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TO: HRPDC/HRTPO Board Members

FROM: Robert Crum, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's July 2017 Report

On June 21, 2017, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) took action approving two Smart Scale applications prepared and submitted by the HRTPO. The CTB announced that \$100 million of Smart Scale funding was awarded to the High Rise Bridge/64 Southside Project, and that \$50 million was awarded to the I-264/64 Interchange project. Both of these grant applications were prepared by HRTPO staff and submitted under the Smart Scale Statewide High Priority Program. These Smart Scale monies will be used by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission to supplement the HRTF monies that are being used to construct these projects.



On June 2, 2017, Governor Terry McAuliffe announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has re-designated Hampton Roads as an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) metropolitan region. This designation will provide Hampton Roads \$1 million through the UASI program to prevent, protect, respond and recover from acts of terrorism. This announcement resulted from a regionally coordinated effort by local, state and federal officials to advocate for the UASI designation for Hampton Roads. In the Governor's press release announcing this grant award, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran included the following statement:



*"Hampton Roads return to the UASI program is due to the significant coordination between Virginia's congressmen, senators, regional mayors and elected officials, emergency management professionals and the **Hampton Roads Planning District Commission** who banded together to work with Washington to restore the critical funding for vital security and emergency preparedness projects"*

The HRPDC would like to thank the region's elected officials, congressmen, senators, All Hazards Advisory Committee members and legislative liaisons for their regional unity and coordination in working to restore this important designation for the Hampton Roads region.

The HRPDC staff is advancing work on a regional economic development sites inventory. The purpose of this project is to identify an inventory of large shovel ready sites that have access to utilities and services to support job creation opportunities in the region. This project is being advanced in close partnership with the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) and Reinvent Hampton Roads. The first phase of this project involved a desktop analysis completed by the HRPDC to identify large economic development sites in the region with ready access to public water and sewer service. In addition, staff is coordinating with private utility providers to determine the availability of other services such as natural gas, electricity, broadband, etc. to serve these areas. HRPDC staff is in the process of meeting with local economic development staffs in each jurisdiction to review this information, with a goal of producing a regional economic site inventory in January 2018.

On Wednesday, May 10th the Executive Director met with VDOT District Administrator Jim Utterback to share information on ongoing transportation planning efforts. Quarterly meetings are scheduled with Mr. Utterback to facilitate this information sharing.

On May 11th, the Executive Director provided a presentation to Virginia Beach Vision on regional broadband opportunities and efforts.

The Executive Director attended and participated in a May 11th meeting at Reinvent Hampton Roads.

The Executive Director attended and participated in the May 11th meeting of the HREDA Board in Hampton.

Staff participated in a conference call with FEMA representatives on May 12th to discuss proposed guidelines for the National Flood Insurance Program.

HRPDC/HRTPO staff attended the May 12th Norfolk State of the City Address

On May 17th, the Executive Director met with James City County Administrator Bryan Hill to discuss regional initiatives and preparations for the Board of Supervisors June work session.

The Executive Director facilitated a conference call with Senator Warner's staff on May 15th to discuss the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program.

The Executive Director attended a Blueprint Virginia event hosted by the Hampton Roads Chamber on May 16th at the Founders Inn in Virginia Beach.

The HRPDC and HRTPO staff attended the Suffolk State of the City Address on May 23rd.

The Executive Director and HRPDC Deputy Executive Director attended the premier of the Tidewater Security Project on May 23rd at Old Dominion University.

The Executive Director participated in the monthly Regional Roundtable meetings on May 25th at the Hampton Roads Chamber and on June 22nd at Reinvent Hampton Roads.

Keep Virginia Beautiful (KVB) recently announced the grant winners for its annual "30 Grants in Thirty Days." askHRgreen.org was among the winners receiving funds this year.

Government, non-profit, civic, and service organizations around Virginia applied for grants for \$500 to \$1,000 describing how they plan to address Litter Prevention, Recycling, Cigarette Litter Prevention, or Beautification in their communities. In addition, this year there were five \$2,000 awards made to applicants that had extensive projects with a greater reach. KVB awarded askHRgreen one of the \$2,000 grants for their Cigarette Litter Prevention project.

Cigarette waste is recognized as the most frequently littered item, and askHRgreen plans to use the money awarded to purchase cigarette ash receptacles for seven partnering localities in Hampton Roads and conduct a public outreach and education campaign. A project leader for each area will conduct a pre-scan of the area to measure cigarette litter that is on the ground at the proposed site. The cigarette litter receptacles will be installed and the project leader will conduct the public outreach and education campaign in the area and distribute portable ashtrays. Following completion, a post-scan of the area will be conducted to measure results.

The communities slated for the receptacles are: Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, York County and Virginia Beach.



To encourage the exchange of information between TPO and PDC Departments, quarterly meetings with Agency Principals are being coordinated by the Executive Director. A Joint Principals meeting was held on May 25th with the next meeting scheduled for July 27th.

The Executive Director participated in a meeting with Department of Housing and Community Development Director Bill Shelton and other PDC Directors in Richmond on May 26th.

The HRTPO staff hosted a Passenger Rail Task Force Marketing meeting on June 1st at the Regional Building. The purpose of this Task Force is to promote awareness and use of passenger rail service to and from the Hampton Roads region.

On June 1st, the HRPDC hosted a meeting with Secretary of Technology Karen Jackson and representatives of the region's localities at the Regional Building. The main agenda item was a presentation by Mihn Le, Managing Partner of the Gramercy District in Loudoun, Virginia. This presentation focused on the development of the first "Smart City" in Virginia and the potential for similar opportunities in Hampton Roads.

The Executive Director participated in a panel review of proposals for the preparation of an Economic Growth and Diversification Plan for the region's GO Virginia Regional Council. This Plan must be prepared and submitted to the State by August 25th, and outline potential economic growth opportunities for the region which can inform the selection of proposals for funding through the GO Virginia program. The GO Virginia Regional Council agreed with the review panel's recommendation to select the team of Old Dominion University/George Mason University/Natelson Dale Group to prepare this plan. The HRPDC will be asked for input on this effort at its July 20th meeting.

The HRPDC staff is working with the Hampton Roads Chamber, Old Dominion University and Inside Business to organize a Coastal Resiliency Forum in August.

The Regional CAO Committee met on June 7th in Isle of Wight County. FEMA representatives attended this meeting to discuss proposed national guidance related to the permitting of minor development in flood hazard areas. The CAO Committee held a productive conversation with FEMA representatives on this issue, and appears to have made substantial progress on this national guidance. In addition, representatives of the locality's economic development directors attended this meeting to discuss the work of the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance and the importance of HREDA to the region's economic recruitment efforts.

The Executive Director participated in a meeting of the region's legislative liaisons at the Regional Building on June 8th to begin preparations for the upcoming General Assembly session and share information on various legislative topics. A meeting of the Hampton Roads Caucus is scheduled for July 18th at 10:00 am at the Old Dominion University Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center in Suffolk. The Executive Director will attend this meeting.

The Norfolk/Virginia Beach Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Technical Committee met on June 9th to receive an update on the progress of this study and provide input to guide upcoming study efforts.

The HRTPO staff has worked over the past 10 months with a Task Force to evaluate potential options for extending the Virginia Capital Trail into the Hampton Roads region. The effort to extend this trail into Hampton Roads has been rebranded by the task force to the Birthplace of America Trail (BOAT). The Task Force has reached consensus on two potential alignments for the BOAT which are illustrated on the map below. These alignments will be presented to the HRTPO at its July 20th meeting with a request for endorsement.



The Executive Director attended a June 12th meeting to provide input to the GO Virginia Economic Diversification Plan consultant.

The HRTPO staff participated in a Route 58 Corridor Study meeting with representatives of VDOT, the participating localities and Federal Highway Administration on June 14th.

The Executive Director attended the June 14th meeting of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce in Norfolk. Topics of discussion included presentations by Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne and Secretary of Commerce Todd Haymore.

The Executive Director attended the June 15th meeting of the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission.

HRTPO staff attended the June 15th Hampton Roads Transit Public Meeting on the proposed extension of the Tide to Naval Station Norfolk.

HRPDC staff attended the Army Corps of Engineers Public Meeting on the Norfolk Coastal Storm Risk Management Study at the Lamberts Point Community Center.

The Executive Director attended the Hampton Roads/Richmond Collaborative Roundtable meeting on June 19th at the William and Mary Campus.

The HRPDC Deputy Executive Director participated in a stakeholder interview with representatives of 100 Resilient Cities on June 27th.

The Executive Director provided a presentation to the James City County Board of Supervisors on June 27th outlining the work of the HRPDC and HRTPO. This presentation was provided in collaboration with the HRTAC Executive Director.

The Executive Director attended and participated in the GO Virginia Regional Council Meeting at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation on June 28th. The primary topic of discussion was the Economic Growth and Diversification Plan which must be prepared and submitted to the State by August 25th. Discussion also occurred regarding the Regional Economic Development Sites Inventory that is under preparation by the HRPDC.

The Executive Director and HRPDC Deputy Executive Director met with the Virginia Beach City Manager and his staff on July 6th to discuss next steps in the region's broadband planning initiative.

The Executive Director and HRTPO Deputy Executive Director met with the Franklin City Manager and Southampton County Administrator on July 7th to discuss the Route 58 Corridor Study.

The Executive Director met with a VDOT representative to discuss an upcoming Title VI Review for the HRPDC.

The HRTPO staff met with representatives of the Virginia Port Authority on July 6th to discuss the Corridors of Commerce Study.

The HRPDC/HRTPO Management Team continues to advance work on the following administrative items:

- Completion of annual evaluations for the 42 member HRPDC/HRTPO staff and the award of merit pay increases based on these performance reviews.
- Planning for continued upgrades to the Regional Building's HVAC system.
- Planning for upgrades to the access doors to the main building entrance to ensure compliance with American with Disability Act standards.
- Preparation for annual audits for the HRPDC/HRTPO and HRTAC.
- IT Management
- Provision of shredding services to the HRPDC/HRTPO
- Recruitment for vacant positions
- Provision of financial and human resource management services to HRTAC and HRMFFA.