-class healthcare, military advancements, artistic endeavors, and equitable social and economic opportunities.

[Learn More](#)





# Our Priorities



## RVA757 Connects' Priorities



1. Advocate for I-64 (to Williamsburg)
2. Help the I-64 In (Internet Hub)
3. Support the co
4. Remove barrier
5. Drive and show (novation)
6. Support directors' a (G, Dominion, Jeff Lab)
7. Advance our megaregion (novation Corridor)





What we're  
all about . . .

**Our evolving  
method**

**Convene**

**Connect**

**Collaborate**

**Innovate**

**Grow**

**1.**  
**Advocate for**  
**I-64 widening**  
**(29-mile gap from RIC**  
**to Williamsburg)**

# I-64 Gap: RVA757 Connects Case Study



# Advocating for the Widening of the 29-mile Gap on I-64

29-mile gap

Two lanes now from the Bottoms Bridge to Lightfoot exit

~\$750 million cost to expand to three lanes

No funding programmed



# 1. RVA757 Connects' Board Voted in 2020 to Make the I-64 Gap A Top Priority



1. Advocate for I-64 widening (29-mile gap from RIC to Williamsburg)
2. Accelerate the I-64 Innovation Corridor status as a Global Internet Hub
3. Support the completion of the Virginia Capital Trail
4. Remove barriers to increase passenger rail service
5. Drive and showcase greater collaboration and innovation
6. Support directors' and members' initiatives
7. Advance our megaregion's brand – I-64 Innovation Corridor

## 2. RVA-757 Connects Identified Key Benefits and Funding Pathways to Close the 29-Mile I-64 Gap



### Adding a third lane in each direction will:

- Drive economic growth
- Support large sites and new development
- Maximize the ROI of the Port of Virginia
- Support Virginia's tourism industry
- Support RVA's tourism (9% of RVA's tourism comes from the 757)
- Maximize the opportunity to become a Global Internet Hub
- Support the military
- Support higher education
- Improve safety along the corridor
- Connect underserved in the corridor to jobs
- Serve as a viable main evacuation route
- Reduce environmental impact



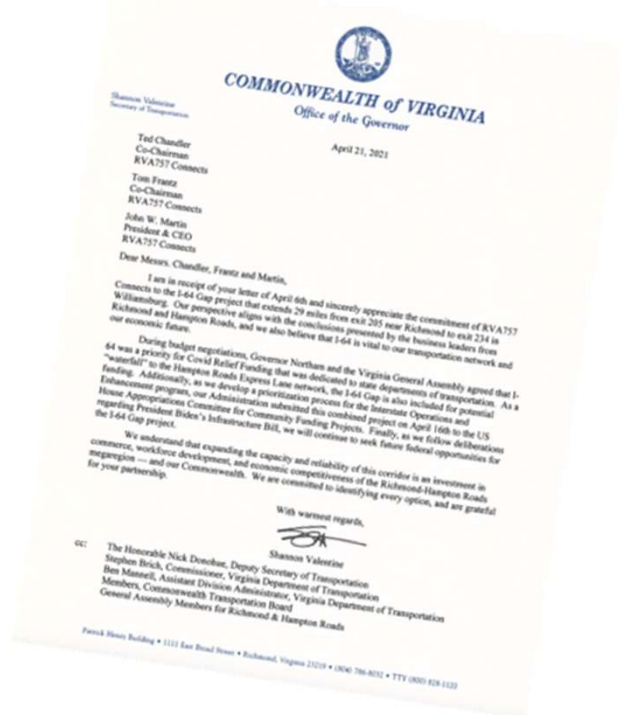
### 3. RVA757 Connects' Went on Record - Letter and Whitepaper to Secretary Valentine Advocating for the I-64 Gap Project

Early 2021



- Explained the I-64 Innovation Corridor – what, why, who, and how.
- Made a business case for the I-64 Gap project.
- Showed how the project is an investment in commerce, workforce development, and economic competitiveness of the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion and our Commonwealth.
- Identified sources of funding – including some existing pockets of money.
- Pointed to RVA757 Connects' directors who are behind this request.
- Copied all CTB members and all state-level elected officials from RVA and 757.

# Response From Secretary Valentine



*“We understand that expanding the capacity and reliability of the corridor is an investment in commerce, workforce development, and economic competitiveness of the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion and our Commonwealth. We are committed to identifying every option and are grateful for your partnership.”*

*Secretary Sharron Valentine*

## 4. RVA757 Connects Briefed the Candidates During the Gubernatorial Campaign

March 2022 RVA757 Connects Board Meeting

*“We've still got work to do on 64, there's money in the budget - in the House and the Senate versions - that will end up being money there. It's not enough. We've got to go find more funds in order to make sure that we get I-64 finished all the way to Richmond.”*

*“Virginia needs to take full advantage of funds available through the federal government's bipartisan infrastructure bill that was approved last year.”*

Governor Youngkin

# 5. Crafted Op Eds



PULITZER PRIZE WINNER  
**Richmond Times-Dispatch**

## BOLD THINKING

### Removing 'I-64 Gap' will create game-changing growth

BY THEODORE L. CHANDLER JR.,  
THOMAS R. FRANTZ AND  
JOHN W. MARTIN

A big barrier stands in the way for both the Richmond and Hampton Roads regions to realize their full economic growth potential.

That obstacle is the 29-mile stretch of Interstate 64 from the Bottoms Bridge exit in New Kent County to the Lightfoot exit near Williamsburg — a section that transportation officials call the "I-64 Gap." This is the one remaining segment of I-64 between Richmond and Hampton Roads that still is only two lanes in each direction. It's a major chokepoint that limits economic opportunities.

The truth is many regions are growing faster than Richmond and Hampton Roads — in population, workforce and, in turn, economic output and gross domestic product. We are falling behind.

We need bold thinking and actions to shift our economic

trajectory. This starts with the realization that collaboration, not competition, drives scale and the economic success of nearby localities.

There's a great example on the West Coast in the Cascadia mega-region. Leaders in three cities — Vancouver, B.C., Seattle and Portland, Ore. — are working together to plan and build an ultra-high-speed rail project linking the metro areas. Closer to home, Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C., are in conversations related to a similar high-speed rail connector between their airports.

In Virginia, RVA757 Connects has been advancing collaboration between the Richmond (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757) regions. Leaders have been pointing to game-changing opportunities that can benefit both economies and all of our residents in what we call the I-64 Innovation Corridor mega-region. Closing the I-64 Gap tops our list and inspires us to see

I-64 GAP, Page D3

## The Virginian-Pilot

### OTHER VIEWS

### Time for Virginia to widen I-64 and 'close the gap'

By Aubrey Layne  
Rva757 Connects

If you have ever traveled on Interstate 64 between Norfolk and Richmond, you know exactly what I am talking about.

Leaving Hampton Roads heading west, the slowdown or standstill usually starts after the Lightfoot exit in York County. Leaving Richmond heading east, traffic problems begin after the Bottoms Bridge exit in New Kent County.

The problem is what transportation officials call the "I-64 gap" — the only part of I-64 between Richmond and Hampton Roads that still has just two lanes in each direction.

Discussions of widening I-64 from Hampton Roads to Richmond had been ongoing for years and were supported by our state and regional transportation leaders.

Adding a third lane is an investment in the vitality of our megaregion, benefiting businesses, workers, residents, tourists and the military. It will help the economic competitiveness while relieving congestion, improving safety and increasing reliability for commuters, truckers and tourists.

Fortunately, improvements to I-64 were

Now is the time to take actions to completely close the gap — to finish the I-64 widening as planned. Here's why.

■ **Economic growth:** Connecting the two major employment centers in Richmond and Hampton Roads will lead to the creation of more job opportunities for all. Completing the project helps secure Virginia's investment in the Port of Virginia, where thousands of trucks use I-64 daily to haul items to distribution centers in the Richmond region and beyond. The I-64 corridor also plays a major role in Virginia's tourism.

■ **Improve safety/reliability and relieve congestion:** I-64 serves millions as the primary evacuation route during a hurricane or other disasters. The interstate is congested, especially in the summer, causing significant loss of time for truckers, commuters, and tourists.

■ **Connected, reliable network:** I-64 will work best when the system is built as planned with three lanes in each direction.

■ **Leveraging federal grant opportunities:** As part of the infrastructure act, the U.S. Department of Transportation is poised to award billions of dollars to transportation projects. The larger the amount of state funding that is directed to closing the I-64 gap, the more VDOT will have as matching dollars when applying for those grants.



## 7. Answered VDOT's Request to Help with Federal Grant Application

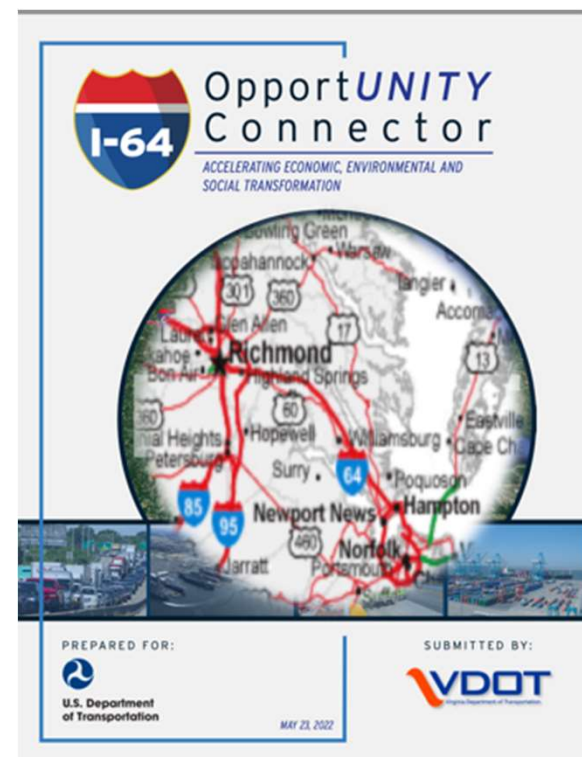


\$150M VDOT Federal Grant Application

VDOT asked RVA757 Connects to help with project naming and the proposal narrative.



RVA757 Connects' March 2022 Board/MIC Meeting:  
**Opportunity Connector**





# Grant Narrative Included Equity Arguments and Global Internet Hub



## EQUITY:

Expanding job opportunities to underserved communities near the I-64 Gap through increased access to the greater density of job opportunities in the two urban areas

I-64 OPPORTUNITY CONNECTOR Accelerating Soci

...surges (Category 4), sea level rise, or inland riverine flooding. Improving the 29-mile section to allow for better emergency response (including evacuation from coastal communities in Virginia and North Carolina) is a necessary adaptation based on the realities of a changing climate and more extreme weather.

Expanding the roadway will provide an opportunity to include more features that improve the resiliency of the area and better affect the environment. There are currently four Park and Ride lots located within the corridor buffer, none of which include electric vehicle charging stations. As part of the effort to incorporate lower-carbon travel modes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, electric car charging stations will be constructed in the lots. The Park and Ride lots will also be used to support additional commuter bus service between metropolitan areas. The Department of Rail & Public Transit is in discussions with GRTC TRANSIT to expand the Park and Ride lot at Providence Forge in an effort to deploy a new commuter bus route.

The Interstate 64 Peninsula Study Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Additionally, President Biden has set a target goal of 50 percent electric vehicle sales share by 2030, further reducing any I-64 impact.

### 5.5 CRITERION #5: EQUITY, MULTIMODAL OPTIONS AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Equity arises through expanding job opportunities and growth. Increasing occupational opportunity within the I-64 Opportunity Connector increases the access to and density of job opportunities.

Both the Hampton Roads and Richmond areas include Historically Disadvantaged Communities/Areas of Persistent Poverty, which are often characterized by transportation access disadvantages, high poverty, low homeownership, health issues, and environmental constraints. The Opportunity Connector will bridge these communities and better connect them to the megaregion and advantages both along and at each side of the corridor.

To understand the impact of this project, we need to examine the ethnic and racial

celebrating Social, Environmental and Economic Transformation

composition of the area's that will benefit most from the roadway improvements. The racial makeup of the megaregion population illustrates the need for equity. Approximately 40% of the Hampton Roads region is non-white. Black communities represent 32% of the region's population, as compared to 14% in the nation. This is the fourth-largest Black percentage of population for regions over 1 million residents, and the ninth-largest Black population in the nation. Within Richmond, Black people comprise 28% of the population. Both Hampton Roads and Richmond are considered transportation disadvantaged, a representation of Historically Disadvantaged Communities.

### 5.6 CRITERION #6: INNOVATION AREAS: TECHNOLOGY, PROJECT DELIVERY AND FINANCING

The I-64 Opportunity Connector project will allow VDOT to apply innovative strategies to broaden supply chains, enhance data collection, digital connectivity and augment workers.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration published a new Broadband Infrastructure Deployment

Overall, the rule will improve coordination processes and reduce inefficiencies during highway construction, making it easier to deploy broadband infrastructure.

VDOT commits to installing fiber on this stretch of the 64 corridor if the grant advances, and will coordinate with third party providers to provide an opportunity to compete for leasing of space for private broadband access.

### Communication Advantages

VDOT will commit to cooperating with private industries to solicit their participation in the use and expansion of broadband access along the I-64 corridor. Private industry providers will be able to utilize the fiber optic lines that VDOT will offer in conduit with this project, so that they may expand broadband access to adjacent rural areas along corridor that do not typically have that broadband access. VDOT will also connect with private industries to solicit their interest in expanding access to global internet hubs in the corridor. The additional capacity can be used to install to cell sites to provide high speed cellular communication on the corridors to provide high speed communications.

### Smart Truck Parking

## DIGITAL HIGHWAY:

VDOT commits to installing fiber optic on this stretch

# 8. RVA757 Connects Endorsed VDOT's Grant Proposal



## 3. PROJECT PARTIES

The applicant of this request for funding through the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) program is the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). VDOT has extensive experience with receipt and expenditure of Federal transportation funds.

Table X - Applicant	
	Virginia Department of Transportation As the primary applicant, VDOT will serve as the grant recipient and overall implementation and oversight of the project.


Table X - Public Agencies	
	Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation DRPT has an interest in the project with a focus on expanding the commuter and express bus services along the corridor.
	Greater Richmond Transit Company GRTC interest in expanding bus service
	Williamsburg Area Transit Authority WATA interest in expanding bus service
	Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission

Table X - Private Parties	
	Hampton Roads Chamber
	Greater Richmond Partnership
	Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce
	RVA757 Connects



May 6, 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

SUBJECT: I-64 OpportUNITY Connector

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

A big barrier stands in the way for both the Richmond and Hampton Roads regions to realize their full economic potential.

That obstacle is the 29-mile stretch of Interstate 64 -- from Bottoms Bridge exit in New Kent County to the Lightfoot exit near Williamsburg, a section that transportation officials call the I-64 Gap. This is the one remaining segment of I-64 between Richmond and Hampton Roads that is still two lanes in each direction and a major chokepoint that limits our economic opportunities.

This is why we are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Virginia Department of Transportation's application with the U.S. Department of Transportation for the FY 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program. This grant request will allow much needed improvements along I-64 that is a critical link between two major regions, the Richmond Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Hampton Roads MSA.

RVA757 Connects is a non-profit organization made up of business and higher education leaders from the Richmond (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757) regions (a list of our board directors is attached). We believe that collaboration, not competition, between nearby cities drives scale and the economic success of both localities. We work on game-changing opportunities that benefit both regions and improve the quality of life of all of our residents. We call our combined region the I-64 Innovation Corridor. Closing the I-64 Gap tops our list of priorities and inspires us to see it as the I-64 OpportUNITY Connector.

Funding this project will deliver many economic, cultural, national security, environmental, and equity-related benefits, all of which will help our megaregion's economy recover from the pandemic and become even more resilient to future shocks.

1



I-64 OPPORTUNITY CONNECTOR Accelerating Social, Environmental and Economic Transformation



## 9. Created a Video For the Federal Grant Proposal

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1npSNVo9h\\_FV78KDONZs\\_OpT4jlpmMAkL/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1npSNVo9h_FV78KDONZs_OpT4jlpmMAkL/view?usp=sharing)



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Javaune Adams-Gaston	President	
Matt Anderson	Executive	
Sherrie Armstrong	President/	
Glenn Ballard	President/	
Gilbert T. Bland	President	
Robert M. Blue	Chairman	
Jamie Booth	Director of	
Jennifer R. Boykin	Executive	
Anne Conner	President,	Communit
Kelsey Daugherty	Richmond	
Robby Demeria	Chief of S	
Deborah M. DiCroce	President/	
William B. Downey	CEO	
Robert Duvall	President	
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		Healthcare
		h Energy
		Roads Business Roundtable
		Woods Consulting
		rk Company
		e Institute for Tomorrow
		munications
		of Virginia
Bernard Robinson, Sr.	Founder and President	Networking Technologies and Support (NTS)
Brian Rountree	Senior Vice President and Market Manager	Bank of America
Katherine A. Rowe	President	William & Mary
Maria Tedesco	President	Atlantic Union Bank
Rony Thomas	President/CEO	LifeNet Health
Bruce Thompson	CEO	Gold Key
Jim Ukrop	Co-Founder and Managing Director	NRV
Tom Walker	CEO	DroneUp
Laura White	Chief Risk Officer	PRA Group
Alan Witt	Dean	Luter School of Business, Christopher Newport University
John O. "Dubby" Wynne	Retired President/CEO	Landmark Communications

10. Through the entire process tapped into the wisdom, connections, and influence of our board and MIC.

**Bonus Point.**  
**Had Amazing Leadership**

Virginia Secretary of Transportation  
W. Sheppard Miller III

# Pathway to Total Funding Needed



General Assembly	\$470M
RVA – Central Virginia Transportation Authority	<u>\$100M</u>
	\$570M
VDOT Federal Grant Application	<u>\$150M</u>
	Total \$720M

**2.**  
**Accelerate the  
Corridor's  
Ascendency  
into a **Global  
Internet Hub****

# Our Corridor's Digital Infrastructure Assets



## 4 Deep-sea Cables



# Our Corridor's Digital Infrastructure Assets



4 Deep-sea Cables



Network Access Point (NAP)

*Where data center, subsea fiber and terrestrial networks converge*



Facebook  
(Hyperscale)  
\$1B-plus investment  
2M+ sq. ft.  
160MW



QTS RICHMOND  
**NAP**

QTS Richmond  
(Wholesale)  
1.4M sq. ft.  
World's 4<sup>th</sup>  
largest





$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 757 & + & RVA & = & GIH \\ \text{Virginia Beach} & & \text{Henrico} & & \text{Global Internet Hub} \end{array}$$

# Digital infrastructure Hubs: Where data networks overlap



Internet hubs are physical locations that appeal to and attract:

- Carrier networks
- Content delivery networks (CDNs)
- Social networks
- Cloud services
- Hosting
- Gaming
- IT service providers

These firms choose to co-locate and interconnect in a market.

They do so in massive data center (called **internet exchange point** or **IXP**) or within several data centers in the same region.

## Super large data hubs become known as and are officially designated as a Global Internet Hub.

Currently, the top 10 Global Internet Hubs (as ranked by TeleGeography), based on international capacity, are:

1. Frankfurt, Germany
2. London, United Kingdom
3. Amsterdam, Netherlands
4. Paris, France
5. Singapore, Singapore
6. Hong Kong, China
7. Stockholm, Sweden
8. Miami, United States
9. **Marseille, France**
10. Los Angeles, California

Notably, eight out of the top 10 Global Internet Hubs have direct access to subsea cables.

## 10 Characteristics of Global Internet Hubs



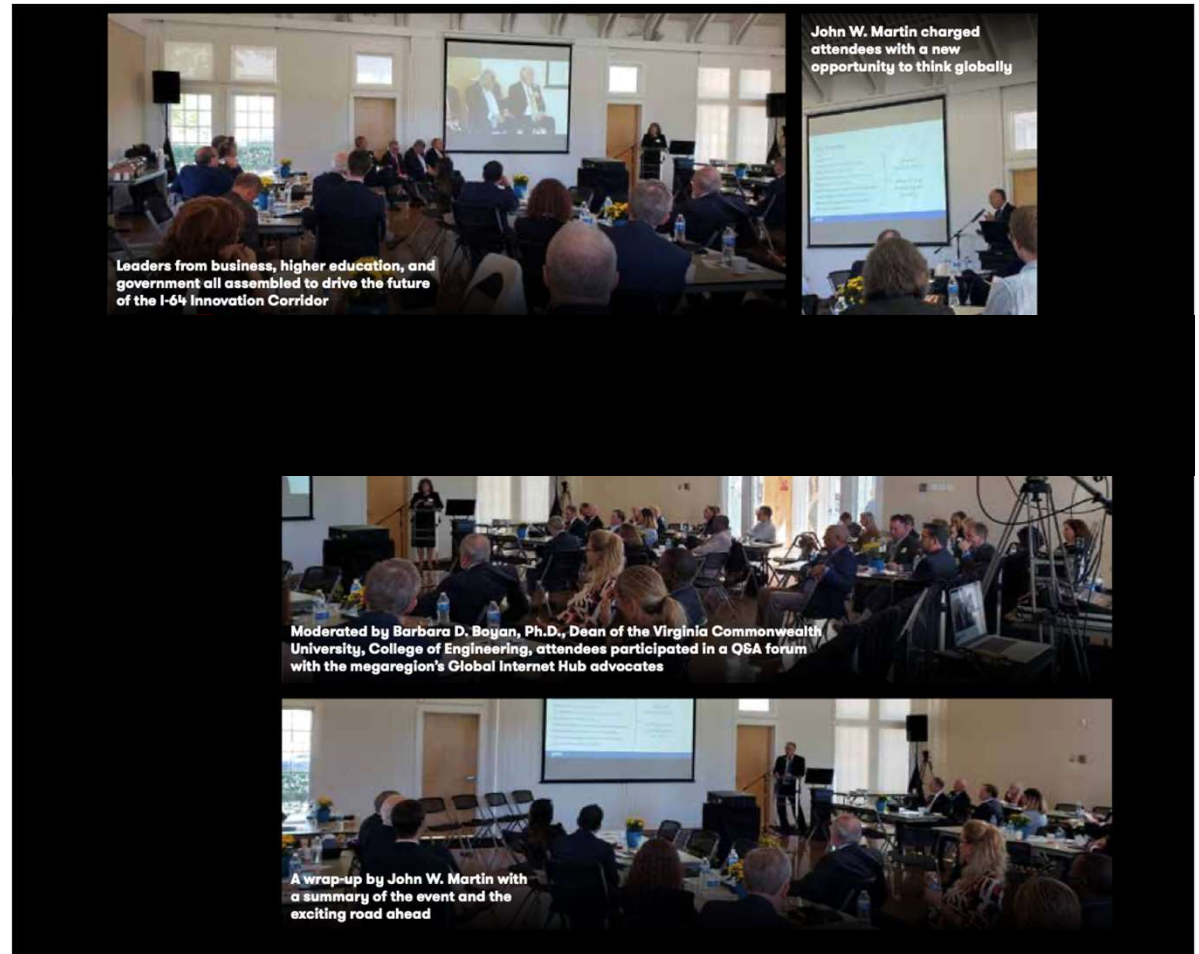
1. Access to international deep-sea cables
2. Growing data centers
3. Robust network of local fiber optic cables
4. Inexpensive power and/or access to renewable sources of energy
5. Inexpensive land
6. Low risk of natural disaster
7. Proximity to large populations
8. Tech-savvy workforce
9. Economic incentives
10. Enlightened Leaders



October 2021

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convergence Conference

Williamsburg, Va.



# Insights from Marseille: Create a Game Plan



**“You are on  
your way”...  
Criteria for  
Success**

1. Access to international deep-sea cables
2. Data centers
3. Robust network of local fiber optic cables
4. Inexpensive power and/or access to renewable sources of energy
5. Inexpensive land
6. Low risk of natural disaster
7. Proximity to large populations
8. Tech-savvy workforce
9. Economic incentives
10. Enlightened Leaders



**A strategic plan**  
that coordinates, directs,  
and accelerates the entire  
digital infrastructure  
community and its  
stakeholders in making the  
region a  
Global Internet Hub.



## \$160K Cash Funding in Place

- Dominion Energy: \$10,000
- City of Virginia Beach: \$10,000
- Henrico County: \$10,000
- Hampton Roads Alliance: \$10,000
- Old Dominion University: \$10,000
- Dragonfli (Williamsburg): \$10,000
- GO Virginia Grant: \$100,000



## Steering Committee

- Educational institutions, including the major universities and colleges in the I-64 Innovation Corridor.
- Leading Chambers:
  - ChamberRVA
  - Hampton Roads Chamber
- Companies representing multiple digital infrastructure users
  - Data
  - Defense
  - Telecom
  - Energy / Utilities
  - Technology
  - Finance
  - Health
  - Transportation / Supply Chain
  - Higher Education
  - Agriculture
- Military representatives
- Workforce development organizations

## \$100K In Kind Contribution



# Who's Involved?

# 62 Leaders

## Steering Committee

More than 60 leaders from 10 different industry and business categories are members of the Steering Committee:

**Misty Allen**, Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Community Impact, Comcast – Beltway Region

**Mitchell Allen**, Executive Vice President, Business Development, Greater Richmond Partnership

**Brian Anderson**, President and CEO, ChamberRVA

**Shawn Avery**, President and CEO, Hampton Roads Workforce Council

**Glenn Ballard**, President and CEO, Dragonfill Group, LLC

**Serena Barry**, Communications Director, GROW Capital Jobs Foundation, GO Virginia, Region 4

**Capt. Lamont Bazemore**, Coast Guard District Five, Chief of Planning and Force Readiness

**Stan Blackwell**, Director, Customer Service and Strategic Partnerships, Dominion Energy

**Gerardo Bonilla**, Head of Sales, Telxius

**Keith Boswell**, President and CEO, Virginia Gateway Region

**Scott Brown**, Owner, Pixel Factory Data Center

**Lt. Luis Caquias**, Coast Guard District Five, C5I

**Morris Foster**, Vice President of Research, Old Dominion University

**Nancy Guden**, President and CEO, Reinvent Hampton Roads

**Tracy Gregorio**, CEO, G2Ops

**Ram B. Gupta**, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs, College of Engineering, Virginia Commonwealth University

**William R. Hardy Jr.**, Director, Network Enterprise Center, Fort Lee

**David Harold**, Director, Technology Operations, CarMax

**Steve Harrison**, Vice President, Business Intelligence and Communications, Hampton Roads Alliance

**Stephen Hartka**, Vice President of Research, Virginia Economic Development Partnership

**Martha Heeter**, Executive Director, PlanRVA

**Stuart Henderson**, Director, Jefferson Lab

**Steve Herbert**, Economic Development, City of Virginia Beach

**Robert Holsworth**, Managing Partner,

**Kelly Newman**, General Manager, PointOne

**Angela Oakes**, Vice President of Strategy, Greater Richmond Partnership

**Joel Ogren**, CEO, Assured Communications Advisors

**Paula P. Pando**, President, Reynolds Community College

**Mark Pike**, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Chief Information Officer/N6

**Bernard Robinson**, President and CEO, Networking Technologies + Support

**Anthony Romanello**, Executive Director, Henrico Economic Development Authority

**Katherine Rowe**, President, William and Mary

**Douglas L. Smith**, President and CEO, Hampton Roads Alliance

**James Spore**, Board of Directors, RVA757 Connects

**Bryan Stephens**, President and CEO, Hampton Roads Chamber

**Gary Tarpley**, CEO, Cable Associates Inc.

**Jeffrey Thomas**, Vice President and Chief

# Commonwealth of Virginia



**Secretary of Finance**  
Stephen E. Cummings



# Employers



**BANK OF AMERICA**



**Newport News Shipbuilding**  
A Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries



**DecideSmart**

# Utility Infrastructure



# Planning Agencies



# Chambers



# Economic Development Agencies

*Regional, City, and County*





# Workforce Development Agencies



# Educational Institutions



# International Digital Infrastructure



Pioneers of Subsea Carrier-Neutral Colocation in Virginia Beach



# Broadband Infrastructure



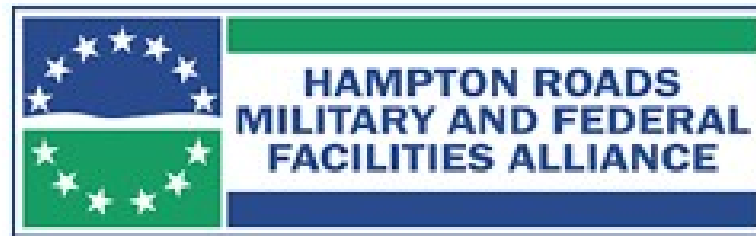
Southside Network Authority



# Cyber and Supporting Digital Infrastructure Companies



# Military



Rick Dwyer, Executive Director

Navy Region Mid-Atlantic,  
Coast Guard, Joint Base Langley-  
Eustis, and Fort Lee (Richmond).

# Our Financial Providers



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR  
**GROWTH &  
OPPORTUNITY**  
IN EACH REGION







# Steering Committee Schedule

- Meeting #1** Date: Thursday, July 28, 10 a.m.– Noon  
Location: 100% Zoom (No in-person)  
Topic: General Project Overview Goals, Process, and Q&As
- Meeting #2** Date: Thursday, August 25, 10 a.m. – Noon  
Location: Williamsburg Community Center  
Topic: Review; Discuss Existing GIH Insights and Identify Project Information Needs
- Meeting #3** Date: Thursday, September 29, 10 a.m. – Noon  
Location: Hybrid: Zoom or Room 1019 in Miller Hall at the Raymond A Mason School of Business, 101 Ukrop Way, Williamsburg, VA  
Topic: Hire Consultants
- Meeting #4** Date: Tuesday, October 25: 10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Location: TBD  
Topic: Review Consultants' Input
- Meeting #5** Date: Tuesday, November 29, 10 a.m. – Noon  
Location: TBD  
Topic: Review Consultants' Input
- Meeting #6** Date: Friday, December 16, Noon – 2 p.m.  
Location: TBD  
Topic: Finalize & Approve Plan
- Meeting #7** Date: Tuesday, January 17, 10 a.m. – Noon  
Location: TBD  
Topic: Tentative Meeting

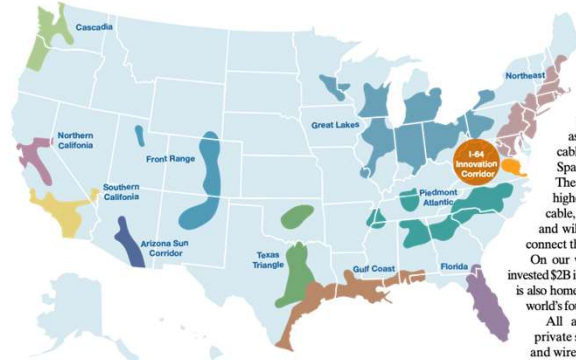
Pursuing this international recognition (GIH) **is not for the designation itself** but rather for what an advanced digital infrastructure will mean for our businesses, communities, and future economic development potential.

*“Becoming a Global Internet Hub will do more for Hampton Roads’ and Richmond’s economy and quality of life in the 21st century than the construction of I-64 and I-95 did for our regions in the 20th century.”*

# WORLD'S NEXT GLOBAL INTERNET HUB ISN'T A CITY

It is a 'Megaregion' located in Virginia, just south of Washington, D.C.

Q&As with John W. Martin, President & CEO of RVA757 Connects



DE-CIX, we're part of the largest interconnected digital ecosystem in North America, one that includes New York, Chicago, Dallas, and Phoenix. In 2 milliseconds, your data can reach from our megaregion to 80% of the U.S. population. On the eastern edge of our megaregion, coming ashore in Virginia Beach, are three subsea cables connecting the United States to Spain, France, Puerto Rico, and Brazil. These cables are three of the most modern, highest capacity routes in the world. A fourth cable, SEAx1, is currently under development and will be the first and only cable to directly connect the United States with South Africa.

On our western edge, in Henrico, Facebook has invested \$2B in a 2M+ sq. ft. data center campus. Henrico is also home to 1.4M sq. ft. QTS Richmond NAP, the world's fourth largest integration center.

All along the corridor, local public and private sector players are expanding terrestrial and wireless network capacity.

Complementing all of this, we have inexpensive land, reliable power and water, tech talent, and a pro-business mindset.

### What's a megaregion?

Cities around the world are learning that collaboration, not competition, drive scale and the economic success of nearby localities. In Virginia, RVA757 Connects has been advancing this practice for the Richmond (RVA) and Hampton Roads (757) regions. The result has put the I-64 Innovation Corridor on the map of America's megaregions, 12 micro-economies that make up 70% of the U.S. population, jobs, and gross domestic product.

### What and where is the I-64 Innovation Corridor?

The I-64 Innovation Corridor is an 8,000-square-mile contiguous region located 120 miles south of Washington D.C. Combined we are the size of the 19th largest U.S. metropolitan area. We're home to over 3 million people and 1.5 million talented workers.

Our megaregion includes Richmond, Virginia's state capital, and the Port of Virginia, the East Coast's gateway for global trade. We also offer an amazing quality of life. Virginia is for lovers of arts, entertainment, history, nature, and active lifestyles.

### How is the I-64 Innovation Corridor becoming a global Internet hub?

Global Internet experts tell us that we have the right ingredients. While we're a small U.S. megaregion, we're making a big impact well beyond our geographic footprint. Thanks to the integration with

### What's next for I-64 Innovation Corridor?

Simply put, to provide the fastest, most diverse, and resilient digital connections between the U.S. and Europe, Spain, South America, and South Africa.

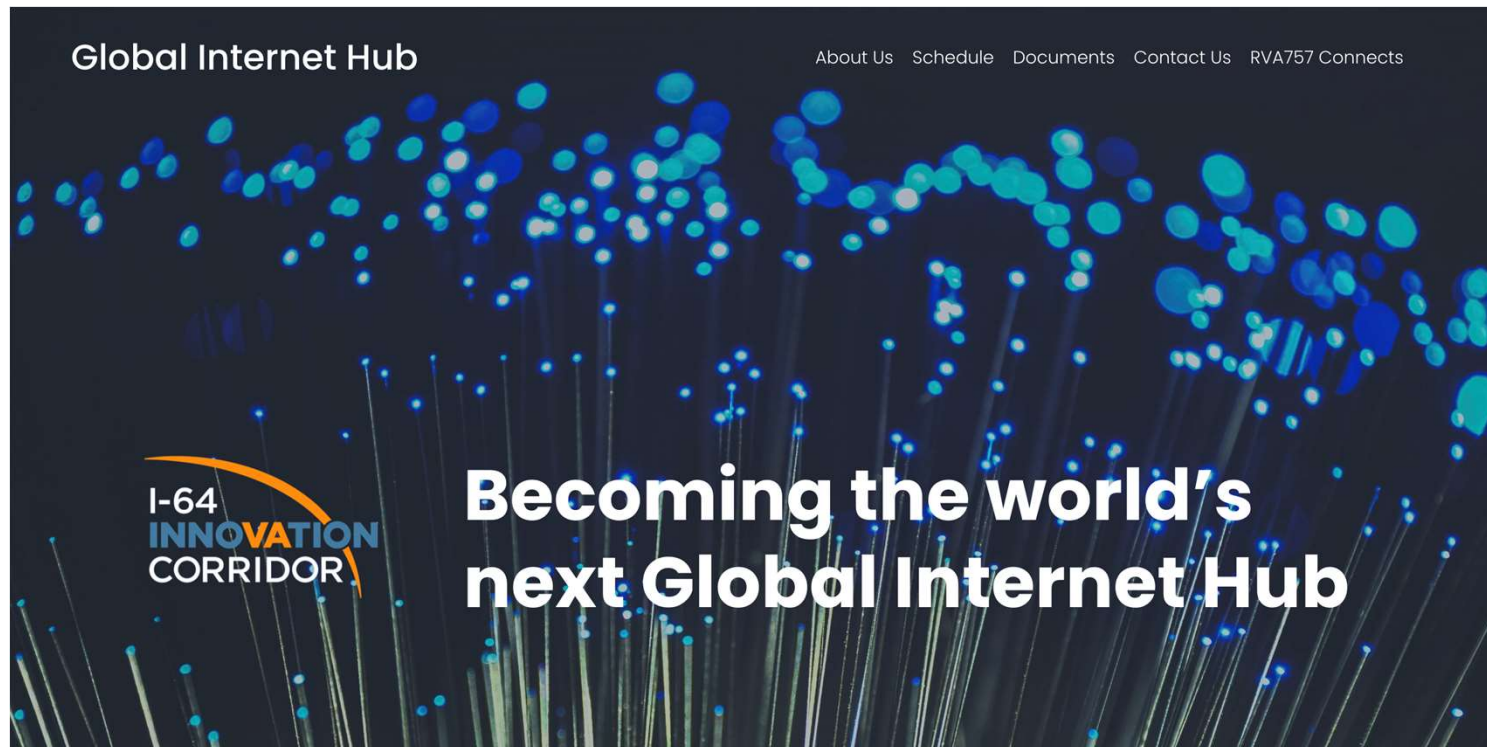


### About the Author

John W. Martin is the President & CEO of RVA757 Connects, the non-profit organization advancing the I-64 Innovation Corridor that runs from Richmond (RVA) to Hampton Roads (757). [www.RVA757Connects.com](http://www.RVA757Connects.com)



Project Website:  
[www.globalinternethub.org](http://www.globalinternethub.org)



**3.**  
**Support the  
completion of  
the Virginia  
Capital Trail  
(BoAT)**



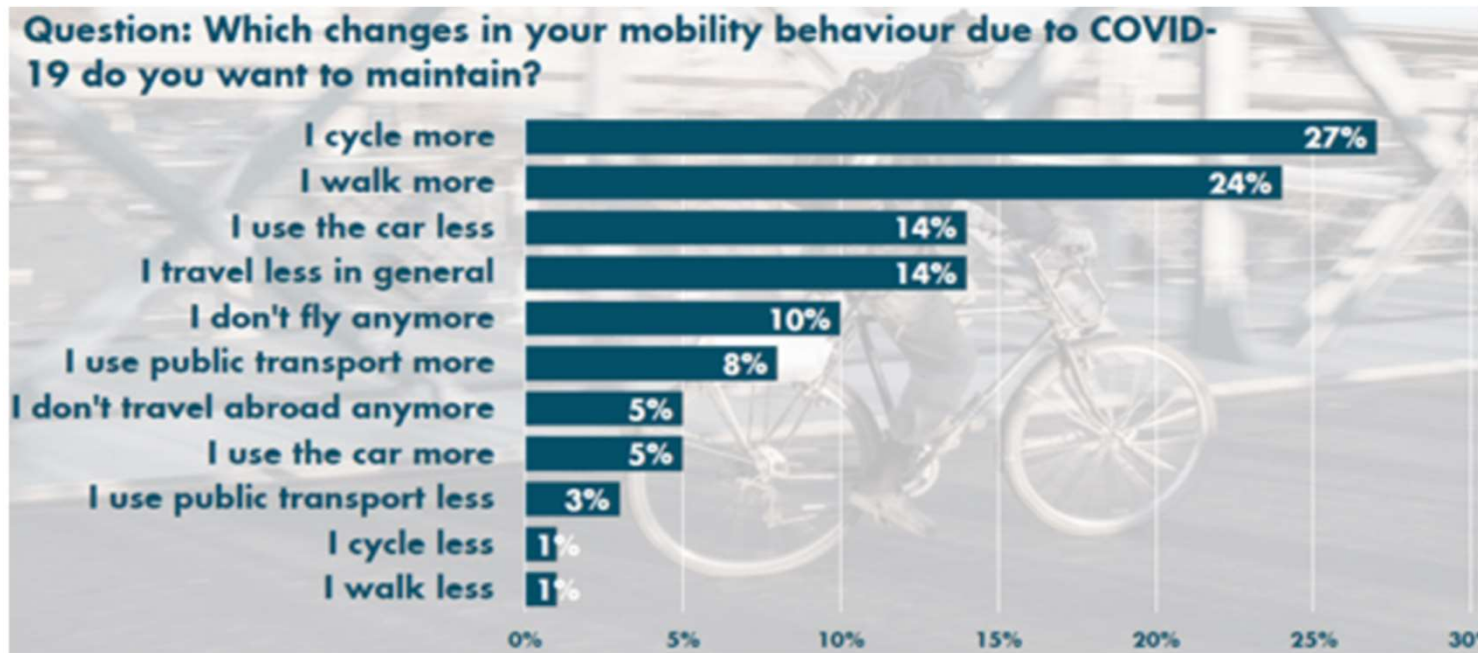
# Young Professionals Value Bikeable-Walkable Communities

Source:  
SIR's Placemaking Research

EXPECTATION ATTRIBUTE <i>Rate on 1-5 scale the following attributes in what you look for in the community you want to live in</i>	IMPORTANCE AVERAGE 1-5 Scale
Offers a great social scene	4.09
<b>Is bikeable/walkable</b>	<b>4.06</b>
Has rich variety of neighborhoods	4.03
Has good higher education options (colleges and universities)	3.94
Has an efficient public transportation system	3.88
Offers urban living environments	3.70
Offers an active music scene	3.61
Offers an active arts scene	3.59
Has a rich history	3.59
Is supportive of the military	3.36
Has an active maritime setting	3.17
Has an active sports scene/professional sports teams	2.88



# A Cultural Shift Has Taken Place



# The Economic Benefits of Multi-use Trails

## (Silver Comet Trail, NW of Atlanta)

### Qualitative Benefits:

- Enhances employer and employee attraction
- Increases access and mobility for local communities
- Direct and indirect health care savings
- Direct and indirect worker compensation savings



*“For every \$1 spent on the Silver Comet Trail expansion, Georgians gain an estimated \$4.64 in direct and indirect economic benefits.”*

### ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

This Economic Impact Analysis is the first of its kind to comprehensively report the economic benefits of the existing 61-mile Silver Comet Trail and its proposed 66-mile expansion. Recreational amenities such as rail-trails are increasingly seen as regional economic development tools that generate value through:

- **Recreational spending** (bicycle rentals, food & drink, sporting equipment)
- **Tourism** (spending by out-of-state users on lodging, transportation, dining)
- **Spillover impacts** (additional jobs and worker spending)
- **Fiscal impacts** (sales tax revenue generated)
- **Increased property values** (increased household wealth near SCT)
- **Property tax revenue** (benefitting municipalities and school districts)

Summary of Economic Impacts for Existing and Expanded Silver Comet Trail

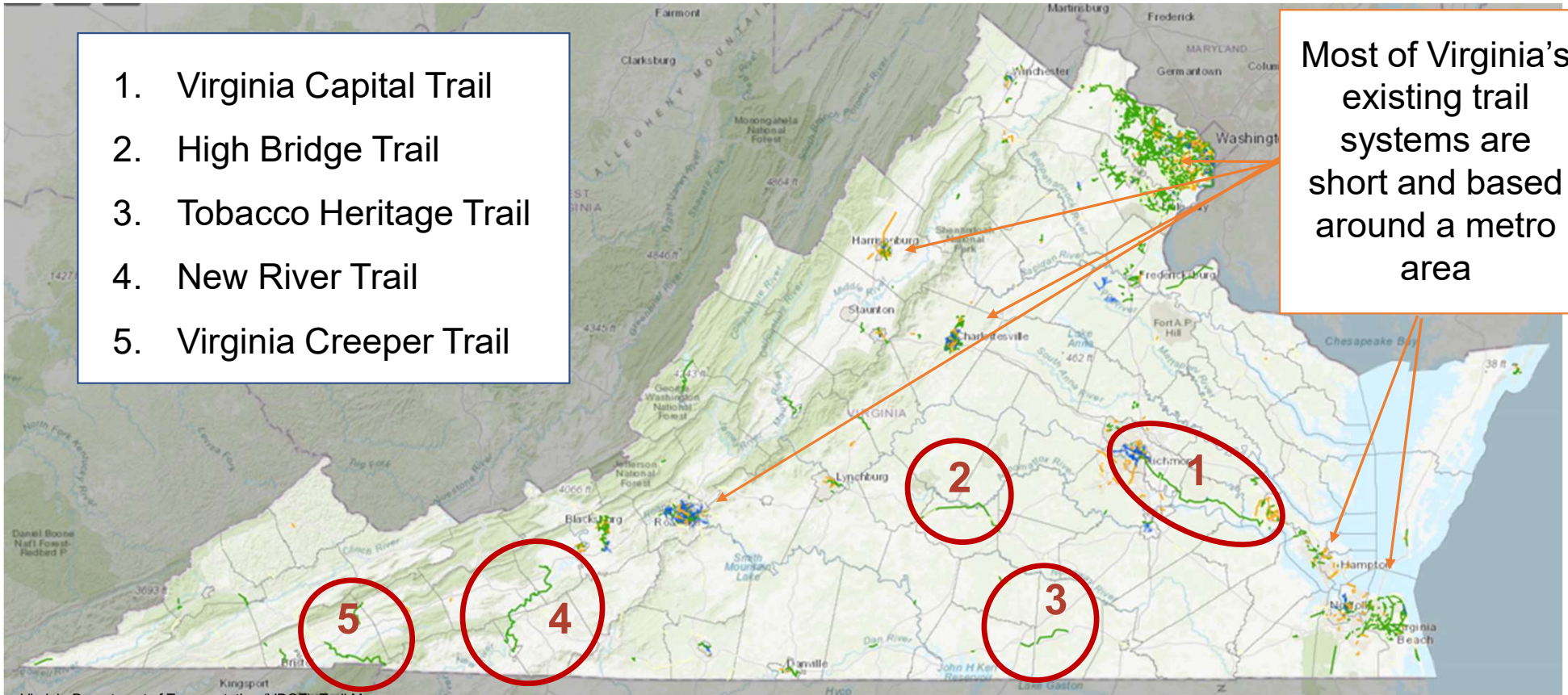
	Current Trail Network	Expanded Trail Network
Recreational Spending	\$47 Million	\$71 Million
Tourism Spending	\$10 Million	\$15 Million
Regional Spillover	\$98 Million	\$147 Million
State Spillover Impact	\$118 Million	\$177 Million
Statewide Fiscal Impact	\$4 Million	\$5 Million
Property Value Increases	\$182 Million	\$316 Million
Property Tax Gains	\$2 Million	\$4 Million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$461 Million</b>	<b>\$735 Million</b>

Source: Northwest Georgia Regional Planning Commission, Silver Comet Trail Economic Impact Analysis and Planning Study, 2013

# Today, There Are Few Long-Distance Bike Trails in Va.

1. Virginia Capital Trail
2. High Bridge Trail
3. Tobacco Heritage Trail
4. New River Trail
5. Virginia Creeper Trail

Most of Virginia's existing trail systems are short and based around a metro area



Source: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT); Trail Map

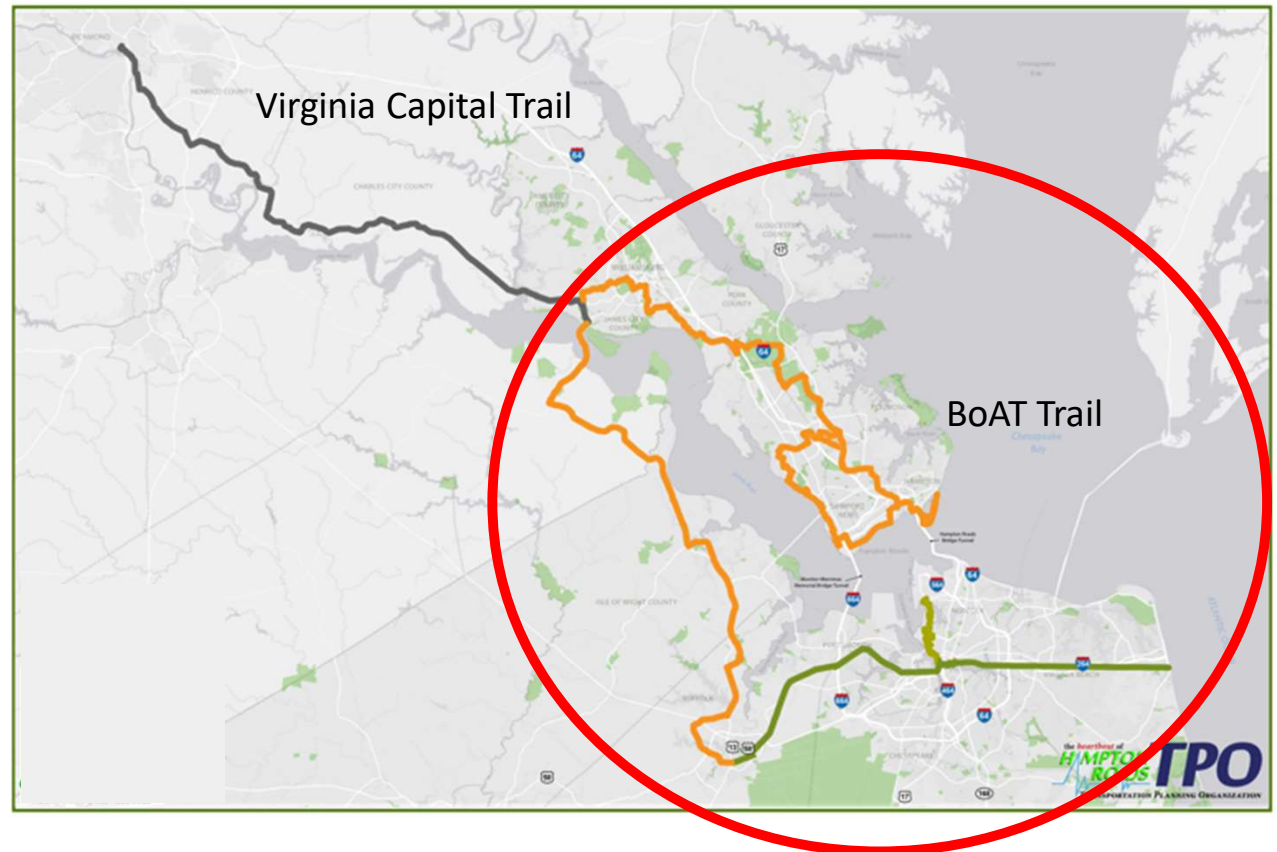


# BoAT Trail

**Where:** Birthplace of America Trail or BoAT Trail will run from Williamsburg to Fort Monroe on the Peninsula and from Williamsburg across the Surry Ferry to the ocean front on the Southside.

**Advocates:** BoAT Trail advocates include municipalities and the Tidewater Trails Alliance.

**Plans:** Design and apply for funding segment by segment.



# Fall Line Trail (Ashland to Petersburg)

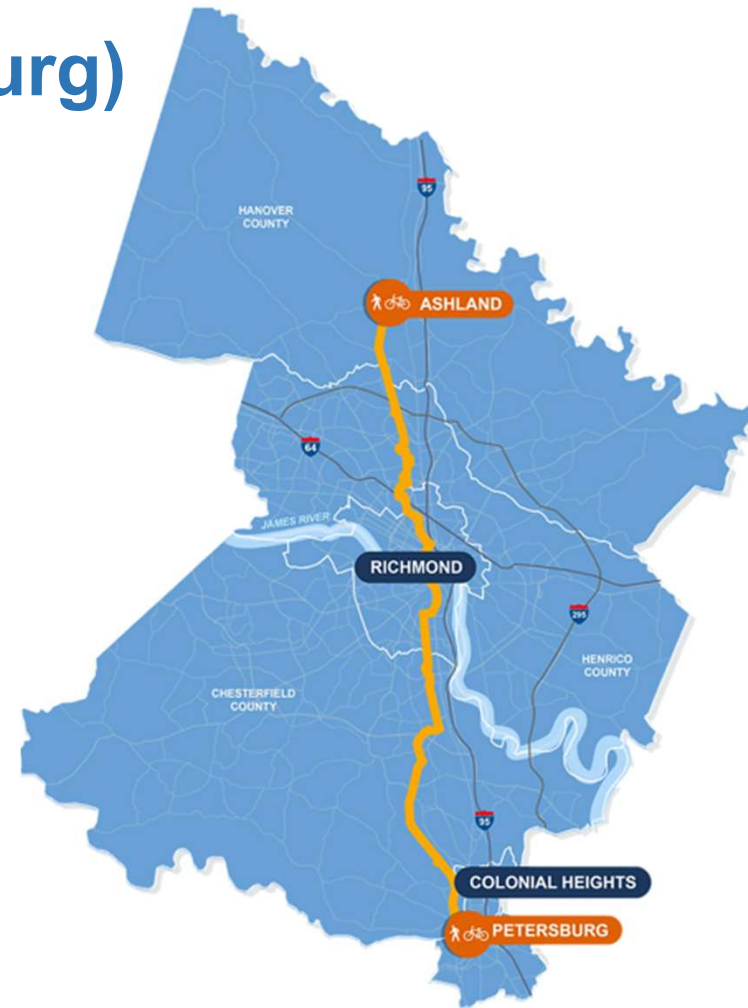


Where: The Fall Line trail courses through seven localities: Ashland, Hanover, Henrico, Richmond, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, and Petersburg.

The Fall Line Trail will tie into the East Coast Greenway – the 3,000-mile cycling and walking route from Maine to Florida.

Advocates: Jurisdictions along the Fall Line route – Ashland, Hanover, Henrico, Richmond, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, and Petersburg

Champion: Sports Backers and Clark Mercer



# Shenandoah Rail Trail



- The biking and walking trail would stretch across a nearly 50-mile inactive Norfolk Southern rail corridor from Broadway to Front Royal.
- Advocates: Shenandoah Rail Trail Partnership, a group of localities and organizations across Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties.
- Champions: Todd Gilbert, Mark Obenshain, Emmett Hanger, and Tony Wilt



Source: Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley, Shenandoah Rail Trail Exploratory Partnership, <https://shenandoahalliance.org/project/shenandoah-rail-trail-partnership/>

# Virginia Eastern Shore Trail



- Where: 50 miles along the spine of the Eastern Shore of Virginia between Cape Charles and Hallwood.
- Advocates: Friends of the Eastern Shore Rail Trail - ~875 members
- New Organization: Eastern Shore Rail Trail Foundation, a nonprofit corporation charged with heading up planning an
- Champion: Former Governor Ralph Northam
- Plans: The plan is to submit four SMART SCALE applications — three for segments of the rail trail and one for the entire trail.



# Virginia Has Created a Fund to Extend/Create Multi-use Trails Across Virginia

- In June 2022, Governor Glenn Youngkin signed the first budget of his term, **dedicating a record-setting \$93 million** to funding for multi-use trails across the Commonwealth.
  - An eight-fold increase of the previous year's general fund commitment
- This budget **includes funding to establish a State Office of Trails**, designed to manage a recurring fund of money that can be divvied to trails building and management groups.



Youngkin Administration recognizes May as **Bike Month**

Source: <https://www.greenway.org/stories/record-93-million-for-multi-use-trails-in-new-virginia-budget>



# How RVA757 Connects Will Help Advance the BoAT

1. Help identify and engage trail champions.
2. Help raise awareness and benefits of the trail.
3. Advocate for funding from the new state bike agency.
4. Conduct a return-on-investment (ROI) study
5. Provide organizing support to make the case for financial support for the BoAT.
6. Suggest BoAT stakeholders discuss the best name for the new trail.

**4.  
Remove  
barriers to increase  
passenger rail  
service**

# The Pathway to Increase Passenger Rail Service: Environmental Impact Study Tier I & II



Richmond to DC  
Tier I & II  
Environmental  
Impact Studies  
Completed

Richmond to Raleigh  
Tier I & II  
Environmental  
Impact Studies  
Completed



Richmond to  
Hampton  
Roads – Only  
Tier I Funded  
and Completed

**5.  
Drive and  
showcase greater  
collaboration and  
innovation**

# I-64 Innovation Corridor Opportunity Study

**Executive Summary**  
**The I-64 Innovation Corridor Opportunity Study**

Presented by  
**RVA757 connects**

...rse of nine months, the Council reviewed data on areas and discussed and meanings, key findings, applications. The I-64 Corridor Opportunity Study findings, a robust PowerPoint as summary presentation Region 4 and Region 5 are [RVA757Connects.com](http://RVA757Connects.com).

...ork is now helping economic development, force development and government leaders gain understanding of the regions and innovation of interregional the current and state of the I-64 Corridor.

**STUDY GOALS, APPROACH, AND RESOURCES**

**The Research Council organized this study around a series of iterative questions related to megaregions and the current and future state of the I-64 Innovation Corridor.**

**This includes:**

1. Is interregional collaboration across America really happening?
2. What is the I-64 Innovation Corridor today?
3. What is the current and projected future state of the I-64 Innovation Corridor - population, employment, gross domestic product?
4. What will it take to realize the I-64 Innovation Corridor's full potential?
5. How can RVA757 Connects help advance the I-64 Innovation Corridor?

...study is now directing RVA757 Connects' future agenda, finding ways to work with GO Virginia's Regions 4 and 5 to the economic success of the Richmond and Hampton ... regions.

**Thomas R. Frantz**  
Co-Chair, RVA757 Connects

3

# Invest in Our Unique Growing Clusters

- Richmond and Hampton Roads do not have established, large and unique job-generating industry clusters (except ship building).
- The 4 most promising unique, job-generating industry clusters include:



**Transportation,  
Logistics, and  
Supply Chain**



**National  
Security and  
Cyber  
Security**



**Data Centers, IT,  
and Digital  
Networks**



**Pharma  
Manufacturing  
& Life Sciences**

\*Unique = Richmond and Hampton Roads have a competitive workforce availability advantage over other regions (promising LQ rating).



# INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

First Tuesday of Every Month

**6.  
Support  
directors' and  
members'  
initiatives**



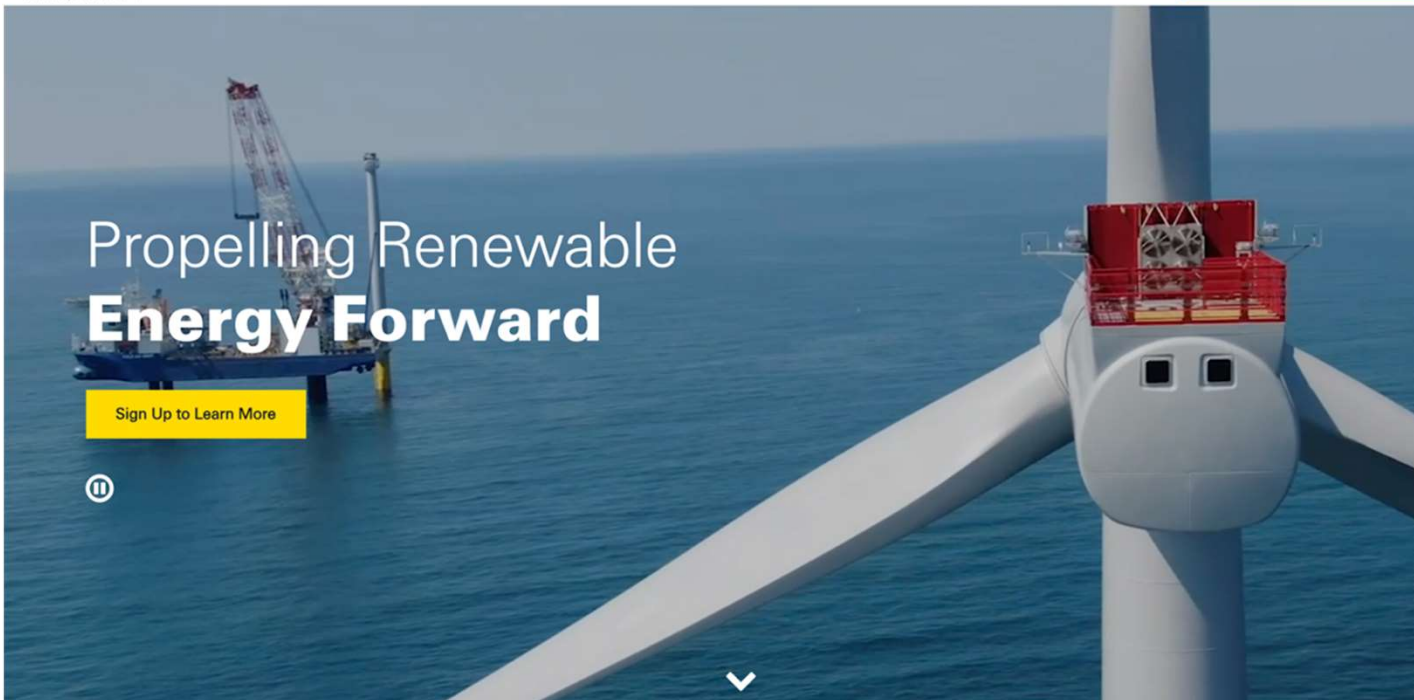
# Off-Shore Wind



Coastal Virginia  
**Offshore Wind**

[About CVOW](#) [News](#) [Learn](#) [Connect](#)

[Take a Closer Look, Virtually](#)

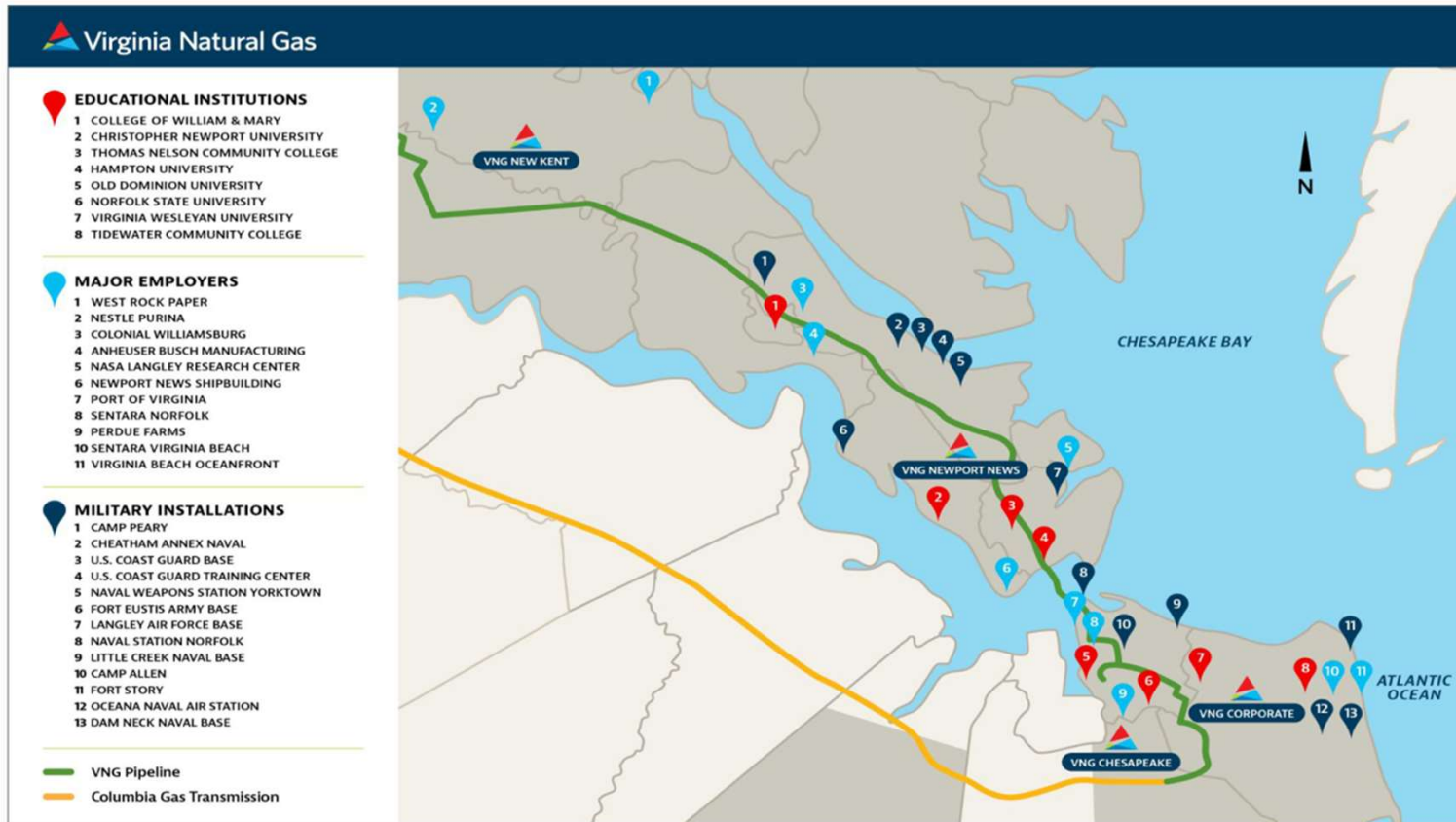


Propelling Renewable  
**Energy Forward**

[Sign Up to Learn More](#)



# VNG Pipeline Improvements



**7.**  
**Advance our  
megaregion's  
brand: I-64  
Innovation  
Corridor**

# Visit [RVA757Connects.com](http://RVA757Connects.com)

**RVA757**  
connects

MENU

**JUST RELEASED**  
I-64 Innovation Corridor Opportunity Study - [Executive Summary](#)

Igniting a **new**  
**corridor of**  
**innovation.**

At this very moment, there is an incredible opportunity to drive the future success of Hampton Roads (757) and Greater Richmond (RVA).

With the creation of RVA757 Connects, RVA and 757 are joining forces to spark the I-64 Innovation Corridor — an 8,000 square mile region that runs from Richmond to Hampton Roads along Interstate I-64. Through the I-64 Innovation Corridor we connect, collaborate, and create new ways to deliver business opportunities, scientific breakthroughs, world-class healthcare, military advancements, artistic endeavors, and equitable social and economic opportunities.

[Learn More](#)

# Convening, Connecting, and Collaborating to Advance the I- 64 Innovation Corridor



**20 Min.**      **RVA757 Connects' Priorities & Our Working Model**  
John W. Martin, President and CEO of RVA757 Connects

**10 Min.**      **I-64 Innovation Corridor's Political Will & Might**  
Ross Grogg, Co-chair, RVA757 Connects, Government Relations Committee

**30 Min.**      **Advancing the I-64 Innovation Corridor's Transportation Infrastructure**  
Virginia Secretary of Transportation, W. Sheppard Miller III

**30 Min.**      **What's Next & Open Discussion**



I-64 Innovation Corridor's  
**Political  
Will & Might**

Ross Grogg, Co-chair,  
RVA757 Connects  
Government Relations Committee

*(Vice President at Kemper Consulting)*





# Today's Rocket Docket



1. **Govt. Relations Committee's Charge**
2. **Our Approach**
3. **Our Political Will - Topics We Are Watching**
4. **Our Political Might – The Numbers**
5. **The Next 90 Days**



**First, Thank You RVA757 Connects  
Government Relations Committee  
Co-Chair, Chris Lloyd**

Vice President and Director,  
Infrastructure & Economic Development,  
McGuireWoods Consulting LLC



# Government Relations Committee's Charge



## Goal:

- Raise awareness among government leaders and elected officials of RVA757 Connects, the I-64 Innovation Corridor, and our priorities.

## Target Audiences:

- Local, state, and Virginia's U.S. congressional delegation
- Members of their ecosystem

# Our Approach: Crawl, Walk, Run



## 2021



- Accept RVA757 Connects Executive Committee's request to create a Government Relations Committee.
- Map out an evolutionary, not revolutionary approach.

## 2022



- Approach key issues on a one-by-one basis.
- Provide input to RVA757 Connects' Executive Committee and staff.
- Example: I-64 Gap and Virginia Natural Gas pipeline support.
- Create a lean committee for flexibility.

## 2023

- Advance a board-approved legislative agenda.
- Give briefings to joint RVA and 757 regional caucus.
- Organize calls and visits to key state government leaders and elected officials.
- Operate full RVA757 Connects' Government Relations Committee

# Our Political Will – Some Topics We Are Watching



- GO Virginia Funding
- Transportation funding (generally, not just the I-64 Gap Project)
- Topics related to RVA757 Connects' core priorities:
  - Digital infrastructure
  - Passenger rail service
  - Bike trails
  - Our key target industry clusters
  - Workforce development
  - Site development
  - Our members' initiatives: Jefferson Lab, off-shore wind, natural gas pipeline, etc.

# Our Political Might – Let's Do The Numbers



**Legislators**

**Committee Chairs**

**Subcommittee Chairs**

**Budget Conferees**

**Appropriators**

**Leadership**

# Comparative Look At Regions



	Richmond Region (RVA)
Legislators	25
Committee Chairs	3
Subcommittee Chairs	12
Budget Conferee	2
Appropriators	6
Leadership	3

# Comparative Look At Regions



	Richmond Region (RVA)	Hampton Roads Region (757)
Legislators	25	30
Committee Chairs	3	8
Subcommittee Chairs	12	12
Budget Conferee	2	6
Appropriators	6	8
Leadership	3	5

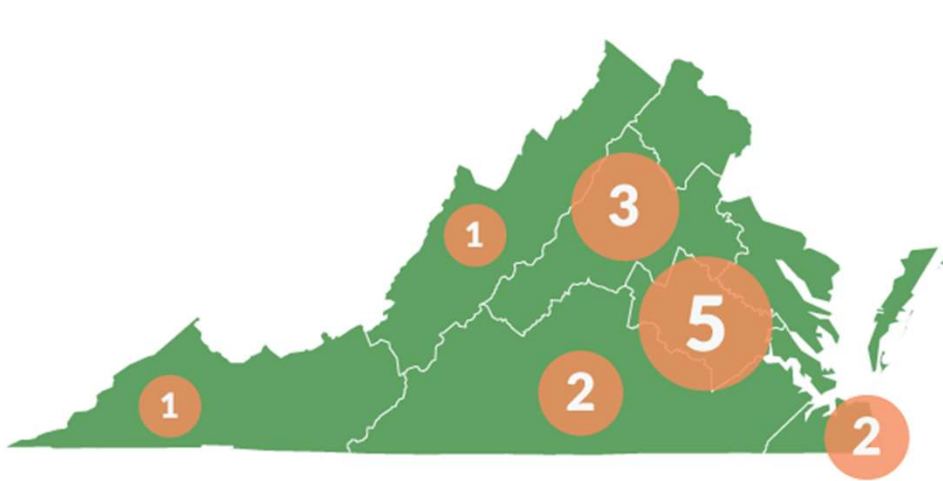
# Comparative Look At Regions



	Richmond Region (RVA)	Hampton Roads Region (757)		Combined: Richmond and Hampton Roads
Legislators	25	30		52
Committee Chairs	3	8		10
Subcommittee Chairs	12	12		22
Budget Conferee	2	6		6
Appropriators	6	8		12
Leadership	3	5		10



# Is Political Power Shifting?



2019 Republican Committee Chairs



2020 Democrat Committee Chairs

# The Next 90 Days: RVA757 Connects Government Relations Committee's Work:



- Inventory legislative agendas and input from the Chambers and MIC members. **Oct.-Nov. 2022**
- Create 2023 legislative strawman agenda. **Nov. 22, 2022**
- Present recommendations to the Executive Committee. **Nov. 30, 2022**
- Present recommendations to the full RVA757 Connects board/MIC. Board approves final priorities. **Dec. 13, 2022**

**This Is Your Opportunity:**



**Join the RVA757 Connects'  
Government Relations Committee**

# Convening, Connecting, and Collaborating to Advance the I- 64 Innovation Corridor



**20 Min.**      **RVA757 Connects' Priorities & Our Working Model**  
John W. Martin, President and CEO of RVA757 Connects

**10 Min.**      **I-64 Innovation Corridor's Political Will & Might**  
Ross Grogg, Co-chair, RVA757 Connects, Government Relations Committee

**30 Min.**      **Advancing the I-64 Innovation Corridor's Transportation Infrastructure**  
Virginia Secretary of Transportation W. Sheppard Miller III

**30 Min.**      **What's Next & Open Discussion**

# Advancing the I-64 Innovation Corridor's Transportation Infrastructure

Virginia Secretary of Transportation  
W. Sheppard Miller III

# Convening, Connecting, and Collaborating to Advance the I- 64 Innovation Corridor



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# What's Next? 2023 & Beyond

**Our Geographic Reach?**

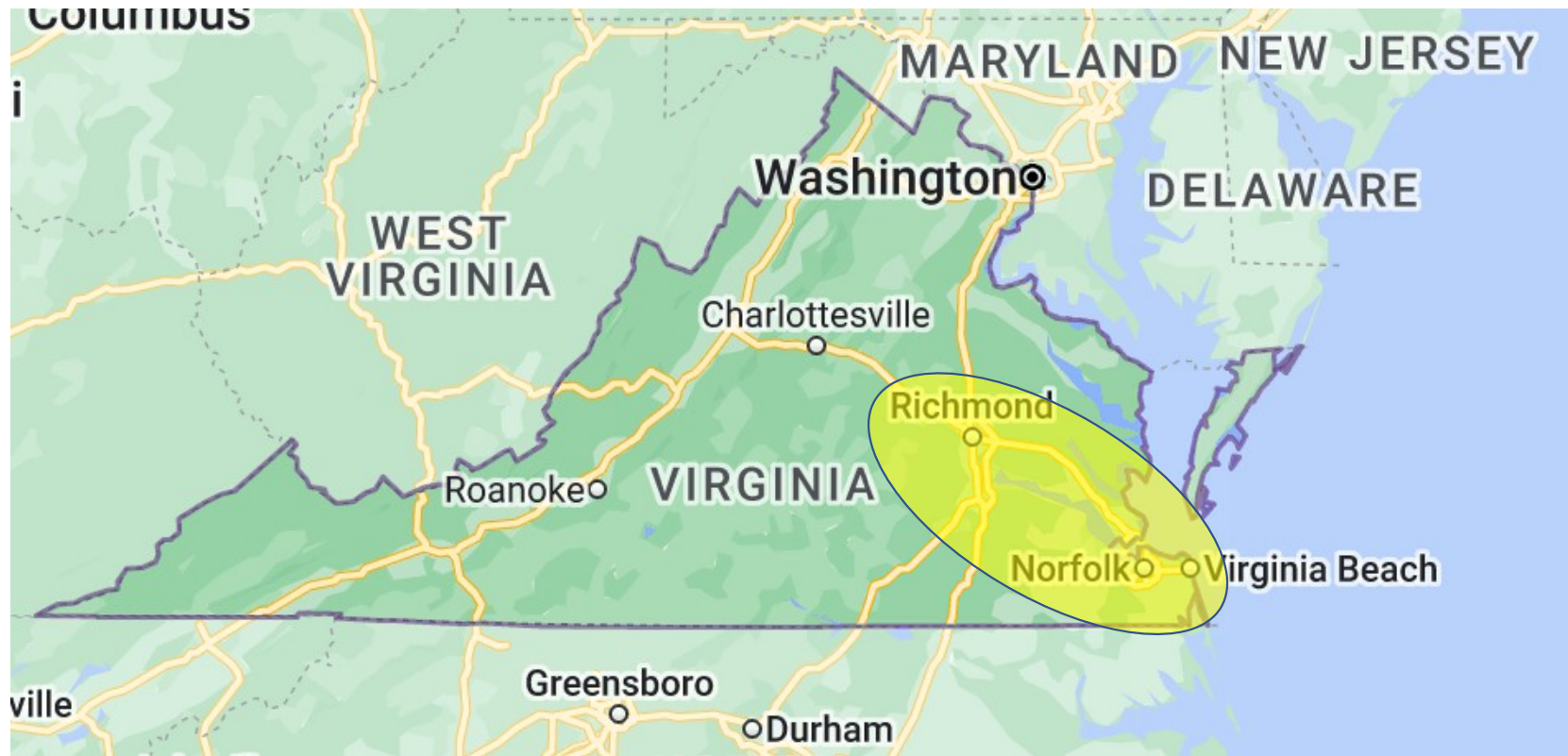
**Our Priorities?**

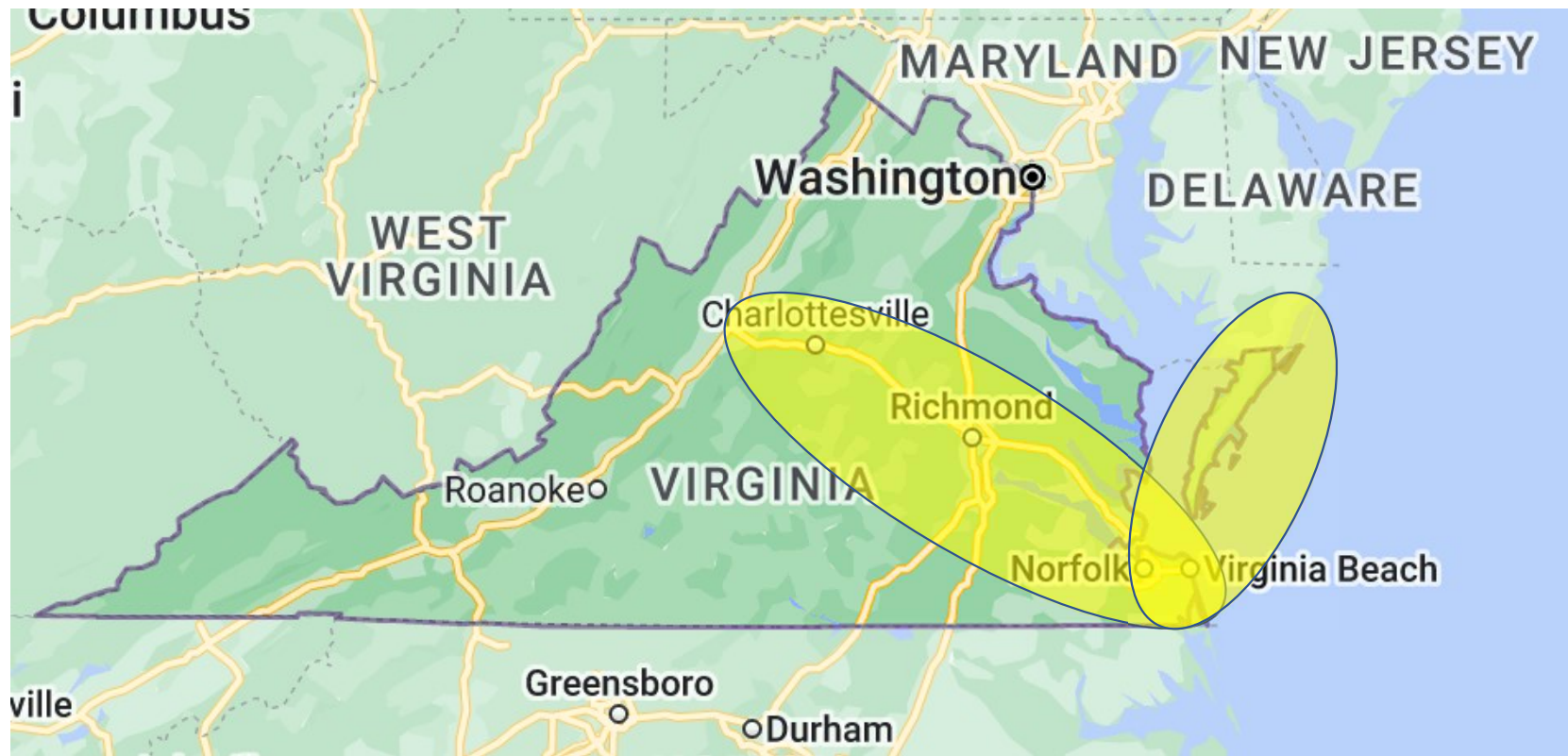
# What's Next? 2023 & Beyond

**Our Geographic Reach?**

**Our Priorities?**







# +300K People . . . . A Bigger Story?

REGION	POPULATION (2019)	POPULATION ANNUAL AVERAGE GROWTH (2009-2019)	EMPLOYMENT (2020Q3)	FORECAST EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (AVG. ANNU. RATE 2020Q3-2030Q3)
Raleigh-Cary, NC MSA	1,390,785	2.3%	662,325	1.6%
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN MSA	1,934,317	1.7%	1,034,884	1.5%
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA	2,636,883	1.7%	1,276,784	1.4%
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO MSA	2,967,239	1.7%	1,572,471	1.4%
Orlando-Tampa, FL Megaregion	5,802,978	1.8%	2,689,782	1.3%
Jacksonville, FL MSA	1,559,514	1.6%	721,122	1.2%
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Alpharetta, GA MSA	6,020,364	1.4%	2,834,590	1.1%
Columbus, OH MSA	2,122,271	1.2%	1,076,754	0.7%
Charlottesville, VA MSA	218,615	0.9%	113,625	0.5%
Richmond, VA MSA	1,291,998	0.9%	656,014	0.5%
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA	6,280,487	1.2%	3,267,882	0.4%
I-64 Innovation Corridor (without Eastern Shore)	3,067,223	0.6%	1,437,029	0.2%
I-64 Innovation Corridor (including Eastern Shore)	3,111,249	0.6%	1,455,055	0.2%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, VA-NC MSA	1,768,901	0.4%	778,697	-0.1%

Source: JobsEQ® by Chmura



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## Strengthening the biotech community

[MEET THE BIOHUB](#)



Charlottesville BioHub amplifies a vibrant and expansive biotechnology **industry cluster** in Charlottesville, home to **more than 75 companies** at the forefront of advancing human health and innovation.





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# LAUNCH WITH US

FREQUENT AND RELIABLE ACCESS TO SPACE ON YOUR TERMS

# What's Next? 2023 & Beyond

## Our Geographic Reach?

## Our Priorities?

## RVA757 Connects' Priorities



1. Advocate for I-64 (to Williamsburg)
2. Help the I-64 Interchange become an Internet Hub
3. Support the corridor
4. Remove barriers
5. Drive and show innovation
6. Support directors' efforts (G, Dominion, Jeff Lab)
7. Advance our megaregion Innovation Corridor





# Advancing Inclusive Growth

Across the Capital Region,  
from Baltimore to Richmond.





Regional Blueprint for Inclusive Growth  
GREATER WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP Watch later Share

# Regional Blueprint for Inclusive Growth

Watch on  YouTube

[Download Full Report PDF](#) [View Overview](#) [Explore Pillars](#)

AN ACTION-ORIENTED  
**ROADMAP**

to make the region from Baltimore to Richmond the most inclusive and competitive in the nation.



## GIH Steering Committee – August 2022

Does the world need another  
Global Internet Hub?

# 1. **Make Equity a Primary Goal: Steering Committee members expressed a strong desire for equity to be one of the primary goals of this overall initiative.**

Related comments:

*“It will be critically important in our planning effort to think about who will ultimately benefit from our effort to make the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion a Global Internet Hub.”*

*“Our work can become a national / international model in advancing social justice through equitable digital access.”*

# Discussion Q&As

What are we doing right?

What are we missing?



# Thank You – Today We're On The Map



# CONVERGENCE

Presenting



Speaker



Luncheon



Dinner



Supporting

Gather | Guernsey Tingle

