

PLEASE RSVP BY COB November 8, 2011

November 3, 2011

Memorandum #2011-191

TO: Hampton Roads Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)

BY: Chair William W. Harrison, Jr.

RE: CTAC Meeting, November 10, 2011

Attached is the agenda and related materials for the next meeting of the **Hampton Roads Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)** scheduled for **Thursday, November 10, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** in the **Regional Boardroom, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, VA.**

Please reply with your RSVP no later than COB, November 8, 2011.

/kg

Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee:

William W. Harrison, Jr., Chair, VB	Randy Lassiter, NO
Shepelle Watkins-White, Vice Chair, CH	Henry Lewis, YK
Richard Bowie, VB	Randy Lougee, NO
Ricky Clifton, NN	John Malbon, VB
Wanda Cooper, VB	Howard Manly, NN
Roberta Edwards, CH	Delceno Miles, VB
Sharyn Fox, NN	Philip Olekszyk, GL
Richard Green, SU	James Openshaw, NO
Yukari Hughes, NN	Ray Taylor, VB
Dewey Hurley, WM	Kirsten Tynch, PO
Michael Jones, IW	Kristen Wells, PO

Cc: Dwight Farmer (HRTPO)
Camelia Ravanbakht (HRTPO)
Kendall Miller (HRTPO)
Brian Chenault (HRTPO)
Eric Stringfield (VDOT)
TPO Voting Members
TPO Voting Alternates
TPO Nonvoting Members

**AGENDA
HAMPTON ROADS
CITIZEN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 10, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER 5:00 P.M.
The Regional Building Boardroom
723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** (Limit: 5 minutes per individual)
- 3. SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. Minutes of September 8, 2011
6. HRTPO Public Participation Plan
7. 2034 Long-Range Transportation Plan Status Report
8. Downtown Tunnel/Midtown Tunnel/ MLK Extension Project Briefing: VDOT
9. FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Website Application
- 10. For Your Information**
- 11. Old/New Business**
- 12. Adjournment**

AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting will be called to order by the Chair at approximately 5:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public are invited to address the CTAC. Each speaker is limited to five minutes.

AGENDA ITEM #3: SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENTS

There are no written public comments.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Members are provided an opportunity to add or delete items from the agenda. Any item for which a member desires an action from the CTAC should be submitted at this time, as opposed to under "Old/New Business".

AGENDA ITEM #5: MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

SUBJECT:

Minutes of the September 8, 2011 CTAC meeting.

BACKGROUND:

Minutes of the Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held on September 8, 2011.

Attachment 5

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the minutes.

**Summary Minutes of the
Hampton Roads Citizen Transportation
Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting
September 8, 2011**

The Hampton Roads Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting was called to order at 5:14 p.m. in the HRT Boardroom, HRT Headquarters, 3400 Victoria Boulevard, Hampton, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

Hampton Roads CTAC Members in Attendance:

William Harrison, Chairman (VB)	Randy Lougee (NO)
Shepelle Watkins-White, Vice-Chair (CH)	James Openshaw (NO)
Philip Olekszyk (GL)	Tuck Bowie (VB)
Michael Jones (IW)	Ray Taylor (VB)
Ricky Clifton (NN)	Dewey Hurley (WM)
Sharyn Fox (NN)	Henry Lewis (YK)
Yukari Hughes (NN)	

Hampton Roads CTAC Members Absent:

Roberta Edwards (CH)	Kirsten Tynch (PO)
Howard Manly (NN)	Kristen Wells (PO)
Richard Green (SU)	Wanda Cooper (VB)
Randy Lassiter (NO)	John Malbon (VB)
	Delceno Miles (VB)

HRTPO Staff:

Dwight Farmer	Brian Miller
Brian Chenault	Kendall Miller
Rob Case	

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Submitted Public Comments

There were no submitted public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Harrison asked if there were any items to add to the agenda. Hearing none, Ms. Fox Moved to approve the agenda as written; seconded by Mr. Bowie. The Motion Carried.

Summary Minutes of July 14, 2011 CTAC Meeting

Chair Harrison asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Lewis Moved to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Bowie. The Motion Carried.

HRTPO Citizens Guide to Transportation

Ms. Miller reported HRTPO staff had been developing a Citizens Guide to Transportation for the past year. After reviewing dozens of citizen guides from other MPOs across the United States, HRTPO staff then crafted a unique, informative guide that explains the transportation planning process and the way in which the citizens of Hampton Roads can become involved in the process. Ms. Miller expressed her appreciation to CTAC for its assistance. The HRTPO Citizens Guide to Transportation will be presented for approval at the October 20, 2011 HRTPO Board meeting.

Mr. Taylor acknowledged the efforts of the HRTPO staff and asked if CTAC members could still submit comments regarding the Citizens Guide. Chair Harrison replied affirmatively and informed the members to submit comments to Ms. Miller.

Military Transportation Needs Study – Highway Network Analysis: Draft Report

Mr. Rob Case stated local military concerns prompted the need to conduct the Military Transportation Needs Study. He summarized the study objectives which included:

- Examine adequacy of the current Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)
- Identify Non-STRAHNET military-related sites
- Develop “Roadways Serving the Military”
- Identify transportation projects that benefit the military

He explained the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) is the total minimum defense highway network needed to support defense emergencies and are used for daily military cargo movement.

Roadways and bridges that service the military were examined and traffic congestion levels and deficient bridges were illustrated on presented slides. Approximately 25% of the bridges serving the military were deemed either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Mr. Case outlined the military’s preferred minimum vertical clearance height for bridges and tunnels and presented a slide that illustrated those that did not meet its standards.

Utilizing the results from the draft study, HRTPO staff has recommended the following:

- Update the Project Prioritization Tool to take into account the needs of the military
- Rehabilitate or replace five structurally deficient bridges with a rating below 50
- Initiate military preferences for roadway vertical clearances

Mr. Case outlined several projects identified by HRTPO staff as beneficial to the military. He noted Route 17/Dominion Boulevard was added as a non-STRAHNET roadway at the request of the City of Chesapeake. He stated HRTPO staff plans to work with local military

officials in FY-2012 to distribute a personnel survey to determine transportation challenges and problems, particularly during daily commutes.

Ms. Watkins-White asked if a bridge, such as the High Rise Bridge, would be torn down if it did not meet the military's vertical clearance height. Mr. Case replied a bridge would not be destroyed until there was a safety issue.

Chair Harrison inquired as to the report's status after it received HRTPO Board approval. Mr. Case replied that hopefully, the report will raise awareness of the military's concerns for a better transportation infrastructure, and the HRTPO Prioritization Tool may be revised in the future to reflect the study's findings.

Mr. Lewis asked if the survey would include questions regarding specific transportation impacts to citizens. Mr. Case replied the survey would be aimed at military personnel in a non-technical manner.

Mr. Taylor commented that high ranking officers in the military should be included in any discussions regarding the military and its transportation needs.

Panama Canal Expansion: Video of Virginia Port Authority Briefing

Chair Harrison reported the expansion of the Panama Canal (Third Set of Locks) is a project proposed by the Panama Canal Authority and will double the capacity of the Canal by 2014 by allowing more and larger ships to transit. This project will create a new lane of traffic along the Canal by construction of two lock complexes – one on the Atlantic side and another on the Pacific side.

The HRTPO Board was briefed by Mr. Jeffrey Florin, Deputy Executive Director, Virginia Port Authority, at its July 21, 2011 meeting regarding the expansion of the Panama Canal. CTAC members were shown the video of Mr. Florin's presentation.

FY-12 Public Involvement/Community Outreach Plan

Ms. Miller explained the HRTPO's Public Involvement and Community Outreach efforts are designed to involve and engage the public in the transportation planning and decision making process. She indicated HRTPO staff would be implementing several strategies to better inform and engage the public including:

- Utilizing Quick Read (QR) codes in HRTPO flyers, and various other materials
- Partnership with Cox Communications to advertise the HRTPO through Cox's website
- Enhancing the HRTPO's visibility on Facebook and Google Search
- Expanding the School Outreach Program – building a transportation “village” as opposed to a “box city”
- Community Conversations

- Student Forums
- Branding the HRTPO – every piece of material developed by the HRTPO will be identifiable
- HRTPO documents publishing in other languages

For Your Information

Chair Harrison reported there are currently a number of CTAC vacancies and the HRTPO staff is currently reviewing the applications.

Mr. Farmer introduced Brian Chenault, the new Community Outreach Planner for the HRTPO.

Chair Harrison stated the next CTAC meeting will be Thursday, November 10, 2011 at The Regional Building, 723 Woodlake Drive.

Old/New Business

There was no old/new business.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #6: HRTPO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

SUBJECT:

The HRTPO Public Participation Plan – a guide that outlines the process by which the public can become involved in the transportation planning process.

BACKGROUND:

The HRTPO'S Public Participation Plan (PPP) is designed as a resource for the HRTPO Board, staff, and general public to better understand the Organization's overall public participation strategy and procedures, as well as the federal mandates that inform the HRTPO's public participation efforts. Because the PPP is a living document that reflects the strategies employed for current transportation projects, it is necessary to for the PPP to be current and up-to-date. As part of the HRPTO FY-12 Public Outreach Goals, staff has redesigned the HRTPO PPP. Staff will offer an overview of the current PPP and review the steps necessary for staff to complete the new HRTPO PPP.

Kendall Miller, Public Involvement and Community Outreach Administrator, will present this item.

Handout

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For Informational purposes.

AGENDA ITEM #7: 2034 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN: STATUS REPORT

SUBJECT:

The draft 2034 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) report is now available for public review and comment period.

BACKGROUND:

The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) serves as the blueprint for the region's transportation development and identifies all regionally significant transportation projects for the Hampton Roads metropolitan planning area over a twenty-year period. The development of the financially-constrained 2034 LRTP over the last four years has been based on a collaborative process involving many regional stakeholders and the public to identify, prioritize, and seek transportation funding for needed investments.

As part of the development of the 2034 LRTP, a Project Prioritization Tool was crafted to assist decision-makers in maximizing scarce transportation funding. On June 16, 2011, the HRTPO Board approved the 2034 LRTP final list of projects. As required, the list of projects proposed to be included in the LRTP underwent an air quality conformity analysis to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act. The final air quality conformity analysis has been transmitted to FHWA/FTA for a joint Conformity Finding.

The draft 2034 LRTP document was made available on the HRTPO website on November 2, 2011. The public review period for the draft 2034 LRTP began on November 2, 2011 and will run through December 6, 2011. The HRTPO staff will provide the CTAC with a more detailed presentation on the draft document, including public comments received to that point, during the January CTAC meeting. HRTPO Board approval of the final document is anticipated to occur on January 19, 2012.

Ms. Pavithra Parthasarathi, Principal Transportation Engineer, will brief the CTAC on this item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review the draft report and submit comments to the LRTP staff (lntp@hrpdcva.gov) by COB Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

**AGENDA ITEM #8: DOWNTOWN TUNNEL/MIDTOWN TUNNEL /MLK EXTENSION
PROJECT BRIEFING: VDOT**

SUBJECT:

This public-private partnership (P3) project will add a second tube to the Midtown Tunnel, extend the MLK Expressway, and substantially upgrade the Downtown Tunnel and existing Midtown Tunnel.

BACKGROUND:

The Downtown Tunnel/Midtown Tunnel/ Martin Luther King Freeway Extension project is located in Norfolk and Portsmouth and is instrumental in addressing the region's transportation needs. This \$2.5 billion project will increase capacity and reduce congestion, enhancing the economic vitality of the region.

VDOT staff and Elizabeth River Crossing representatives will make this presentation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None required; for informational purposes only.

**AGENDA ITEM #9: FY 2012-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
(TIP): WEBSITE APPLICATION**

SUBJECT:

Implementing visualization techniques for the recently approved FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

BACKGROUND:

The HRTPO has made it a priority to help ensure that transportation funds are used as efficiently and effectively as possible in Hampton Roads. To improve its capabilities for monitoring the status of projects, HRTPO staff introduced a new format in the recently approved HRTPO FY 2012-2015 TIP. In addition to improving the transparency of the TIP by providing enhanced project description information and a location map, the new format includes funding allocation information as well as cost estimates, schedules, obligations, and expenditures by project phase.

To further enhance the transparency and user-friendliness of the new TIP, HRTPO staff has developed a web-based application for accessing the TIP. In addition to providing access to the up-to-date TIP document, an Interactive Project Map service provides easy access to project information based on project location.

Ms. Stephanie L. Shealey, Transportation Engineer, will brief the CTAC on this item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.

AGENDA ITEM #10: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A. HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION MINUTES

The minutes from the September 15, 2011 HRTPO Board Meeting are attached.

Attachment 10-A

B. SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENT: SHARON L. FOX EDITORIAL REGARDING A
GASOLINE TAX INCREASE

The October 1, 2011 Letter to the Editor is attached.

Attachment 10-B

Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Board Minutes of September 15, 2011

The Hampton Roads TPO Board Meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. in the Regional Boardroom, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

HRTPO Voting Members in Attendance:

William D. Sessoms, Chairman (VB)
Alan P. Krasnoff (CH)*
Stan D. Clark (IW)
Bruce C. Goodson (JC)
McKinley Price (NN)
Paul D. Fraim (NO)
Kenneth I. Wright (PO)
Linda T. Johnson (SU)
Robert Barclay (Alternate, SU)

Clyde Haulman (WM)
Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr. (YK)
Senator John Miller (GA)
Delegate John Cosgrove (GA)*
Amy Inman (DRPT)
Philip Shucet (HRT)
Dennis Heuer (VDOT)
Mark Rickards (WATA)

HRTPO Nonvoting Members in Attendance:

William E. Harrell (CH)
Brenda Garton (GL)
W. Douglas Caskey (IW)
Robert C. Middaugh (JC)
Neil A. Morgan (NN)
Marcus Jones (NO)
J. Randall Wheeler (PQ)

Selena Cuffee-Glenn (SU)
James K. Spore (VB)
Jackson C. Tuttle, II (WM)
James O. McReynolds (YK)
William Harrison (CTAC)
William Bell (FTAC)
Capt. Mary Jackson (USN)

HRTPO Executive Director:

Dwight L. Farmer

CTB Participants:

Hollis Ellis (CTB)
Shep Miller (CTB)*

Invited Participants:

Thelma Drake (DRPT)

HRTPO Voting Members Absent:

Molly Joseph Ward, Vice-Chair (HA)
Christian D. Rilee (GL)
W. Eugene Hunt (PQ)

Senator Yvonne Miller (GA)
Jerry Bridges (VPA)

HRTPO Nonvoting Members Absent:

Mary Bunting (HA)

Kenneth L. Chandler (PO)

Jeffrey Breeden (FAA)

Irene Rico (FHWA)

Ivan Rucker (FHWA)

Tony Cho (FTA)

Brigid Hynes-Cherin (FTA)

Wayne Shank (NAA)

Ken Spirito (PAC)

Capt. Mark Ogle (USCG)

Randall P. Burdette (VDOA)

* Late or Early Departure

Others Recorded Attending:

John Gergely (Citizen); Early Sorey, Ella Ward (CH); Michael King (NN); Bryan Pennington, Rod Woolard (NO); Sherri Neil (PO); Eric Nielsen (SU); Tyrone Franklin (SY); Bob Matthias, Mark Schnauffer (VB); Ellis W. James (Sierra Club Observer); Charlie Bauman, William Cowan (Camden County); Wendy Vachet (Navy); Doug Smith (KCC); Bobby Wright (FHR); Mark Osenbaugh (EV Williams); Carolyn McPherson (Light Rail NOW); Debbie Messina (Virginian-Pilot); Jon Cawley (Daily Press); Dan Bell (Public Private Chesapeake); Barrett Hardiman (Luck Stone Corp); Megan Brown-Zimmerman, Henry Li (HRT); Chris Voigt (VDOT); Peter Huber (Willcox and Savage); Germaine Fleet (Biggs & Fleet); HRTPO and HRPDC Staff: Camelia Ravanbakht, Jessica Banks, Sam Belfield, John Carlock, Rick Case, Rob Case, Brian Chenault, Jennifer Coleman, Kathlene Grauberger, Greg Grootendorst, Frances Hughey, Jim Hummer, Michael Kimbrel, Mike Long, Brian Miller, Kendall Miller, Pavithra Parthasarathi, Joe Paulus, Kelli Peterson, Stephanie Shealey, Dale Stith, Joe Turner, and Chris Vaigneur.

Public Comment Period

One person requested to address the HRTPO Board. Chairman Sessoms asked him to limit his comments to three minutes.

Mr. Ellis W. James

Thank you Mr. Chairman. My name is Ellis W. James. I am a lifelong resident of the City of Norfolk. I have handed out to most of you the thank you card that the Norfolk Environmental Commission members were handing out as The Tide began its trip. We were there for a couple of weeks, and we had the opportunity to interact with, discuss with, and talk to the people about why they came and what their objective was. I must tell you, the first day when we had 30,000 plus riders, which was a very nice number, there were 20 protestors at the Newtown Road Station, and they were immediately swallowed up politely by the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people who came to ride The Tide. Now, the card I have handed you is what we were handing out to thank people for coming to ride The Tide. It also on that card references the whole question of greenhouse gasses, our footprint, and the question of gallon saved and all of the rest. People, even young children, who were brought by mothers and fathers and grandparents, were knowledgeable about what the issue of light rail and what it can do for Hampton Roads was all about. I was impressed. I continue to be impressed. Ridership is the key and the bottom line of this issue. The ridership is currently approximately double what the estimates were. Now, I am not naive and understand that it could drop, but there is a continuing growth of attitude and positive response and people are learning about the ridership and what The Tide can do. Light rail is here I believe to successfully stay, and I wanted to be sure that you knew there were people within your communities who have ridden

The Tide. I talked to people from Virginia Beach; first word out of their mouth was when is it coming to Virginia Beach? And I politely told them, well it may be awhile, but you have a group working on the effort. You need to call our good friend the Mayor and your City Council person and let them know what you think. The other part of the equation was pretty simple. People from Newport News even came to ride The Tide. And our good friends on the Peninsula side wanted to know the same thing, when is it coming to our area? The reason I wanted to share this with you is; this critical information about the transportation issue is extremely important. And I hope that you will pay close attention, especially to the issues and the reasons that people have decided to enthusiastically embrace light rail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(Delegate Cosgrove, Mayor Krasnoff, and Mr. Miller arrive)

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Member Comment Period

Mr. Miller stated he and Mr. Ellis are at-large CTB members and as such, assist in reviewing how maintenance dollars are spent in the Commonwealth. A meeting was recently held to analyze how maintenance money was allocated. He noted the dominant philosophy is to examine lane miles in the Commonwealth regardless of any additional lane miles, the amount of traffic on those lane miles, or the return on investment. Mr. Miller explained he brought this concern to the CTB's attention, and stated that hopefully the newly formed Committee will make changes that will direct dollars to where they are most needed and where the return is the highest. It should have a positive impact on urban areas that have large traffic flow and needs.

Mr. Miller explained the CTB would convene its September meeting in Hampton Roads and indicated the HRTPO Board was invited to his home for a reception on September 21st. Mr. Ellis encouraged the Board members to attend the reception.

Chairman Sessoms noted the CTB and HRTPO Board members were to attend a joint luncheon at the Portsmouth Renaissance at 12:00 noon on September 21st.

Submitted Public Comments

Chairman Sessoms noted there were submitted public comments in the agenda packet.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Sessoms outlined the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Minutes
- FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Revision: Request to Transfer CMAQ Funds – York County
- FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: Coordinated Plan Projects
- FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Revision: Request to Transfer CMAQ Funds – James City County
- FY 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: HRTPO

- FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: HRTPO
- FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment
- Military Transportation Needs Study – Highway Network Analysis: Final Report

Mayor Fraim Moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written; seconded by Mayor Haulman. The Motion Carried.

TIGER III Candidate Projects – HRTPO Board Endorsement

Mr. Farmer reported there was a new handout in front of the Board regarding a modification to the TIGER III candidate projects. The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) has requested to include the Intermodal Connector to the list of TIGER III projects endorsed for grant submittal. The Intermodal Connector was approved in the HRTPO prioritization package in March 2011 and it is a committed project; a project that is seen as fully funded within VDOT’s next six years. The VPA hoped to submit the project as a TIGER III candidate project because there was a slight scope change resulting in the need of an additional \$25 million.

Mr. Farmer indicated the other TIGER III candidate projects to be submitted are:

- US Route 17/Dominion Boulevard – Chesapeake
- US Route 58 – Hampton Roads Intermodal Corridor Improvements – Suffolk
- Shore Drive Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Project – Virginia Beach

Data from the above three candidate projects was entered into the HRTPO Prioritization Tool and scored accordingly. Since the Intermodal Connector, the fourth project recently submitted by the VPA, is currently identified in the HRTPO Project Priorities for the 2034 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) as being fully-funded and committed, staff’s suggestion is to submit a letter to FHWA recommending the four submitted projects in the following order by rank:

- Interstate 564 Intermodal Connector – Norfolk
- US Route 17/Dominion Boulevard – Chesapeake
- US Route 58 – Hampton Roads Intermodal Corridor Improvements – Suffolk
- Shore Drive Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Project – Virginia Beach

Mr. Farmer stated he planned to draft a strong message in his submittal to FHWA that these four projects are the region’s highest priority projects.

Delegate Cosgrove asked why the City of Chesapeake was only requesting \$10 million in TIGER III grant funding when the project is estimated to cost more than \$400 million. Mr. Heuer replied FHWA has been awarding grant money in the ten to twenty-five million dollar range (“the sweet spot”) and the prevalent philosophy is that it is better to be awarded partial funds than no funds at all.

Mayor Fraim expressed his support for the I-564 Intermodal Connector and Moved for the endorsement of the four submitted candidate projects for TIGER III grant funding; seconded by Mr. Heuer. Mr. Heuer indicated the completion of the I-564 Intermodal Connector project would address concerns raised by the Navy and it would also assist in reviewing a secondary project of the Navy which could benefit the region significantly. The Motion Carried.

Air Quality Conformity Analysis – 2034 LRTP and FY 2012-2015 TIP: Final Report

Mr. Farmer introduced Mr. Chris Voigt of the VDOT Environmental Division to present the results of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis. Mr. Voigt explained that transportation conformity is a requirement of the Clean Air Act linking air quality and transportation planning. The major criterion for air quality conformity is compliance with the motor vehicle emission budgets. Other criteria include consultation, fiscal constraint, methods, models, and assumptions. Conformity requires federal approval which is given by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Conformity findings are time limited to four years which is the same as expiring periods for plans and programs such as the LRTP and the TIP. For Hampton Roads, the Maintenance Plan for the Eight-Hour Ozone Standard was developed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) working with the Hampton Roads local planning organization, the Hampton Roads Air Quality Committee (HRAQC). The HRAQC includes members of the HRTPO Board, VDOT, and DEQ. Mr. Voigt stated Hampton Roads was in compliance for the NO_x and VOC emissions budget tests, noting that both budgets utilized the MOBILE6.2 model, created by the EPA. He indicated the EPA has developed MOVES, a new emissions model that may be employed after March 2012.

Mr. Voigt stated once the Draft Regional Conformity Analysis is approved and a recommendation of a positive finding of conformity is achieved for the 2034 LRTP and FY 2012-2015 TIP, the next steps include VDOT's transmittal of the conformity analysis with a certification letter from the HRTPO to the U.S. DOT to initiate the review and the 45-day approval process.

Mr. Heuer Moved to approve the Draft Regional Conformity Analysis: Final Report and a recommendation of a positive finding of recommended conformity for the 2034 LRTP and FY 2012-2015 TIP; seconded by Mayor Johnson. The Motion Carried.

Traffic Impact of an Inland Port in Hampton Roads: Final Report

Mr. Farmer stated the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) requested the HRTPO staff investigate the potential of creating an inland port since it would have an impact on the region's roadways. He introduced Mr. Rob Case to brief the HRTPO Board on the study findings.

Mr. Case reported the Port of Virginia is one of the largest drivers of the Hampton Roads economy. He noted the Port is negatively impacted by roadway congestion in Hampton Roads, and as a possible solution to bypass some of the congestion and assist the Port to be

more competitive, an inland port to the west of Hampton Roads was evaluated. He stated the inland port study was conducted to examine any impacts the facility may have on regional congestion rather than the local economy.

Mr. Case illustrated the existing process currently in place as freight is imported and exported in Hampton Roads. He then demonstrated the movement of such freight with the creation of an inland port facility located in the Route 460/Norfolk Southern corridor in Isle of Wight County. For the basis of this report, it was assumed that only containers currently transported, or projected to be transported by truck with origins/designations outside of Hampton Roads were potential users of the inland port facility.

Based on discussion with the FTAC, four usage scenarios were evaluated. Overall, the weekday average daily traffic and peak hour truck vehicle-miles of travel slightly decreased with an inland port facility. Congested lane-miles remained constant for present day and nearly constant for the year 2030. Based on the study assumptions, the amount of freight using the inland port facility would represent a small percentage of the total freight handled by the Port of Virginia with approximately 13% of containerized freight in the current year and 12% in 2030. In conclusion, Mr. Case stated that constructing an inland port facility would have little effect on the amount of vehicle congestion in Hampton Roads.

Mayor Fraim asked if there was a difference noted in the study for the scoring value of an eighteen wheeler truck versus a smaller car. Mr. Case replied the eighteen wheeler's affect on congestion was considered three times that of a regular vehicle.

Mr. Shepperd expressed his concern with the results of the study in that they seemed to undermine the need for a Third Crossing or the widening of another existing tunnel based on transportation regarding port activity. He asked what would be the argument to build the Third Crossing to support economic activity or lessen traffic congestion if the study results indicate congestion would remain the same without the inland port construction.

Mr. Farmer replied the congestion impacts addressed in the study pertain to current and future congestion across the board. The trucking industry is a relatively small element involved in this process.

Mr. Goodson Moved to approve the Traffic Impact of an Inland Port in Hampton Roads: Final Report; seconded by Mayor Johnson. The Motion Carried.

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation: Rail Status Update

Chairman Sessoms introduced Ms. Thelma Drake, Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to update the HRTPO Board on high-speed and passenger rail for Hampton Roads.

Ms. Drake reported DRPT continually updates its website with new information regarding the Norfolk train service. DRPT is working with Norfolk Southern, CSX, and Amtrak to extend Richmond's Amtrak Virginia regional service to Norfolk which will be known as Amtrak, Virginia – Next Stop Norfolk. The train is currently under construction and should be running within the next two years, with same-seat from Norfolk to Boston.

There is also construction south of Petersburg where for the first time DRPT will connect the Norfolk Southern and CSX tracks to enable service north out of Norfolk, rather than just east-west.

Ms. Drake stated DRPT has requested an additional \$1.4 million from the Rail Enhancement Fund in order to manage safety improvements that have arisen. She noted DRPT did not anticipate any problems seeking approval from the CTB for the extra funding.

The goal on the Peninsula is to enhance the existing rail service and to eventually have an additional train depart from Newport News. DRPT is working closely with CSX to ensure the necessary improvements are completed in order to bring up more trains.

Ms. Drake indicated DRPT continues its efforts with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to move forward on both its Tier II Richmond to Washington D.C Corridor and a higher-speed rail corridor out of Norfolk which must have a Record of Decision (ROD) before the vision can be realized.

Ms. Drake explained there are a few challenges ahead for the rail industry noting the federal government has decided to reduce or eliminate the operating subsidies to Amtrak, leaving full burden to the states. This decision would affect fifteen states including Virginia. Amtrak has offered to assist the states by agreeing to pay fifteen percent of the operating subsidies and has forwarded its proposal to Governor McDonnell. She stated that hopefully all fifteen states will agree to Amtrak's proposal.

Chairman Sessoms expressed his appreciation to Ms. Drake for her efforts in bringing passenger and high-speed rail to Hampton Roads.

HRTPO Board Action Items: Three Month Tentative Schedule

Chairman Sessoms outlined the three month summary of upcoming action items in the HRTPO agenda.

Correspondence of Interest

Chairman Sessoms highlighted the items in the Correspondence of Interest section of the Agenda packet.

For Your Information

Chairman Sessoms noted the items in the For Your Information section of the Agenda packet.

Old/New Business

Chairman Sessoms asked Mayor Fraim, Chair of the HRTPO Nominating Committee, to bring a slate of recommendations to the October 20, 2011 HRTPO Board meeting. Mayor Fraim replied affirmatively.

Mayor Fraim encouraged the HRTPO Board members to attend the reception given by CTB member Shep Miller on September 21, 2011. Mayor Fraim also expressed his appreciation to Ms. Drake and Mr. Kevin Page of DRPT for their continued efforts to bring rail service to the region.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Hampton Roads TPO, the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Molly J. Ward
Chair

Dwight L. Farmer
Executive Director/Secretary

Editor, Daily Press

Newport News, VA.

October 1, 2011

Dear Sir:

After reading the article discussing the debate between Senator John Miller and his challenger, Mr. Chohany, I was disturbed by Mr. Chohany's statement that he would not support a gasoline tax increase and that the General Assembly will never raise the gas tax to fund transportation improvements. That is the type of short sighted thinking that has left us with a transportation network approaching gridlock. The increase in the gasoline tax should have been implemented twenty years ago. As a member of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee, we have heard numerous presentations on the importance of funding our transportation network improvements from military leaders as well as local officials. The gas tax should be raised immediately as well as finding other methods for funding transportation improvements. We must move Virginia forward to continue our economic development, military readiness and citizen quality of life. Thank you, Senator Miller for your realistic grasp of this important issue.

Sharyn L. Fox

358 Wood Duck Lane

Newport News, VA 23602

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AGENDA ITEM #11: OLD/NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #12: ADJOURNMENT