

New Business: UASI Designation and Funding

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

April 21, 2011

Agenda Item #22



AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #22: NEW BUSINESS – UASI DESIGNATION & FUNDING

SUBJECT:

Congress is considering changes to the criteria for designating Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) regions, which will result in a reduction in the number of designated regions. Simultaneously, Congress is considering appropriations for FY 2011 for the UASI Program.

BACKGROUND:

Congress is considering legislation to change the criteria for designating Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) regions, which will result in a reduction in the number of designated regions. Any reduction in the number of designated UASI regions is likely to adversely impact Hampton Roads and the participating localities and regional agencies.

The Hampton Roads UASI was designated in 2007 with the HRPDC as the coordinating entity. The Urban Area Working Group was established by the region's localities through the HRPDC to develop and manage this program. Since that time, the region has received more than \$30 million in funding to support a wide variety of local and regional initiatives. An additional \$7 million in projects are being developed through the UAWG for funding in FY 2011. A number of these projects are critical to the long-term success of the region's programs.

Concurrently, Congress is considering appropriations for the FY 2011 UASI Program. Continued funding is essential to maintaining the progress that this region and others have made through this program to be prepared for manmade, both intentional and accidental, and natural disasters.

The HRPDC staff has developed the attached letter for submittal to the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation and Governor McDonnell in support of maintaining the existing designation criteria and funding levels to support the UASI Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Chairman to send the attached letter to the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation and the Governor concerning designation of and funding for the Hampton Roads Urban Areas Security Initiative program.

Attachment – 22A – Letter to Congressional Delegation



STAN D. CLARK, CHAIRMAN • THOMAS G. SHEPPERD, JR., VICE CHAIR • JAMES D. MCREYNOLDS, TREASURER
DWIGHT L. FARMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

April 21, 2011

CHESAPEAKE

FORM LETTER: Senators Warner and Webb; Congressmen Scott, Forbes, Rigell and Wittman, and Governor McDonnell

FRANKLIN

RE: Norfolk (Hampton Roads) Urban Areas Security Grant Program Designation by the Department of Homeland Security

GLOUCESTER

Dear Senator/Congressman/Governor:

HAMPTON

ISLE OF WIGHT

JAMES CITY

NEWPORT NEWS

NORFOLK

POQUOSON

PORTSMOUTH

SOUTHAMPTON

SUFFOLK

SURRY

VIRGINIA BEACH

WILLIAMSBURG

YORK

At its April 21, 2011 Quarterly Commission Meeting, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission acted to urge that you not support the passage of the H.R. 1555. H.R. 1555 was introduced on April 14, 2011 to the House of Representatives to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to limit the number of Urban Area Security Initiative grants awarded and to clarify the risk assessment formula to be used when making such grants, and for other purposes. The bill contains an instruction to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to limit the number of recipients in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program to only 25 large municipalities which reads "H.R. 1555 seeks to limit the number of Urban Area Security Initiative Grants- Section 2003(b)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 604(b)(1)) by amending it to 'not more than 25' after 'designate'." In the past, DHS has awarded the funds to more than 60 different US cities and their surrounding areas. In fiscal year 2010, Hampton Roads was number 25 with the applied Department of Homeland Security risk formula used that fiscal year.

Since Hampton Roads inception to the grant program in fiscal year of 2007, the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) has significantly helped the sixteen jurisdictions of Hampton Roads to increase homeland security preparedness, response and recovery capabilities. Provided by the Department of Homeland Security, these funds are sub-awarded to the agencies and localities that are directly responsible for preventing, protecting from, responding to and recovering from acts of terrorism. Unlike most preparedness grants, these funds are provided to directly benefit local first responders and security officials who serve as the front line for our nation's defense against terrorism. As demonstrated below, and with the attached document which shows the initiatives with these grant funds, the UASI grant continues to reduce risk and close capability gaps that would otherwise remain security vulnerabilities.

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As a requirement of receiving Homeland Security funds, each Urban Area is required to have a homeland security plan. In order to be good stewards of the federal funds, Hampton Roads stakeholders funded a regional capabilities assessment, reviewing target capabilities most relevant to the Hampton Roads UASI. From this assessment, a gap analysis and prioritized homeland security strategy were created to ensure that the Hampton Roads region has a single, data-driven document that outlines the region's risks, capability needs, vision, structure, goals, and objectives for homeland security. Above all, the strategy ensures federal funds are maximized in the best way possible to increase terrorism preparedness and reduce risk in Hampton Roads.

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission asks for your support in maintaining this important Homeland Security Grant Program as it is currently written in the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Thank you for your consideration of not supporting H.R. 1555 which could potentially eliminate future homeland security funds for Hampton Roads.

Sincerely,

Stan D. Clark
Chairman

RRF/kg

Hampton Roads UASI Initiative Summary

FY07

- Increased security for mass transit facilities and vehicles
- Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) personal protection equipment for Virginia Port Authority and State Police bomb squad
- Installment of regional interoperable communications infrastructure
- Fusion Center Intelligence Analyst directly responsible for Hampton Roads
- Installment of real-time crisis management and information software (WebEOC)
- Increased planning and preparations for special needs population
- Increased security of Hampton Roads maritime security
- Information sharing platform for law enforcement agencies (Hampton Roads, Baltimore and National Capital Region)

FY08

- Training and exercise for mass transit personnel
- Expanding of interoperable communications infrastructure
- Emergency preparedness public outreach and education including special needs planning
- Increased bomb squad capabilities (4 regional bomb squads brought to Type 1 response level)
- Regional capabilities assessment and updating of Hampton Roads Homeland Security Strategy

FY09

- Increased perimeter security of vulnerable mass transit facilities
- Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource (CIKR) protection via the installment of license plate readers on key transit infrastructure locations.
- Expansion of interoperable communication infrastructure
- Additional public outreach and education including special needs population specific issues
- Increased sheltering capabilities via the procurement of pet sheltering equipment
- Establishment of a regional all hazards Incident Management Team
- Increased capabilities of regional maritime incident response team
- Continued funding for fusion center analyst

FY10

- Medical special needs equipment for shelters and medical strike team.
- Expansion of license plate reader system
- Expansion of interoperable communications infrastructure
- Additional public outreach and education including special needs population planning
- Increased infrastructure security of higher education campuses
- Expansion of crisis management software use and capabilities
- Additional capabilities of maritime and incident response teams
- Assessment and exercise for water supply response and recovery from disruptions
- Assessment of additional target capabilities and jail evacuation capabilities

Proposed FY11

- Study to evaluate best method of equipment inventory sharing between fire departments
- Continue fusion center analyst
- Expansion of license plate reader system
- Expansion and additional training for maritime and incident management teams
- Continuity of operations planning for jurisdictions of Hampton Roads
- CIKR planning for higher education facilities
- Installment of CBRNE level C personal protection equipment caches
- Implementation HL7-based electronic messaging for information between public health and hospitals
- Planning and implementing of a training and exercise project in support of the strategic national stockpile activities
- Expansion of interoperable communications infrastructure
- Enhanced CIKR surveillance capabilities
- Increased capabilities for public health
- Planning and implementation of a full scale regional exercise
- Public outreach and education for special needs population.