

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #9-H: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BEACHES TO BLUEGRASS TRAIL

SUBJECT:

Beaches to Bluegrass Support Letter

BACKGROUND:

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is currently developing a plan for a statewide Beaches to Bluegrass Trail (“Trail”)– a conceptual trail that will stretch from the Cumberland Gap to the oceanfront in Virginia Beach. The goal is to link existing state and local facilities where possible (such as the Tobacco Heritage Trail and Virginia Creeper Trail) to create a multi-use trail across the entire Commonwealth.

The proposed Trail alignment passes through several south Hampton Roads localities using a variety of existing, planned, or conceptual trails. The final miles of the proposed Trail will overlap with the proposed South Hampton Roads Trail, a regional trail network which aims to connect several local projects from downtown Suffolk to the Atlantic Ocean.

DCR has requested a letter from the HRPDC in support of the Trail concept as well as the dual designation of the South Hampton Roads Trail with the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail.

Attachment 9-H

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve a support letter be sent to DCR.

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

March 20, 2014

CHESAPEAKE

Ms. Jennifer Wampler
Trails Coordinator

FRANKLIN

Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
600 E. Main St, 24th Floor

GLOUCESTER

Richmond, VA 23219

HAMPTON

RE: Beaches to Bluegrass Trail support

ISLE OF WIGHT

Dear Ms. Wampler:

JAMES CITY

The Beaches to Bluegrass Trail is a proposed Statewide, multi-use trail which will connect the Cumberland Gap to Virginia Beach through southern Virginia and several localities of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). The HRPDC supports the proposed Beaches to Bluegrass Trail as it will promote recreation, tourism, healthy lifestyles, and connectivity between areas of natural resources throughout the State as well as our region.

NEWPORT NEWS

NORFOLK

The HRPDC also supports the dual alignment of the proposed South Hampton Roads Trail route as the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail through portions of Hampton Roads. The proposed South Hampton Roads Trail, a regional trail currently in various stages of planning and development, will connect downtown Suffolk to the Virginia Beach oceanfront.

POQUOSON

PORTSMOUTH

SOUTHAMPTON

The HRPDC will also continue to work with local, regional, and state partners to refine the preferred Beaches to Bluegrass route through south Hampton Roads which will connect with the planned trail segments to the west of the region.

SUFFOLK

SURRY

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA BEACH

WILLIAMSBURG

Dwight L. Farmer
Executive Director/Secretary

YORK

SJK/jc