

TPO MEETING OF JULY 13, 2009

RE: A motion to endorse the Route 58/Holland Road Widening project as a regional project for the TIGER Grant Discretionary Funds rather than the local project recommended by the TTAC

As you have already heard from representatives of the engineering firm that is currently designing this project and from representatives of the development group that is investing in this project, we feel that the Route 58 widening project is well positioned to meet ALL the selection criteria outlined in the grant notice and to certainly meet all of the criteria of a REGIONAL project.

As provided in the package before you, the project strongly meets all of the primary and secondary criteria outlined in the TIGER grant proposal. The only exception is inclusion in the Long Range Plan and the TIP which the City would request upon receipt of the grant award.

The project truly hits the mark for the primary grant criteria related to Economic Competitiveness. When completed, the project will have far reaching impacts not just on Hampton Roads, but on the country. I think these numbers speak for themselves:

1400 acres of concentrated economic activity planned or existing along the corridor.
2 million square feet of logistics warehousing already constructed along the corridor
9 million square feet of future anticipated development
5100 jobs provided through long-term job creation of planned development.
\$630 million in private sector investment either planned or existing along the corridor.

Since 2002 Target Import Warehouse has already invested over \$70,000,000 in their facilities on Route 58. This investment includes an expansion of their facilities and creation of over 325 jobs within their 1.8 million square feet development. This should stand as a true indication that Route 58 is a desirable and viable location for successful port related development and that more growth along this corridor can be expected

The project will provide attractive business sites for development by users seeking to benefit from the close proximity to the Port of Virginia and the western interstate routes servicing the southeast United States. It is anticipated that other supporting developments of service industries will provide additional jobs across all levels of income and skills.

As noted in the submittal, the project will support the intermodal activities planned at developments along the corridor and thereby support a sustainable future. Here is an opportunity to support development that will actually take trucks off the road and transport goods to freight. A single intermodal train can take 250 to 300 long haul trucks off local and regional roads and highways and this impacts everyone.

It must also be noted that the project will address concerns related to evacuation of the region during time of emergency or threat of hurricanes. The state is currently reviewing contra-flow options along the Route 58 corridor and the widening of this section of Route 58 is important in making contra-flow viable. Again, this is a concern that impacts everyone not just Suffolk.

Finally, and what I believe to be the most important aspect of the project in meeting the primary criteria of the TIGER grant application, is that this is the ONLY project submitted that represents a public/private partnership. While every project submitted certainly has its strengths and deserves serious consideration,

the Route 58 widening project offers the strongest case for meeting the partnership criteria. There is currently a private commitment in place of almost \$3.5 million to complete design of the project and another \$8 million in additional private investment for construction is anticipated. I believe it is important for the TPO to show these private investors that you have heard from today that they will be strongly supported by the region and that their investments are recognized for their regional and even national impacts.

It should also be noted that the City of Suffolk has received support on this project from a number of state and federal representatives as well as from the Virginia Port Authority, CenterPoint Properties, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce and McDonald Development Company.

Once again, I would ask for your consideration in recognizing and supporting the Route 58 Widening project as a project of Regional significance in our TIGER grant application.