

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING**

### **ITEM #10E: REGIONAL LiDAR ACQUISITION**

#### **SUBJECT:**

The HRPDC has been given the opportunity to contribute toward the acquisition of LiDAR data for eight Hampton Roads localities through a partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA).

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Over the past several years, the HRPDC staff has undertaken a series of studies addressing the issue of sea level rise and its potential impacts on the Hampton Roads region. These studies have identified the need for high resolution LiDAR data for the region to improve the accuracy of the analytical work. This issue was discussed with the HRPDC Board at the February Retreat and has been contained in HRPDC staff presentations on the sea level rise work. Original estimates from the state and others indicated that the cost of acquiring LiDAR data for the entire region would be several million dollars.

Recently, the state, through the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and the Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN), has identified an opportunity to work with the USGS and the NGA to acquire high resolution LiDAR coverage for a substantial portion of the region at a significantly lower cost. The NGA has a specific area of interest (which includes partial jurisdictions) and in partnering with the USGS, has offered to collect data for entire jurisdictions if the cost difference can be supported by the region. The proposed project would cover localities which are more vulnerable to sea level rise (Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and York). The proposed project would collect LiDAR at a higher resolution and with tidal coordination in order to produce a dataset more useful for sea level rise and flooding studies than the LiDAR data that is currently available.

Jurisdictions outside of the proposed project area received LiDAR data through different federal programs in 2010. Hampton Roads would have full, up-to-date LiDAR coverage when this proposed project is completed.

Preliminary estimates are that the local/regional share of this initiative would be less than \$103,000. The state has identified additional partners who have committed funds, including Old Dominion University and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, which will further reduce the local/regional share of this effort.

HRPDC staff briefed the CAOs on this initiative during their meeting on June 21, 2012. The CAOs indicated that the HRPDC should fund this initiative if possible. The HRPDC staff has determined that sufficient funds are available in HRPDC unallocated reserves to support the project, on behalf of the localities.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The HRPDC staff recommends the Executive Director be authorized to contribute up to \$80,000 out of the HRPDC reserve fund toward the acquisition of regional LiDAR data.