

# For Your Information – Public Comments

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Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization

July 21, 2010

Agenda Item #17-L



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**HRTPO Public Comment**  
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**RE: Transit Vision Plan  
(Public Comment Follows HRTPO Staff Response)**

***HRTPO Staff Response***

Mr. Oneil,  
Please find my answers to your questions (at bottom) below.

1. When I oversaw the preparation of the draft you examined, the NC destination of the line in question was not determined.
2. The green rail line from Norfolk to Suffolk through Portsmouth was for a planned commuter rail which would terminate in Suffolk; the black rail line from Norfolk is intercity rail. The state plans to open that in 3 years, with stops at Ettrick (Petersburg) and Staples Mill (Richmond). A recent article about the planned service between Norfolk and Richmond is <http://hamptonroads.com/2010/07/return-rail>. There is also a website devoted to passenger rail development in Hampton Roads at [www.hrtpo.org](http://www.hrtpo.org) ; just follow the link for "Passenger Rail Chronicle" under "Hot Topics".
3. According to page 55 of the draft plan, these light rail segments crossing the harbor would be implemented "with the addition or improvement of highway linkages". For example, the preliminary Third Crossing design calls for the construction of new tunnels which would contain three side-by-side, connected tubes, two for autos and one labeled "multimodal" for an unspecified mode which could be light rail.

Note that the draft Transit Vision Plan which you reviewed is currently being modified in what is known as Phase II, so those answers above related to the draft plan may not apply to the final plan. Karen Waterman at HRT is overseeing the Phase II process. [kwateman@hrtransit.org](mailto:kwateman@hrtransit.org)

**Name:** Zac Oneil  
**Date:** July 9, 2010  
**Subject:** Transit Vision Plan

**Public Comment Input** (via hrmpo.org)

After reading this article, <http://hamptonroads.com/2009/02/hampton-roads-public-transportation-plan-unveiled>, I was wondering if you can tell me: 1. How far into North Carolina will the route from Norfolk via Cheasapeake go? I would think just into Elizabeth City NC. 2. The routes that goes from Norfolk to Suffolk and Portsmouth to Suffolk respectively, will they head to both Petersburg and Richmond? 3. On that map, it says that Light Rail will eventually cross the harbor. Whenever that does happen, will it have its own tunnel or will it run with either Interstate 664 or Interstate 64? That is all, thank you.

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**HRTPO Comment**  
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**Name:** Chris Malendoski

**Date:** July 9, 2010

**Subject:** Your Editorial – Bonner Bridge

**Comment:**

Dear Commissioner Shea,

As I see you are the Commissioner of Dare County, I read with great interest your editorial in our Virginia Pilot newspaper and I could not agree more with your sentiments about the Oregon Inlet Bridge!

By the time all the environmental studies have been done, it will have been too late for the population!!

North Carolina and Virginia governments have had a long-standing tradition of this, in common: They tend to neglect the coasts and concentrate all their infrastructure where-with-all on the Piedmont.

There has to be a way that we as coastal residents and our MPO's of both Virginia and North Carolina, can band together to get our infrastructure needs satisfied!

At 1.75 Million people, Hampton Roads is the largest MSA directly on the Atlantic Ocean between New York and Miami, and somehow, we always get the short end of the stick too.

I have copied some of our MPO officials here, our Secretary of Transportation, and a few city mayors and officials on who chair our MPO, as well as few others who I am sure share your sentiments.

Maybe we can all band together over state-lines and start knocking on the Federal door for such concerns!

Regards,

Christopher Malendoski

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