

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #9G: PLANNING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

SUBJECT:

The Regional Cooperation requires that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development conduct a periodic review of the boundaries of planning districts.

BACKGROUND:

Planning District boundaries are established by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), pursuant to the Virginia Area Development Act of 1968, as amended by the Regional Cooperation Act of 1995. This legislation requires that DHCD conduct a periodic review of the planning district boundaries. Attached is the DHCD Request for Public Comment, distributed to all PDC Executive Directors on October 25, 2012. It was previously distributed by DHCD to local government Mayors and Chairs and by the HRPDC staff to Commission members and the local government Planning Directors in September.

The HRPDC staff has developed the attached briefing paper/presentation and sample resolution for consideration by the localities in developing comments to DHCD on this very important topic.

Attachments 9-G1 – DHCD PDC Public Comment
9-G2 – Sample Resolution
9-G3 – Briefing Papers/Presentation

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Director to transmit the briefing paper/presentation and sample resolution on the HRPDC boundary matter to the member localities for their consideration.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Regional Cooperation Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1995, places great emphasis on the planning district commissions serving as a forum for discussion of regional issues and identification of ways to promote regional cooperation. The Code of Virginia, Section 36-139.7, requires that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) conduct a periodic review of the boundaries of planning districts. It requires that DHCD consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:

- recognition of communities of interest among the governmental subdivisions;
- recognition of common economic and market interests;
- ease of communications and commissioner travel time;
- federal metropolitan statistical area boundaries;
- a population base adequate to ensure financial viability;
- geographic factors and natural boundaries; and
- the wishes of the governmental subdivisions within or surrounding the planning district, as expressed by resolution of the governing body.

DHCD will conduct its review in two phases: a period of written public comment and, if warranted, public hearings.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT: This notice begins the period for written public comment. Letters should concisely address the need for retaining or modifying the current boundaries of a given planning district using the criteria outlined above or other factors that affect the viability or effectiveness of the planning district commission in carrying out its duties. The deadline for written public comment is **December 19, 2012**. Comments should either be emailed to susan.williams@dhcd.virginia.gov or addressed to:

Susan B. Williams
Local Government Policy Manager
Department of Housing and Community Development
Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

In the event that there are sufficient and compelling requests for boundary adjustments, DHCD will conduct public hearings within the affected planning districts. DHCD staff will consider all comments received through written responses and public hearings and, subject to the provisions of the Administrative Process Act, make adjustments to the boundaries of planning districts as it deems advisable.

Any such hearings will be advertised in local newspapers and notices will be sent to local government and planning district offices. The purpose of such hearings will be to gather information from local officials, organizations and residents as to why a boundary adjustment is warranted and the advantages such an adjustment would provide to each affected planning district in order to ensure that all affected parties have had adequate opportunity to share their views and perspectives on any proposed adjustment.

For additional information, please contact Susan Williams by regular mail at the address provided above; by email at susan.williams@dhcd.virginia.gov; or by telephone at (804) 786-6508.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY/COUNTY OF _____ REQUESTING THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO RETAIN THE CURRENT BOUNDARIES OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, in 1969, six localities on the Virginia Peninsula and nine localities in Southeastern Virginia established the Peninsula Planning District Commission and the Southeastern Virginia Planning District Commission, respectively; and,

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Peninsula and Southeastern Virginia Planning District Commissions merged to create the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC); and,

WHEREAS, in 1993 and in 1996, Gloucester County and Surry County, respectively, elected to join the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads localities, working through the HRPDC, have developed institutional structures involving the region's elected officials, chief administrative officers and technical staff, that allow them to address a variety of issues cooperatively and effectively; and,

WHEREAS, these issues include emergency management, economic analysis and development, environmental and regulatory issues, housing, and transportation; and,

WHEREAS, cooperative consideration of these issues through this structure has facilitated the creation and operation of other regional authorities and political subdivisions implementing programs in solid waste disposal, emergency management, regional jails, public transportation, sanitary sewer system, water supply, housing and human services; and,

WHEREAS, state and federal agencies recognize that the Hampton Roads localities are working on these issues together and that it is advantageous to those federal and state agencies and their programs to work collectively with the Hampton Roads region; and

WHEREAS, significant progress is being made in addressing these issues cooperatively and that progress would be lost if the HRPDC boundaries were changed to cause the loss of the City/County of _____ or one or more other members; and,

WHEREAS, the cooperative programs operated through and supported by the HRPDC are a cost-effective approach to addressing threats and opportunities facing the Hampton Roads localities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City/County >>>>>>>> requests the Department of Housing and Community to reaffirm the existing boundaries of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City/County of _____ that it desires to remain a member of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

Review of Planning District Commission Boundaries



The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is currently reviewing planning district commission boundaries and has sent out a request for public comment. There are 7 criteria used by the DHCD when considering PDC boundaries. These criteria are as follows:

1. Recognition of communities of interest among the governmental subdivisions
2. Recognition of common economic and market interests
3. Ease of communications and commissioner travel time
4. Federal metropolitan statistical area boundaries
5. A population base adequate to ensure financial viability
6. Geographic factors and natural boundaries; and
7. The wishes of the governmental subdivisions within or surrounding the planning district, as expressed by resolution of the governing body.

The following slides are provided for your information.

I. Recognition of communities of interest among the governmental subdivisions

Representative Regional Organizations

- Hampton Roads Sanitation District
- Western Tidewater Regional Jail
- Hampton Roads Regional Jail
- Peninsula Regional Jail
- Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority
- Southeastern Public Service Authority
- Hampton Roads Housing Consortium
- Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia
- Peninsula Area Agency on Agency
- Task Forces/Consortia to End Homelessness
- Hampton Roads H2O – Help To Others – Program
- Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance
- Hampton Roads Partnership
- The Planning Council
- Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
- Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
- Hampton Roads Transit
- Williamsburg Area Transit Authority
- Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce
- Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
- Work Force Development Organizations
- Disability Services Boards
- Future of Hampton Roads
- Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement
- Ready Hampton Roads.org
- askHRgreen.org
- “Regional Water Systems”
- Hampton Roads Community Foundation

I. Recognition of communities of interest among the governmental subdivisions (cont.)

REGIONAL PLANS

- Hampton Roads Regional Water Supply Plan
- Regional Sanitary Sewer System Consent Order and Consent Decree
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Stormwater Permits
- Groundwater Management Area – Hampton Roads Groundwater Mitigation Program
- Regional Solid Waste Management Plan for Southeastern Virginia
- UASI Plans
- Metropolitan Medical Response System
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL Implementation Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Regional Issue Studies, e.g. Sea Level Rise, Green Infrastructure, Benchmarking, Energy Options

HRPDC COMMITTEE STRUCTURE - representative

- Mayors and Chairs Caucus
- Chief Administrative Officers
- Directors of Utilities Committee
- Transportation Technical Committee
- Regional Stormwater Management Committee
- Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee
- Hampton Roads Housing Consortium
- Hampton Roads Chesapeake Bay Committee
- askHRgreen.org Committees
- Urban Area Working Group
- Hampton Roads Watershed Roundtable
- Solid Waste Technical Committee
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL Steering Committee

II. Recognition of common economic and market interests

The Hampton Roads region is a highly interconnected region. The employment benefits derived from the region's vast federal and military facilities, port and tourism assets, and rich agricultural lands are shared throughout the Hampton Roads community.

The region's vast network of waterways and roadways enable commerce and trade to flow throughout the region. Approximately 97% of the region's commuters live and work in Hampton Roads.

The region's waterways and other water resources enhance the quality of life for the region's citizens.

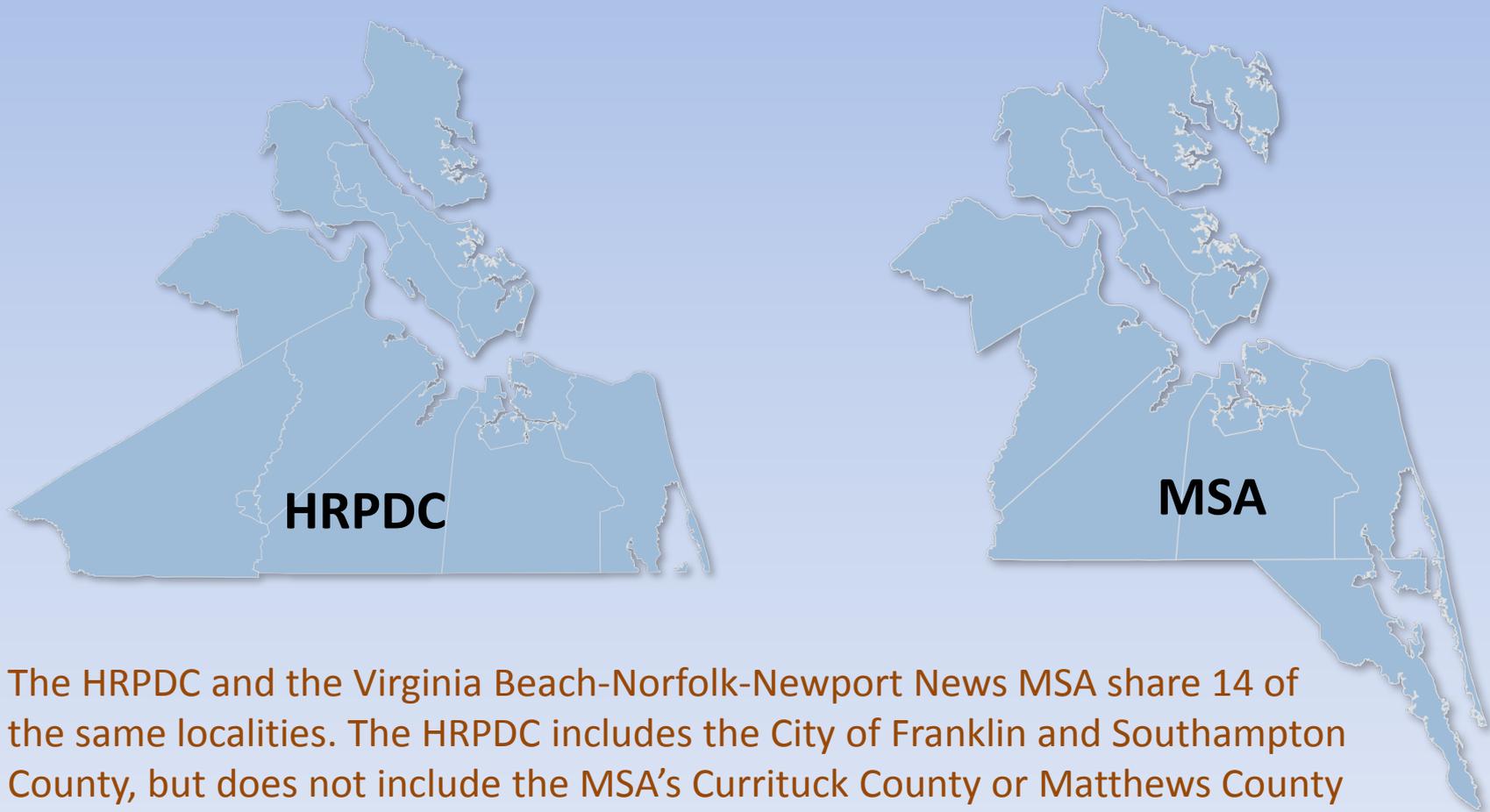
III. Ease of communications and commissioner travel time

The Hampton Roads Planning District serves an area of almost 3,000 square miles.

The average commute time from County & City administration buildings of member jurisdictions to the HRPDC Regional Building is 45 minutes, covering an average distance of 34 miles.

Established regional committee structure involving elected officials, chief administrative officers and technical staff, working under the umbrella of the HRPDC.

IV. Federal metropolitan statistical area boundaries



The HRPDC and the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News MSA share 14 of the same localities. The HRPDC includes the City of Franklin and Southampton County, but does not include the MSA's Currituck County or Matthews County

V. A population base adequate to ensure financial viability

**Hampton Roads
is home to
1,680,000 people
and employs
1,000,000
people**



VI. Geographic factors and natural boundaries

Hampton Roads is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the East, North Carolina on the South, the Meherrin River to the West of Southampton County, the Blackwater river to the West of Surry County, the Chickahominy River to the West of JCC, the Poropotank to the West of Gloucester County, and the Piankatank River and Chesapeake Bay to the North.



VII. Wishes of the governmental subdivisions expressed by resolution

- Attach resolution