



**HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD RESOLUTION 2011-06**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
ADOPTING PRINCIPLES FOR FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION.**

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO), designated by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia in accordance with Section 134, Title 23, United States Code (23 USC 134) and applicable federal and state regulations, is the policy body responsible for the urban transportation planning and programming process of the Hampton Roads metropolitan planning area;

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads metropolitan planning area includes the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg; the counties of Isle of Wight, James City, and York; and a portion of Gloucester County;

WHEREAS, authorized in August 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) is the current authorization that governs the Nation's federal surface transportation funding and transportation planning and programming;

WHEREAS, SAFETEA-LU was originally set to expire on September 30, 2009, but has been extended to March 31, 2012, marking this as the eighth extension as the US Congress continues to deliberate on a new surface transportation reauthorization bill;

WHEREAS, the new multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill is of critical importance to maintaining and enhancing the surface transportation system throughout the Nation, including in the Hampton Roads region;

WHEREAS, home to 1.7 million people, the Hampton Roads region contains miles of coastal beaches and access to other waterways, which makes Hampton Roads a strategic destination for tourism, foreign trade, military and port facilities;

WHEREAS, while providing links to these facilities consists of a complex network of roads, bridges and tunnels, transit, and bike and pedestrian facilities, the geographical challenges of Hampton Roads' location and topography create fiscal challenges in constructing and maintaining the region's transportation priorities as identified for the HRTPO 2034 Long-Range Transportation Plan;

WHEREAS, despite present federal and state funding difficulties, several key principles should be included in the new surface transportation reauthorization bill:

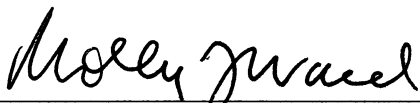
1. Funding for highways and transit should, at a minimum, modestly exceed the SAFETEA-LU levels in current law, so as to keep pace with inflation, and so as to provide meaningful federal partnership with efforts being undertaken at the state, local and regional levels.
2. Reauthorization should be for six years, to assure program reliability, continuity and a basis for good planning.
3. The role of the nation's metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), including small MPOs, should be maintained and strengthened, as the MPOs are the key sponsors of effective regional input to the planning and programming process through the country's urbanized areas.
4. The program flexibility begun in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and continued in reauthorizations up to and including SAFETEA-LU should be maintained and enhanced, allowing states, local governments, and regions to invest funds to meeting locally-defined needs.

WHEREAS, upon approval, this resolution will be transmitted to the Hampton Roads US Congressional Delegation, the Hampton Roads Delegation of the General Assembly, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and Hampton Roads City Councils.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization urges the US Congress to pass a new multi-year surface transportation reauthorization before the extension of SAFETEA-LU expires on March 31, 2012.

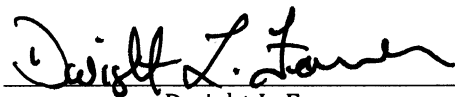
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization adopts the principles as recommendations for the next federal surface transportation reauthorization bill.

APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization Board at its meeting on the 17th day of November 2011.



Molly J. Ward
Chair

Hampton Roads Transportation
Planning Organization



Dwight L. Farmer

Executive Director/Secretary
Hampton Roads Transportation
Planning Organization