

## **MEETING MINUTES: CTB Innovation Subcommittee**

**LOCATION:** Virginia Department of Transportation Central Office Old Highway Building, 1221 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

**DATE:** Tuesday, December 4, 2018

**TIME:** 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

The meeting of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Innovation Subcommittee was held in the Computer Lab of the Virginia Department of Transportation Central Office Old Highway Building located at 1221 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. The Chairperson, Hap Connors, Jr., presided and called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on December 4, 2018.

Present: Messrs. Connors and Kasprovicz, Ms. DeTuncq, Secretary Valentine, and Ms. McGhee.

### **AGENDA:**

1. UAS Activity Update – Cathy McGhee
  - Senator Warner’s Law Enforcement Roundtable
  - VDoA Work Group
  - VDOT Work Group

Cathy McGhee provided an update on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) activities including a Law Enforcement Roundtable hosted by Senator Mark Warner, the VDoA work group, and the VDOT work group. The Law Enforcement Roundtable discussed both positive and negative impacts of UAS from a law enforcement perspective. UAS have the potential to be a hard to predict/control threat but could also have beneficial uses.

The VDoA work group has established task groups to address four primary issues (business development, education, federal and state regulation – coordination of airspace, and federal, state, and local use of UAS). Those groups are working and a final report will be produced summarizing the work of all groups.

The VDOT work group will provide oversight and coordination of the delivery of the UAS Action plan for 2019 and will begin meeting in January.

2. Virginia Tech/VTTI
  - Intern Hub Ribbon Cutting
  - Smart Road Expansion

Cathy McGhee provided an update on activities with university partner VTTI including the ribbon cutting of the Intern Hub and status of the Smart Road expansion.

The Intern Hub is a partnership between Virginia Tech and a number of private sector partners that will provide students with the opportunity to have intern experiences without having to leave campus. Companies will provide not just funding but also real world projects for students to engage in alongside mentors who will spend time in Blacksburg. The experience students will gain and relationships they will establish are expected to lead to full time employment upon graduation either with their intern company or others who value the experience they’ve gained.

The Smart Road expansion continues. The Surface Street expansion and live roadway connector are seeing steady use. The connector road from the end of the existing road to the rural road track has been constructed and a bridge over the creek to provide construction access is in place. Phase 1 construction of the rural track is scheduled for spring 2019.

3. Governor's Conference/Innovation Summit

- Hyperloop
- Thoughts for next year

Cathy McGhee updated the committee on the work of VCU and Virginia Tech in the Hyperloop competition that was highlighted as part of the Governor's Transportation Conference/Innovation Summit. Both teams have moved to the second stage of the 2019 competition and are currently working on final designs for their pods. The committee discussed the status of Hyperloop technology and how Virginia could engage. Cathy was asked to put together a white paper on the status of the technology and prospects for capitalization. Maryland has work ongoing and we will reach out to them to gather more information.

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**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. on December 4, 2018. The next CTB Innovation Subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Computer Lab of the Virginia Department of Transportation Central Office Old Highway Building located at 1221 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.