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TO: TDCHR Commissioners
FROM: Philip A. Shucet, President/CEO
RE: President and CEO Report

Any period of turmoil is followed by one of growth.

As Hampton Roads Transit wrestles with disruptions to its signature project – The Tide light rail – our collective eye is firmly fixed on the future. Over the last three weeks, we set about the work of shoring up the many relationships we have with community leaders across the Commonwealth who play a crucial role in advancing public transit.

HRT senior staff met with the Norfolk and Virginia Beach city councils, the Hampton Roads Caucus of the Virginia General Assembly as well as with individual members of our delegation one-on-one. An additional meeting to explain the state of our work was held with Del. Joe May, chairman of House Appropriations Transportation subcommittee.

We held promising discussions with Virginia's new Secretary of Transportation, the Honorable Sean Connaughton, and the director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Honorable Thelma Drake. City managers in Virginia Beach and Norfolk have been apprised as well. There was even a little time to talk to the Norfolk Tea Party 2 – just to make sure all have a chance to hear how our work is coming along.

Not only are we critiquing ourselves, but we've also asked the Inspector General's office of the Virginia Department of Transportation to review our business practices.

We're not broken by any means. We're just putting a little shine back on our boots.

Bus Operations

Ridership in January 2010 had a reduction of 31,798 passenger trips compared to January 2009. System-wide ridership in July 2009 was up 7.24%, 8.94% in August 2009, and 16.44% in September 2009 compared to 2008. October 2009 ridership was down 4.37%, November 2009 ridership was down 4.48% and December ridership was down 1.86% compared to 2008. Ridership totals exhibited in the chart below show the following:

January - 10 vs January - 09	Actual January - 10	Actual January - 09	Diff	% Change	Srv Days 2009	Srv Days 2008
System Total	1,146,726	1,178,524	(31,798)	-2.70%	31	31
Weekday Total	970,431	981,711	(11,280)	-1.15%	21	22
Weekday Avg.	46,211	44,623	1,588	3.56%		
Saturday Total	128,165	153,208	(25,043)	-16.35%	5	5
Saturday Avg.	25,633	30,642	(5,009)	-16.35%		
Sunday Total	48,130	43,605	4,525	10.38%	5	4
Sunday Avg.	9,626	7,660	1,966	25.66%		
FYTD July to Present						
Monthly Totals	7,773,799	7,515,408	258,391	3.44%		

- To make sure we are comparing “apples” to “apples” monthly ridership comparisons will no longer include FY09 Hampton residential service because it has been eliminated. On average Hampton residential service averaged approximately 40,000 - 60,000 passenger trips each month that service operated. We now provide a more accurate summary of ridership by eliminating the reporting of the Hampton residential service.
- System ridership is down approximately 2.70% in January 2010 versus January 2009
- Average weekday ridership is up approximately 3.56% in January 2010 compared to January 2009.
- Saturday’s average is down 16.35% or 25,043 passenger trips
- Ridership on Sunday is up approximately 4,525 passenger trips for a 10.38% increase.
- Although the past four months have been down, the overall fiscal YTD ridership is up 3.44% or 258,391 passengers.

Route	Route Name	Route Type	2010	
			Monthly Weekday Ridership	Avg Wkdy Ridership
20	VA Beach Blvd.	Loc	83,908	3,996
15	Crosstown	Loc	78,423	3,734
1	Granby	Loc	62,352	2,969
112	Jefferson Ave.	Loc	43,532	2,168
3	Chesapeake Blvd.	Loc	42,171	2,008
23	Princess Anne Rd.	Loc	33,633	1,601
45	Portsmouth Blvd.	Loc	31,668	1,508
8	Tidewater Dr.	Loc	31,499	1,500
106	Warwick	Loc	30,402	1,448
13	Campostella Rd	Loc	28,802	1,371

- 10 most productive routes. System average is 22 passengers per revenue hour:

Route	Route Name	Route Type	Passengers/Revenue Hour
117	Phoebus	Loc	43
101	Kecoughtan	Loc	38
1	Granby	Loc	35
112	Jefferson Ave.	Loc	39
106	Warwick	Loc	33
15	Crosstown	Loc	30
20	VA Beach Blvd.	Loc	29
107	Denbigh	Loc	29
8	Tidewater Dr.	Loc	28
3	Chesapeake Blvd.	Loc	28

Light Rail Vehicles Report

This is a system wide contract. The contract consists of the procurement of nine light rail vehicles for use on the completed LRT. To satisfy the vehicle requirement, Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) assigned to HRT, nine LRVs from its twenty-five LRV option with Siemens Transportation Systems (STS). HRT has entered into a contract with STS incorporating the terms of the CATS contract. The first of nine vehicles was delivered in October of 2009, with the delivery of the last vehicle scheduled for February 2010.



HRT LRV as manufactured by Siemens Industry, Mobility Division

Summary of Activities:

- All LRVs have been delivered and have been placed into storage on the HRT right of way near Norfolk State University. Delivery and storage procedures have been prepared and implemented. Periodic scheduled maintenance was performed on time for the first seven vehicles on site.
- Containers have been placed at Sewell's Point to store arriving spare parts and special tools until the Vehicle Maintenance and Storage Facility is complete. Receipt and storage of spare parts and special tools is ongoing
- HRT and Siemens continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis to discuss issues associated with the delivery of the vehicles, spare parts and training.
- Siemens is scheduled to begin commissioning of the vehicles in April provided that HRT is prepared for this activity. The delivery ramp, originally erected at Sewell's Point has been removed to make way for the temporary commissioning facility.
- HRT received draft maintenance manuals and training plans for approval in February. The start of training is planned to coincide with the start of commissioning.
- Seventeen of eighteen First Article Inspections (FAIs) have been approved thus far. The remaining FAI, is expected to be approved in February.
- Tri-Met joined HRT and CATS in the ongoing dialogue involving elements common to the three vehicles. All participating organizations continue to benefit through shared lessons learned. The next monthly HRT/CATS/Tri-Met telephone conference is scheduled for March 17th.
- HRT operations staff actively participating with internal Safety Personnel to complete the mandated safety certification for the light rail vehicles.
- The development of mileage based Light Rail Vehicle maintenance procedures and material kits are in process. This in advance of the scheduled CMMIS implementation in March.

The Tide, construction

Contract 20

Viaduct Construction, Harbor Park to NSU: A 3,010 ft. long elevated structure from near Harbor Park under I-264 to the east side of Brambleton Avenue at NSU. Holt Street relocation is also in this contract. The elevator and stairway tower at NSU Station is included in this contract.

Construction of the viaduct by Bryant Contracting, Inc. under Contract 20, completed all structure work. Overall, the original contract work is 100 percent complete and the viaduct has been handed over for final track installation by Skanska. Bryant has been awarded a contract addition for the construction of the elevator and stairway tower at NSU Station, and initial contractor submittals for this work are underway. Initial grading and utility work has been completed.

Contract 30

Major Civil Construction, Former Norfolk Southern Railway Property, NSU to Newtown Rd: Approximately 4 miles of grading, drainage, utility, and new double-track along the existing railroad; new bridges over NSRR Sewell's Point line and Moseley Creek; grading for the shop building and yard tracks. This work also includes the marine bridge at Broad Creek.

Skanska Civil USA Southeast is responsible for the work on the former Norfolk Southern Railway right-of-way from NSU to Newtown Road, including trackwork on the Contract 20 viaduct. All main tracks and overhead catenary system foundations are installed. All bridge structures are complete, including track, walkway, and railings. Grading, drainage, and trackwork continue at the VSMF Yard site. Track concrete construction on the viaduct structure at Holt Street was recently completed. Insulated rail joints are currently being inserted into the track in preparation for a state sponsored signal upgrade for the track segment between NSU and Newtown Road.

Contract 40

Major Civil Construction, Central Business District, EVMC to Harbor Park: All utility work, track construction, traffic signals and pavement markings, and street and sidewalk paving throughout the downtown area. The contract also includes marine bridge at Smith Creek.

Skanska USA Southeast holds Contract 40 for the Norfolk central business district and has achieved substantial completion in the areas of York/Belmont, E. Main Street, and Monticello Avenue. Major construction is approximately 75% complete in the York Street, MacArthur Station, and Harbor Park areas. Catenary foundations are in progress along the entire contract alignment. West of York Street, ballasted track and street lighting conduit installations are in progress. From Charlotte to Freemason Streets, excavation for the paved trackwork is underway, including water line relocation and reconstruction of curb and brick sidewalk areas. At both Plume Street, track installation, traffic signalization, and street lighting conduit are being installed. At Park Avenue (Harbor Park), ballasted trackwork and asphalt pavement are nearing completion. At Government Center, Skanska has completed its work on a major utility vault in preparation for grading and track installation.

Contract 60

LRT Systems, EVMC to Newtown Road: Furnishes and installs catenary poles and wire, electrical substations and grade-crossing signals and gates for the entire 7.4 mile corridor of main tracks and storage yard. Work also includes grading and fencing at seven power substation sites.

Truland Systems Corporation has completed delivery and placement of the traction power substation at Holt Street, Sewells Point, Military Highway, and Newtown Road; DVP feeder installations are in progress, and Holt Street, Sewells Point, and Military Highway substations have been energized. OCS pole, hangers, and cantilever assemblies are being mounted on track foundations from VSMF Yard to Ingleside; messenger wire has been strung from Sewell's Point to Ingleside, including two disconnect switches. Signal conduit and foundation installations are in progress at all grade crossings. 37 OCS foundations are now installed in the VSMF Yard. Proposals for signal enhancements from NSU to Newtown Road have been received and are in final negotiation.

Contract 80

Light Rail Shop and Storage Yard: Maintenance facility, employee parking lot, site lighting, entrance roadway, pedestrian walkway at I-264 and Brambleton Avenue.

W.M. Schlosser Co. Inc. is now progressing initial building and site work submittals, incorporating the latest building façade request for the City of Norfolk. Value engineering proposals for various support wall revisions have been approved as cost-effective changes. Initial grading and foundation work for the shop building and parking lots are underway, including significant utility service line installation.

Contracts 120 and 160

LRT Vehicle Procurement: Delivery of nine (9) vehicles for use on the completed LRT, including delivery and spares for maintenance, and temporary track and facilities for the vehicle delivery.

Siemens Transportation Systems (STS) has completed initial light rail vehicle deliveries of HRT #1 through HRT #7, currently in storage at HRT. A temporary connection track with Norfolk Southern and unloading facilities were completed for this delivery.

Contract 150

Demolition: Asbestos abatement and demolition of Kirn Library and other structures on the LRT project.

S.B. Cox, has completed the heavy demolition of Kirn Library and Baylor Plumbing, including foundation and tank removal, followed by final grading of the site. This contract is 100 percent complete, contract closeout is complete.

Contracts 100 and 110

Contract #100 Park and Ride Lots: New construction at Newtown Road and Military Hwy. Reconfigure existing lots at Ballentine and Harbor Park. Contract 110, Systemwide Station Finishes: Furnish and install shelters, benches, railings, and platform lighting.

Design continues for Contract 100. Contract 110 was awarded to W.M. Schlosser Co. Inc. in October 2009 and initial gravity wall structures in progress at Ballentine Blvd. and Ingleside Road; Contract 100 advertisement date is under review.

Management Services

The current position openings are:

Customer Service Representative I - PT and Seasonal
 Facilities Maintenance Assistant
 PeopleSoft Programmer Analyst
 Records Management Specialist I
 Senior Financial Analyst
 Summer Bus Operators
 Vault Puller

Positions filled during the last month:

3 Security Police PT
 1 Records Management Specialist III
 1 Operator FT – Virginia Beach
 2 Operator FT – Hampton

Personnel/Employee Count:

Current Employee Count as of February 19, 2010 is 831.

Recruitment Summary Report			
Summary of available Drivers As of 02/19/2010			
	Required	Available	Needed
Hampton - FT	154	151	3
Norfolk - FT	286	280	6
Suffolk – FT	7	7	0
Virginia Beach - FT	20	20	0
Virginia Beach – Summer	60	0	60
	527	458	69

Training Class Status As of 02/19/2010	
Hampton	4
Norfolk	4
Suffolk	0
Virginia Beach	0
Virginia Beach – Summer	5
	13

Employee of the Month

Gary Tate



Here's what fellow HRT employees had to say about Gary, a bus operator from the Beach division:

- "Gary lives and breathes HRT bus operations. He is available at a moment's notice to help with open route coverage."
- "He is a picture-perfect representative of uniform requirements at HRT."
- "His uniform is always immaculate from hat to shoes."
- "He is the perfect image of what the company wants as a bus operator."
- "He always has a smile on his face for everyone. His passengers see him as a ray of sunshine."
- "He never complains."
- "He always has a positive attitude."
- "He is one of the more responsible, dedicated operators I've known."
- "Any customer comment is glowing with praise for the way Gary operates his bus and services his customers and route."