

MPO Agenda Item 6: Jordan Bridge/Gilmerton Bridge Traffic Mitigation

Background

- The City of Chesapeake appreciates Secretary Homer's and VDOT's strong support for getting the Gilmerton Bridge replacement underway
- Gilmerton Bridge is over 70 years old and is functionally obsolete (life span of a bridge is 50 – 70 years)
- Due to age and deteriorating condition, the bridge is weight restricted; fire trucks are detoured as they can only cross the bridge under emergency conditions
- VDOT is managing the project and it is scheduled to be advertised for construction in February of 2009 per VDOT's Six-Year Plan
- If the Gilmerton Bridge is not replaced soon, Chesapeake will likely be forced to consider closing of this bridge at some point in the not too distant future, resulting in regional gridlock
- Current estimated cost to replace the Gilmerton Bridge is \$186M; even with federal bonus funds, current funding totals \$170.5M, resulting in a funding deficit of **\$15.5M**
- Chesapeake requests Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds be allocated to cover the funding shortfall. For FY's 2011-2014, estimated RSTP funds total \$117,733,311.
- VDOT has indicated they will divert funds from other regionally significant projects, including Dominion Boulevard and Hampton Boulevard, to cover the funding gap.

- Our Federal representatives have advised us that diversion of funds from Dominion Boulevard will hinder their ability to secure additional Congressional appropriations
- Existing Dominion Blvd project funds will allow for early acquisition of impacted residential properties along the corridor

Motion #1: Gilmerton Bridge

In recognition of the critical need to move forward with replacement of the Gilmerton Bridge, I move that \$15.5M in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds be allocated to the Gilmerton Bridge Replacement project. Given other competing regional projects, I request that RSTP allocations be applied over three consecutive fiscal years as follows: \$5M in FY 2011; \$5M in FY 2012; and \$5.5M in FY 2013.

Motion #2: Jordan Bridge

In light of the upcoming closure of the Jordan Bridge, I move that \$500,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds be allocated to cover the operating costs of an express bus service between the Cities of Chesapeake and Portsmouth. The Transportation Technical Committee has reviewed this proposal and recommended approval. As indicated at the Technical Committee meeting, we will closely monitor bus ridership and will discontinue the service should it be deemed ineffective.

Thank you for your consideration.