

AGENDA ITEM #2: PHASE 1: PROGRESS REPORT

SUBJECT:

Upon execution of the contract, a detailed Phase 1 study plan workshop will be held with the HRTPO Project Manager, DRPT, and Steering Committee to identify priorities and finalize the work program. It is proposed that throughout the course of the project, the TEMS team will meet with the HRTPO Board and Steering Committee, and with DRPT to keep them apprised of project databases, assumptions, and analysis results, and to ensure that the study is effectively coordinated with other work being undertaken by HRTPO and DRPT.

BACKGROUND:

The following is work currently in progress by the TEMS team:

Task 1 – Study Design: TEMS has worked closely with the HRTPO and DRPT to finalize the study design and to agree upon the development of databases, rail strategies, and evaluation procedures. A final work plan has been agreed by HRTPO and DRPT.

Task 2 – Data Assembly: TEMS is assembling data towards the specifications of three major data systems:

- **Engineering Database:** TEMS is working with the HRTPO to establish the protocols for working with both CSX and NS so that it can obtain the freight railroad databases and be able to review both the Peninsula and Southside corridors. It is anticipated that the engineering review will take place by late March/early April.
- **Market Database:** TEMS is working with the HRTPO to obtain the base year O/D data and transportation data in order to establish a zone system, calibrate its models, and develop socioeconomic data for forecasting future rail traffic.
- **Technology Database:** TEMS is reviewing and updating its train performance information to be used to develop train times and the operating plan for both the Peninsula and Southside routes.

Task 3 – Service Scenarios: TEMS is setting up the framework to assess the service scenarios identified in the HRTPO resolution of enhanced passenger rail on the CSX/I-64 corridor, and high speed rail on the Norfolk Southern/Route 460 corridor. In developing this framework, TEMS is evaluating the interim steps that may be necessary for the implementation plan. TEMS will be reviewing these interim steps with the HRTPO and DRPT before using them in the interactive analysis that will be completed as part of Task 4.

Task 9 – Institutional Framework: TEMS is reviewing the need for advice and guidance on the institutional structures needed to develop appropriate scenarios for the CSX/I-64 and Norfolk Southern/Route 460 rail corridors. This review will consider the recent resolution of the HRTPO and the discussions with DRPT concerning the proposed rail strategies for both the rail corridors. These discussions suggest the need for continued cooperation and joint assessment of the proposals for each corridor.

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