



*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.

On April 15, 2016, the HRTPO staff received the attached correspondence from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation regarding the HRTPO's request for funding through the Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital (IPROC) program for the completion of a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for high speed rail between Hampton Roads and Richmond. This correspondence noted the following:

- At this time, DRPT is not funding this request based on current state and federal funding availability and staff resources.
- DRPT is working with the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) to complete the Washington, D.C. to Richmond, VA "DC2RVA" Tier II EIS by the end of 2017.
- DRPT is supportive of efforts to advance High Speed Rail to the Hampton Roads Region.
- Once the DC2RVA study is complete, DRPT will work with the HRTPO to seek federal funds for a Tier II EIS study to Hampton Roads. DRPT has already had discussions with the FRA regarding the need for federal funding and its sponsorship as the lead federal agency for a Hampton Roads Tier II EIS study.

The Executive Director participated in the Spring meeting of the Region's Economic Development Directors which was hosted by the Hampton Roads Association of Commercial Realtors on April 14th.

On April 28th, the HRPDC hosted a meeting of the Region's Planning Directors. Items of discussion included:

- Sharing of information on locality sign ordinances
- Renewable Energy Farms
- Process for Developing the 2045 Socioeconomic Forecasts
- Update on Envision Hampton Roads
- Discussion of Regional Interest Items

The Planning Directors agreed that regular meetings to share information would be very valuable and asked HRPDC staff to schedule quarterly meetings.

The HRPDC/HRTPO staff has developed a draft Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) plan and has submitted this draft plan to VDOT for review and comment.

HRTPO staff hosted a meeting with locality staffs on April 19th to discuss opportunities for extending the Virginia Capital Trail into the Hampton Roads Region.

The HRTPO staff continues to participate in meetings hosted by VDOT regarding the Hampton Roads Crossing Study (HRCS) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and is coordinating efforts with locality staffs to provide input to this process. The HRTPO Board is scheduled to receive an update on the SEIS at its June meeting.

The Executive Director held a meeting with the Executive Director of the Accomack Northampton Planning District (Eastern Shore) on April 25th to discuss collaboration opportunities for the Hampton Roads and Eastern Shore regions.

The Executive Director is working to follow up on the HRPDC Retreat by developing additional information regarding the proposed HRPDC Governance Structure and a Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This information will be presented and discussed at an upcoming HRPDC meeting.

HRPDC staff attended a May 4th meeting hosted by Reinvent Hampton Roads where the draft of an Industry Cluster Analysis was presented for the Hampton Roads Region. Staff will monitor this study and schedule a briefing to the HRPDC at an upcoming meeting.

The regular meeting of the Chief Administrative Officers was hosted in Poquoson on May 4th. Agenda items included the introduction of Rick Weddle, President and CEO of the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, update on the Hampton Roads Crossing Study, follow up from the April 21st HRPDC Retreat, review of the May 19th HRPDC agenda and a discussion of regional interest items.

The Executive Director and HRTPO Deputy Executive Director completed an interview with Virginia Beach Tide Radio on May 10th.

The Executive Director attended the Portsmouth State of the City on April 13th and the Suffolk State of the City on May 10th.

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

- Review of proposals for the Agency's legal services (recommendation to be provided at May HRPDC/HRTPO meetings)
- Review of proposals for management of the Agency's IT system
- Agency Audit
- 2017 Agency Budget
- Human Resource activities to address vacant positions

The HRTPO/HRPDC staffs continue to assist HRTAC with financial management, website, human resources, and administrative support services.

The HRTPO staff continues to monitor the I-64 Southside High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane study. VDOT will provide a status report on this study to the HRTPO Board at its May 19th meeting.

HRTPO Transportation Engineer Theresa Jones participated in the Southampton County Fun Day event on Saturday, April 30th to provide information on the HRTPO's Active Transportation Initiative.





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

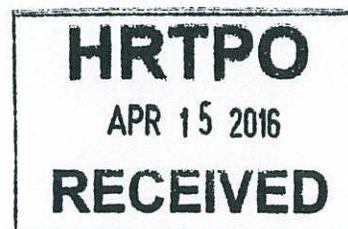
Jennifer L. Mitchell
Director

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April 11, 2016

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
The Regional Building
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320



Mr. Crum:

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (the Department) received an application for \$20M in Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital (IPROC) Funds from the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) to fund a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement for High Speed Rail between Richmond, Virginia and Norfolk, Virginia. At this time the Department is not funding this request based on current state and federal funding availability and staff resources.

The Department is working with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to complete the Washington, D.C. to Richmond, VA "DC2RVA" Tier II Environmental Impact Study by the end of 2017. However, we are supportive of efforts to advance High Speed Rail to the Hampton Roads region. Once the DC2RVA study is complete we will work with the HRTPO to seek federal funds for a Tier II EIS study to Hampton Roads. As with the Tier II studies for Raleigh, NC to Richmond, VA and DC2RVA, the Department will act as the lead state agency in cooperation with the FRA. We have already had discussions with the FRA regarding the need for federal funding and their sponsorship as the lead federal agency for a Hampton Roads Tier II EIS study.

We recognize the enthusiasm within the Hampton Roads region for intercity rail passenger service improvements. The Department remains committed to Hampton Roads as shown through our recent and current investments, including:

- \$114M in Rail Enhancement Funds to initiate Amtrak service to Norfolk in 2012.
- \$117M in IPROC funds to improve network fluidity and extend two additional Amtrak trains from Richmond to Norfolk as early as 2018.
- \$20M in IPROC funds committed to a new Amtrak station in Newport News, including a new turning track and train servicing facility.

- \$30M in IPROC funds programmed to support the continued operation of Amtrak service to Newport News and Norfolk.
- \$10M in IPROC funds programmed in our FY16 – FY22 Six Year Improvement Plan to initiate service for two additional Amtrak trains to Norfolk as early as 2018.

We look forward to a cooperative relationship with the HRTPO on a Tier II EIS study in the near future. If you have any further questions, please contact Pete Burrus, Chief of Rail for DRPT, at 804-786-3963.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Mitchell