

AGENDA ITEM #6: HIGH-SPEED AND INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL

SUBJECT:

Video of a presentation by Dr. Alexander Metcalf of TEMS to the HRTPO Board on July 21, 2010.

BACKGROUND:

During the CTAC meeting of June 24, 2010, the Committee expressed interest in having an expanded discussion on high-speed and intercity passenger rail.

During its meeting on July 21, 2010, the HRTPO Board received a presentation from TEMS (Transportation Economics & Management Systems, Inc.), the consultant secured by the HRTPO to evaluate potential passenger rail service alternatives for Hampton Roads. Dr. Alexander Metcalf of TEMS presented the final report on work completed under the initial contract, which has been referred to as the *Hampton Roads High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Preliminary Vision Plan*.

The *Hampton Roads High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Preliminary Vision Plan* assesses the HRTPO objectives as defined by the October 30, 2009 HRTPO Board resolution with respect to both the CSX/I-64 and Norfolk Southern/Route 460 rail corridors. The preliminary assessment has indicated that both corridors are economically and financially feasible as they meet the thresholds established by the Federal Railroad Administration for a public/private partnership to build and operate passenger rail in Hampton Roads. Because it appears that the required financial and economic criteria can be met, HRTPO staff has recommended the corridors be further developed to complete the *Hampton Roads High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Vision Plan*. This additional analysis would include defining the conditions, process, procedures, and requirements for turning the HRTPO objectives into a reality for the Hampton Roads region.

A 16.0 minute video of the TEMS July 21, 2010 presentation will be shown during the meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.