



*Clyde A. Haulman, Chairman
Ella P. Ward, Vice-Chair*



*Linda T. Johnson, Chair
George E. Wallace, Vice-Chair*

TO: HRPDC/HRTPO Board Members

FROM: Robert Crum, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's Report

A brief summary of ongoing work activities is presented below for review by HRPDC/HRTPO Board members.

The attached article stressing the importance of increased state funding for public education co-signed by HRPDC Chair Clyde Haulman and the CEOs of the Hampton Roads and Peninsula Chambers of Commerce was published in the January/February 2016 Edition of the Virginia Town and City Magazine.

HRPDC staff prepared a comparative analysis of the proposed House and Senate Budgets and their proposals for K-12 public education funding.

HRPDC/HRTPO staff continues to provide data and information to Hampton Roads Caucus members and the Region's legislative liaisons to support the Region's legislative efforts.

HRTPO staff is collaborating with HRT on a regional transit planning effort. This effort developed from discussions with the HRTPO Legislative Ad-Hoc Committee during the preparation of the HRTPO's legislative agenda when committee members asked staff to work with HRT to determine a vision for transit in the community, and what level of state funding would be needed to advance this vision. The HRTPO's Rail and Public Transportation Task Force met on February 24th to initiate work on this effort.

HRTPO staff continues to complete preparatory work for the HRTPO's Quadrennial Review which is scheduled for March 29th – March 31st.

The Executive Director provided a presentation to the Lefcoe Leadership Development Program on February 17th providing background on the work of the HRPDC/HRTPO.

HRTPO staff has held a series of meetings with Virginia Port Authority staff to discuss available funding through the FAST Act to support freight movement.

HRTPO staff is serving on a review committee for the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Conversion Study being developed by the VDOT consultant team for the 64 Southside.

The HRPDC staff continues to work on Envision Hampton Roads which would represent the HRPDC's first strategic plan for the Hampton Roads Region. A report on this planning effort will be provided at the April HRPDC Retreat.

HRTPO/HRPDC staff is working with VDOT representatives to develop the Agency's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. A strategic plan for this effort was submitted to VDOT representatives for approval on February 26th.

HRTPO staff attended a meeting of the Hampton Roads Crossing Study Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) on February 29th at the VDOT's Hampton Roads District Office. This meeting was also attended by several representatives from the Region's jurisdictions. HRTPO staff has scheduled a briefing of this study to be provided by VDOT staff at the HRTPO's March 17th meeting.

HRTPO/HRPDC staff held an internal coordination meeting to discuss the ongoing Signature Paths project.

The Executive Director continues to participate on a working committee to provide input into the GO Virginia legislative process.

The Regional CAO Committee held its regular monthly meeting on March 2nd. Attendance at these meetings continues to be excellent. Agenda items included continued discussions on approaches to improve the HRPDC regional consensus building process, a review of the HRPDC Help to Others (H2O) Program and a discussion of regional interest items.

The Executive Director has participated in meetings with representatives of Reinvent Hampton Roads and Tidewater Community College to discuss opportunities for a regional broadband initiative.

HRTPO staff continues to collaborate on a daily basis with the HRTAC Executive Director on advancement of the Region's priority transportation projects. In addition, staff continues to provide financial management, human resources, and web site staff support on an as needed basis.

The HRPDC/HRTPO staff is advancing a number of administrative items related to the following:

- Office Janitorial Services Contract
- Agency IT Management Request for Proposals (RFP) process
- Legal Services RFP process
- Agency Health Insurance
- 2017 Agency Budget

The HRPDC Executive Director meets on a monthly basis with a Regional Roundtable including representatives of the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, Hampton Roads Chamber, Peninsula Chamber, the Region's Workforce Investment Boards, Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission, Reinvent Hampton Roads, Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance, and the Virginia Shipbuilders Association. The purpose of these meetings is to encourage information sharing and collaboration between these regional organizations.

The chairs of the HRPDC and HRMFFA co-signed correspondence on March 8th to the Honorable Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and the Honorable John Harvey, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, requesting the Commonwealth's assistance to ensure the Hampton Roads Region receives proper consideration and adequate funding under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The UASI program provides financial assistance to high-threat, high density urban areas to prevent, mitigate and respond to and recover from acts of terrorism.

Hampton Roads leaders make plea for state funding for schools



In an open letter published in several regional newspapers, leaders in Williamsburg and Hampton Roads shared their concerns about the inadequacy of state funding for K-12 education in Virginia. Below is the full text of the letter.

ON DECEMBER 11, 2015, more than 150 local government, school division, and business leaders from Virginia's Urban Crescent – the area from Northern Virginia to Richmond to Hampton Roads comprising 24 percent of the Commonwealth's land area and home to over 70 percent of its school-aged children – met to discuss concerns regarding the state's share of funding for public education.

Their concern was animated by the fact that since 2008-09, the Commonwealth has reduced its share of spending on public education by more than \$1 billion. This has meant that state funding on a per pupil inflation adjusted

basis has decreased from \$4,275 at that time to \$3,655 today – for the Williamsburg-James City County school system this has meant an annual loss of over \$6 million. Further, while Virginia stands in the top ten in both per capita and median household income, it remains in the bottom ten for public education funding.

At first glance, it may not appear that localities across an area that contains many of Virginia's largest cities and counties as well as some of its smallest have a lot in common. However, like all communities within the Commonwealth they have a number of common interests – one of the most important being the provision of quality public education to prepare all our children for a successful future.

Without adequate State funding for public education, our communities have struggled to provide the public education our citizens expect and deserve and that has implications for our communities, regardless of size, in a variety of ways.

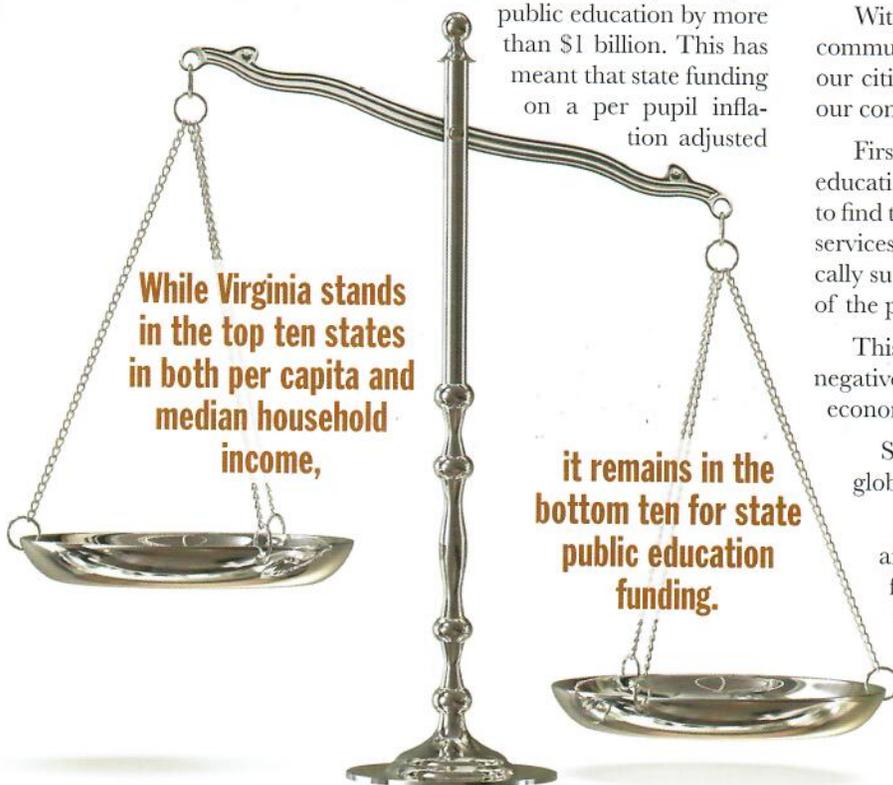
First, as additional local funds have been devoted to K-12 education, localities have struggled, and continue to struggle, to find the resources to support public safety and other essential services for our residents. Local governments cannot realistically sustain the extraordinary funding demands for education of the past several years.

This has also increased pressure on property taxes with negative impacts on efforts to attract new businesses and on economic development.

Second, for Virginia to compete in the national and global economy, quality K-12 education is a necessity.

Businesses and individuals make location choices with an eye toward the local education system both for their families as well as for the educated workforce they need today as well as in the future.

STEM education and career technical training that are such a critical part of preparing young people for the workforce are among the most expensive.



Funding for schools

Third, under financial constraints, program enrichments fall by the wayside, and the educational demands of special

Stay tuned

... to see whether the state begins to restore some of cuts that have been made in public education. The House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee released their versions of the state budget on February 21. The final budget is scheduled to be adopted by March 12. Please contact your legislators to advocate for increased state support of our local schools.

needs children and those with limited English, and the particular educational requirements of children in poverty place increased costs on systems already struggling to meet our community's needs.

Finally, adequate state funding is critical to ensuring that young people from jurisdictions with disparate resources have equitable access to a basic education that comes with across-the-board state funding.

The education system today is very different from that of even the recent past and as it continues to change, local resources cannot meet the future needs of our children and our

economy without the Commonwealth stepping up to meet its responsibility to fund a fair share of public K-12 education.

Thus it is incumbent upon the state to make K-12 education a primary funding priority. The local governments, school divisions and business partners of the Virginia Urban Crescent call upon the 2016 Virginia General Assembly and Governor to recognize the consequences of the Commonwealth's failure to adequately fund K-12 education and to increase meaningfully the Commonwealth's proportional and required share of funding for a high quality public education system.

Bryan K. Stephens

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Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce

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Clyde Haulman

Mayor, City of Williamsburg
Chair, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

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