

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

### **ITEM #7: THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE**

#### **SUBJECT:**

Proposal to include support for the Virginia Coastal Protection Act in 2016 HRPDC Legislative Agenda.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Delegate Ron Villanueva, 21st District (Chesapeake and Virginia Beach) is proposing Virginia join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) as a funding avenue for coastal flooding adaptation. The RGGI is a group of nine states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) that implement a region-wide cap on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Carbon allowances are purchased at quarterly auctions, with funds returned to states. The cap is lowered by 2.5% annually. Approximately \$200 million in auction revenue is projected to be returned to Virginia each year. The Virginia Coastal Protection Act would divide these funds between energy and adaptation projects:

- \$100 million for sea level rise and flooding adaptation
- \$60 million for statewide energy efficiency programs
- \$20 million for economic development in Southwest Virginia
- \$10 million for statewide renewables
- \$10 million for state programmatic expenses

Delegate Villanueva will brief the Commission on the proposal.

**Note: This item is for informational purposes only.**