

Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC)

Position Paper

Executive Summary

As a subcommittee of the HRTPO, FTAC's mandate is to raise awareness on issues that impede the flow of freight, thus impacting economic growth and sustainability. To achieve these goals, FTAC advocates to the public, key stakeholders, policy makers and the freight community on the systemic needs of freight and assists in identifying and promoting implementable projects that will improve freight movement throughout the region. FTAC is committed to advocating for projects designed to improve hot spots of inefficiency in the region's freight movement system while also relieving traffic congestion for commuters.

Traffic congestion in Hampton Roads slows down freight movement, which is a vital sector of the region's and Commonwealth's economy that affects everyone from big businesses to local citizens. Congestion and delays increase the costs of goods to businesses and consumers and has the effect of a hidden tax on all. The Port of Virginia, Norfolk Southern, CSX, more than a hundred private terminals, the military and thousands of businesses move freight across the region and around the United States by ship, barge, rail, and truck. By streamlining the process that gets goods from the ship to the store, businesses and consumers will benefit from reduced transportation costs, which will increase economic benefits including employment, revenues, and taxes passed to jurisdictions.

FTAC will periodically communicate with the aforementioned parties on issues, solutions, progress and results. Input from you is equally important to accomplish the objective of improved transport for freight. A survey is forthcoming and periodic inquiries soliciting input on the status of freight movement and needs will be forwarded to you.

Your participation in improving the performance of freight movement in the Hampton Roads Region is greatly appreciated.

FTAC Staff