

AGENDA ITEM #13: HIGH-SPEED AND INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL: STATUS REPORT

SUBJECT:

TEMS (Transportation Economics & Management Systems, Inc.), the consultant specializing in passenger rail planning, was secured for the HRTPO to evaluate the potential passenger rail service alternative defined by the October 30, 2009 HRTPO Board resolution with respect to both the CSX/I-64 and Norfolk Southern/Route 460 rail corridors.

BACKGROUND:

Phase 1 of the consultant six-month contract is from January 28, 2010 to July 31, 2010. In Phase 1, the TEMS team will evaluate the base case 79-mph/90-mph concept, and establish if there is a case for high-speed rail. In undertaking this work, the consultant is working closely throughout the course of the study with HRTPO and DRPT staff to assess the potential of higher- and high-speed rail as determined by the HRTPO Board resolution.

TEMS will participate at HRTPO Board meetings during the course of the study by attending and giving presentations to the HRTPO Board. The meetings have been scheduled at key decision-making points to ensure the HRTPO Board fully understands and approves the work underway before the TEMS team proceeds to the next task.

Dr. Alexander E. Metcalf, TEMS, will brief the HRTPO Board on the work currently accomplished and next steps.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For informational purposes and discussion.