

# State of Transportation in Hampton Roads 2023



JANUARY 2024

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# ***THE STATE OF TRANSPORTATION IN HAMPTON ROADS 2023***

**PREPARED BY:**



**JANUARY 2024**

**T24-01**

## REPORT DOCUMENTATION

**TITLE**

The State of Transportation in Hampton Roads 2023

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**ABSTRACT**

This annual report details the current status of all facets of the transportation system in Hampton Roads, including air, rail, water, and highways. Many aspects of the highway system are highlighted, including roadway usage, bridge conditions, costs of congestion, commuting characteristics, roadway safety, truck data, transit usage, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, highway funding, tolling, and operations.

This report is produced as part of the region's Congestion Management Process (CMP). The Congestion Management Process is an on-going process that identifies, develops, evaluates, and implements transportation strategies to enhance mobility regionwide. This report is also produced as part of the HRTPO's Performance Management effort.

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**REPORT DATE**

January 2024

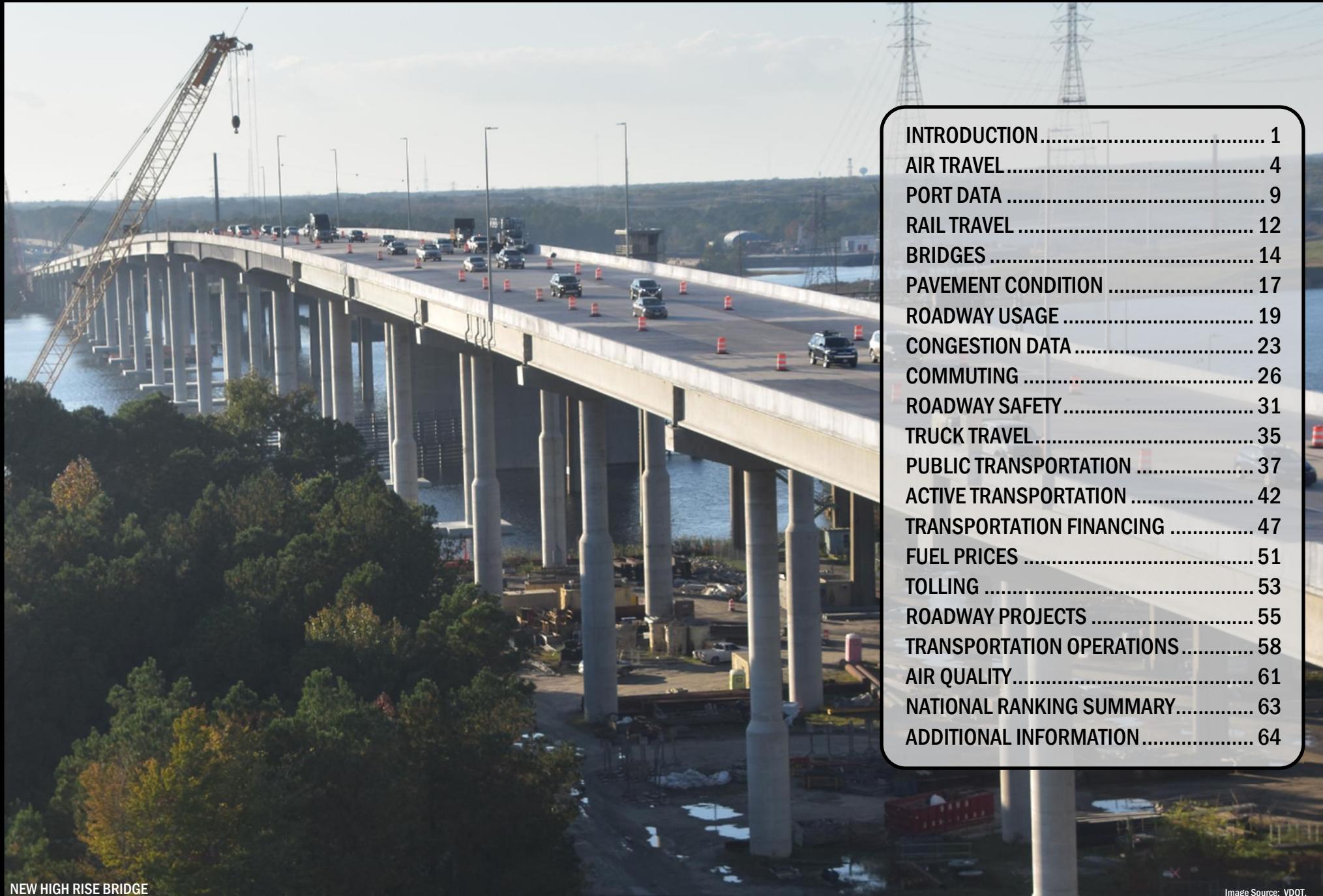
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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The contents of this report reflect the views of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). The HRTPO is responsible for the facts and the accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the FHWA, VDOT or Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation. FHWA or VDOT acceptance of this report as evidence of fulfillment of the objectives of this planning study does not constitute endorsement/approval of the need for any recommended improvements nor does it constitute approval of their location and design or a commitment to fund any such improvements. Additional project level environmental impact assessments and/or studies of alternatives may be necessary.

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# INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted travel more than any other issue in recent memory. While the pandemic fades and society enters the “new normal”, some aspects of the transportation system continue to be impacted.

Roadway travel and congestion levels, which decreased during the early months of the pandemic, are returning close to pre-pandemic conditions. Air and rail travel levels have rebounded, and the Port of Virginia is serving record levels of cargo. Public transportation usage, however, continues to lag pre-pandemic levels.

Work continues on a number of major roadway construction projects in Hampton Roads, including the largest project in Commonwealth history – the widening of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel and adjacent sections of I-64. This will comprise part of the Hampton Roads Express Lanes Network, which will be a continuous 46 mile network by 2027. These are in addition to a number of major projects that have recently been completed throughout the region, including an additional tube at the Midtown Tunnel, the Martin Luther King Freeway Extension, three phases of I-64 widening on the Peninsula, both phases of I-64/I-264 interchange improvements, widening I-64 in Chesapeake (including the High Rise Bridge), upgrading the Dominion Boulevard corridor including the new fixed-span Veterans Bridge, and the I-564 Intermodal Connector.



Transportation improvements in Hampton Roads have not been limited to the highway network. The Port of Virginia has recently completed \$700 million in projects to greatly improve and expand Norfolk International Terminals and the Virginia International Gateway facility, and work is underway to widen and deepen the shipping channels to the port and improve rail connections at the terminal. Millions of dollars of improvements have been made in recent years at both Norfolk International and Newport News-Williamsburg International Airports, including new garages, renovated runways, and improved terminals. A new Amtrak station was built in Norfolk, and construction is underway on a new multi-modal station near Bland Boulevard in Newport News. And generational changes to the regional public transportation system, including a new regional transit backbone, are underway, largely funded through a new regional funding source dedicated to transit.

# INTRODUCTION (continued)

Even with all of these projects in Hampton Roads, there continue to be challenges. In spite of increased funding levels in recent years, many important transportation projects have no funding identified. The 2045 Hampton Roads Long-Range Transportation Plan identified \$70 billion in candidate projects, but less than \$14 billion is projected to be available for new projects. Funding for bridge and roadway maintenance will need to increase as infrastructure continues to age. In addition, regional congestion, while still below pre-pandemic levels, is increasing.

## NOTABLE HAMPTON ROADS NUMBERS

<b>Population</b>	<b>1,751,852</b>
<b>Licensed Drivers</b>	<b>1,178,261</b>
<b>Registered Vehicles</b>	<b>1,590,712</b>
<b>Centerline-Miles</b>	<b>8,624</b>
<b>Lane-Miles</b>	<b>19,617</b>
<b>Airport Boardings</b>	<b>2,145,344</b>
<b>Port Cargo Tonnage</b>	<b>26,152,441</b>
<b>Amtrak Passengers</b>	<b>248,519</b>
<b>Transit Passengers</b>	<b>7,606,041</b>
<b>Bridges</b>	<b>1,277</b>
<b>Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel</b>	<b>38,375,000</b>



Image Source: VDOT

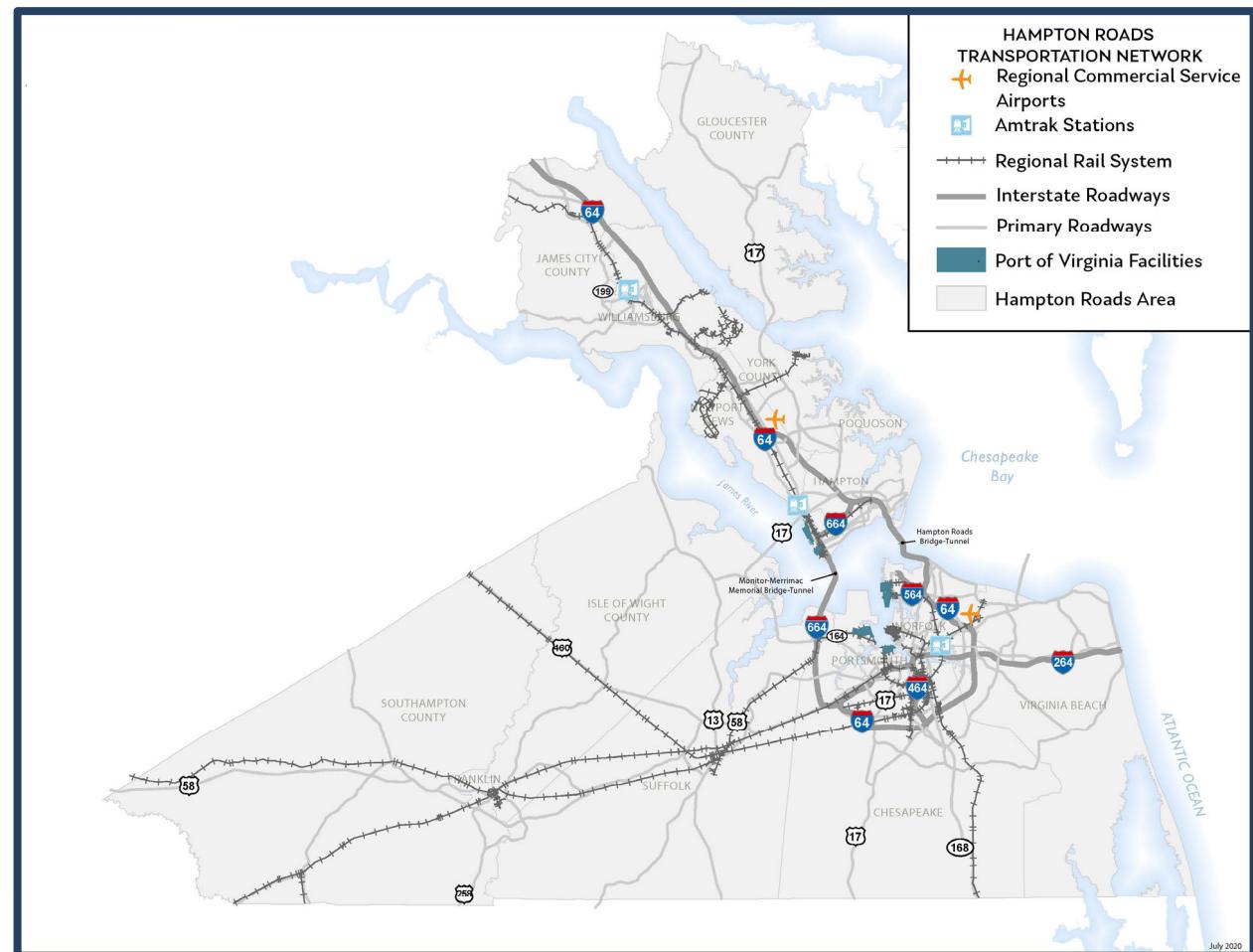
This State of Transportation report details the current status of all facets of the transportation system in Hampton Roads, including air, rail, water, and highways. Many aspects of the highway system are highlighted, including roadway usage, pavement condition, bridge condition, congestion, commuting characteristics, roadway safety, truck data, transit usage, active transportation, transportation financing, tolling, transportation operations, and air quality.

# INTRODUCTION (continued)

This report is produced as part of the HRTPO's Congestion Management Process (CMP), which is an ongoing program that identifies, develops, evaluates, and implements transportation strategies to enhance mobility regionwide. The Hampton Roads Congestion Management Process report includes a comprehensive congestion analysis of the region's highway system, identification of the most congested corridors and areas of Hampton Roads, and congestion management strategies. This report and all other CMP documents are available on HRTPO's website at <https://www.hrtpo.org/page/congestion-management>.

This report is also produced as part of HRTPO's Performance Management effort. The Virginia General Assembly passed legislation codifying regional transportation performance measurement and in response, HRTPO staff developed a list of regional performance measures. In addition, new federal regulations require states and metropolitan areas to use performance measures and set targets in areas such as pavement and bridge condition, freight, travel time reliability, transit, and safety. More information on HRTPO's Performance Management effort is available on HRTPO's website at <http://www.hrtpo.org/page/performance-management>.

## HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION NETWORK





The pandemic impacted the airline industry more than any other mode of transportation. Travel levels, however, have returned nearly to pre-pandemic levels at Hampton Roads airports.

The number of passengers traveling via commercial air service in Hampton Roads has nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels. Nearly 2.2 million passengers boarded flights at the two commercial service airports in Hampton Roads – Norfolk International (ORF) and Newport News-Williamsburg International (PHF) – in 2022 according to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and local airport data. The number of passengers using regional airports increased 18% from 2013 to 2022 and increased 125% from the height of the pandemic in 2020.



The changes in passenger levels experienced in Hampton Roads during and after the pandemic are similar to those at other airports. National passenger levels increased by 15% from 2013 to 2022, slightly lower than the increase in Hampton Roads.

## NOTABLE AIR TRAVEL NUMBERS

▲ 18%

▲ 14%

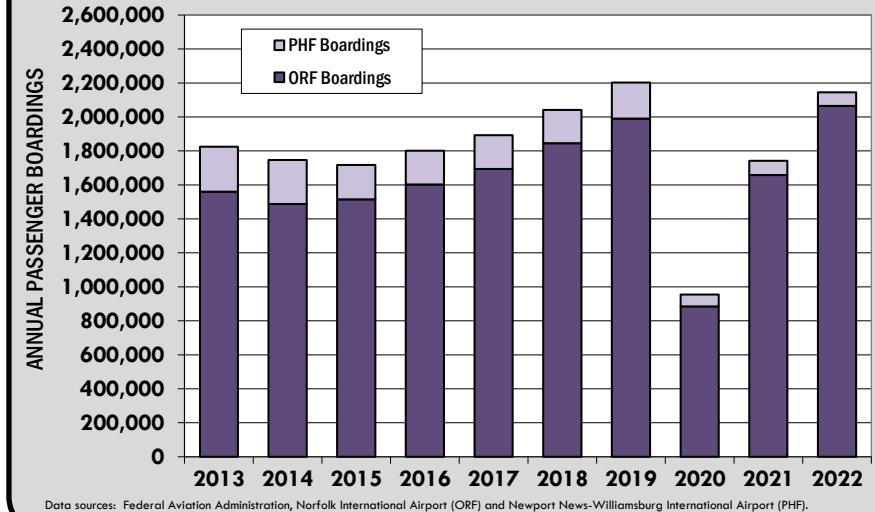
▲ 10%

The change in the number of passengers that used Hampton Roads airports between 2013 and 2022.

The increase in capacity (in terms of available seat-miles) at Hampton Roads airports between 2013 and 2022.

The increase in average airfares at Norfolk International Airport between 2013 and 2022. At Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport, the average airfare increased 9%.

## ANNUAL PASSENGER BOARDINGS AT HAMPTON ROADS AIRPORTS, 2013-2022



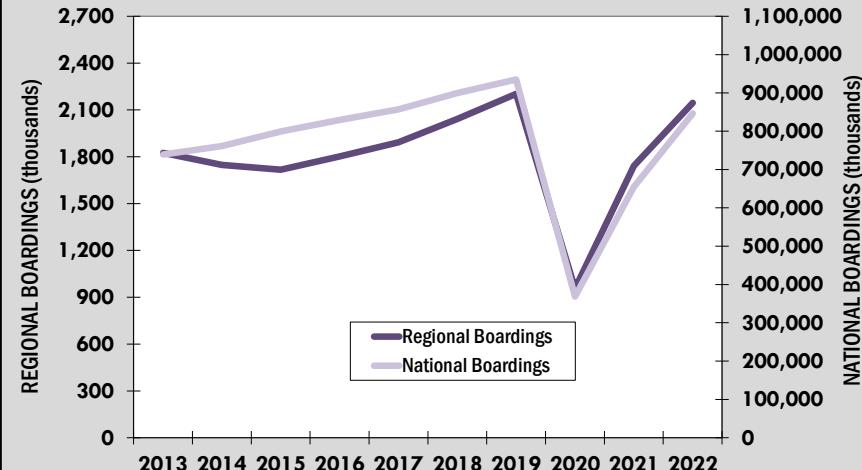


Airfares at Hampton Roads airports were largely decreasing at the end of the last decade, but have increased since the height of the pandemic. In late 2013, average airfares at Norfolk International Airport were \$407, which was about \$25 higher than the national average. At Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport, airfares (\$418) were also above the national average. By the end of 2022, the average airfare at Norfolk International Airport was \$449, which is 10% higher than the average airfare in late 2013 and was \$55 higher than the national average. At Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport the average airfare was \$454 at the end of 2022, which is 9% higher than the airfare in 2013 and was \$60 higher than the national average.



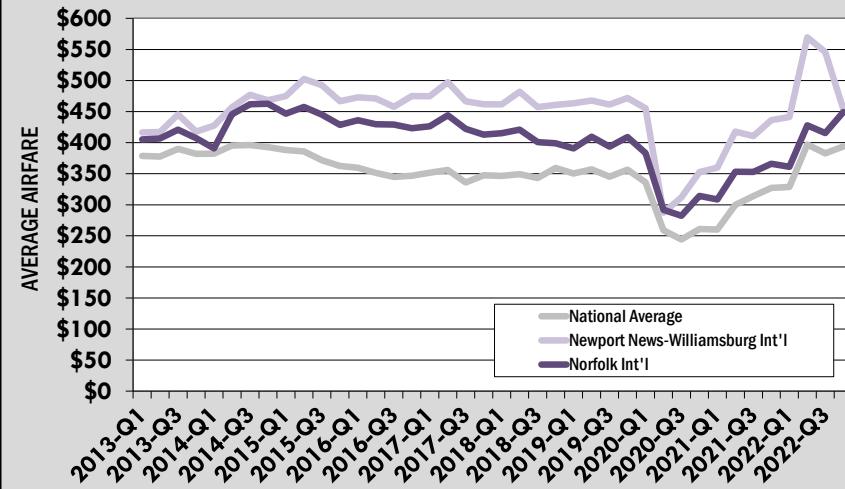
It should be noted that these airfares only reflect the costs associated with ticket fares and do not include additional fees that have expanded in recent years for checked baggage, seat assignments, ticket changes, early check-in, meals, etc.

## ANNUAL PASSENGER BOARDINGS AT HAMPTON ROADS AND NATIONAL AIRPORTS, 2013-2022



Data sources: Federal Aviation Administration, Norfolk International Airport (ORF) and Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport (PHF). Boardings represent only those passengers that board airplanes at each airport.

## AVERAGE AIRFARES FOR HAMPTON ROADS AND NATIONAL AIRPORTS, 2013-2022



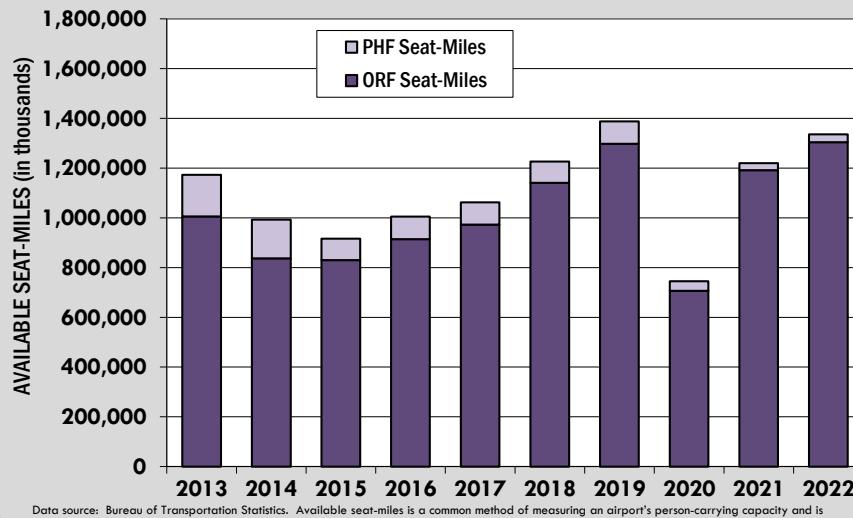
Data source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Average fares are based on domestic itinerary fares consisting of round-trip fares unless the customer does not purchase a return trip, in which case the one-way fare is included. Fares are based on the total ticket value (including any additional taxes and fees) and do not include other fees (such as baggage fees) paid at the airport or onboard the aircraft.



The number of flights departing from Hampton Roads airports decreased early in the last decade but increased over the last few years prior to the pandemic. An average of 76 flights depart Hampton Roads each day in 2023 (although this is greatly impacted by seasonal service on some routes). This compares to 97 commercial flights departing from Hampton Roads airports each day prior to the pandemic in 2019.

The number of available seat-miles, a common method of measuring an airport's person-carrying capacity, has nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels in the region. After falling from nearly 1.4 billion seat-miles departing Hampton Roads in 2019 to 750 million seat-miles in 2020, the number increased to just over 1.3 billion seat-miles available on flights in 2022. This is 14% above the level seen in 2013.

## ANNUAL AVAILABLE SEAT-MILES AT HAMPTON ROADS AIRPORTS, 2013-2022



## BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Passenger levels and airline capacity (in terms of nonstop flights and available seat-miles) have rebounded in Hampton Roads from the pandemic. As of 2022, passenger levels at Hampton Roads airports were only 3% below the level seen prior to the pandemic in 2019. Looking only at Norfolk International, passenger levels have actually increased by 4% between 2019 and 2022.

Passenger levels at Norfolk International Airport have recovered more quickly than at many other airports. Among the 106 airports in the United States classified as "small" and "medium" by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Norfolk International ranked 35<sup>th</sup> highest in terms of the largest percentage growth in passenger volumes between 2019 and 2022. Among the 106 small and medium-sized airports, more than two out of every three (69%) still had passenger levels in 2022 that were below the pre-pandemic passenger levels seen in 2019.



Image Source: NIA.



Load factors (which are passenger-miles as a proportion of available seat-miles) have also rebounded since the pandemic, changing at Norfolk International from 82.7% in 2019 to 64.8% in 2020 to 82.0% in 2022. The load factor also rebounded at Newport News-Williamsburg International, from 82.5% in 2019 to 59.0% in 2020 to 78.3% in 2022.

As of 2023 there are a total of 39 airports in 30 markets served nonstop from Hampton Roads. Norfolk International Airport has nonstop flights to all of these airports and markets, while Charlotte is also served nonstop from Newport News-Williamsburg International Airport. This number includes seasonal service and service that is only provided by airlines on certain days of the week. Service to some markets was reduced or eliminated during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as Delta Air Lines service at Newport News-Williamsburg International.

The most popular final destination for passengers using Hampton Roads airports in 2022 was New York City, with a total of 213,600 passengers traveling either to or from New York. The second most popular destination from Hampton Roads in 2022

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**New Airlines** – A number of new airlines have either begun serving airports in Hampton Roads or have announced new service to the region. The largest of these is **Breeze Airways**, which began service at Norfolk International Airport in 2021. Breeze Airways provides nonstop service from Hampton Roads to ten markets along with seasonal service to other markets.

**Spirit Airlines** began providing service from Norfolk International Airport to Orlando and Fort Lauderdale in March 2023.



**Airport Improvements** – There are a number of improvements underway or planned at Norfolk International. These improvements include:

**Runway rehabilitation** – The main runway is currently being rehabilitated to extend the service life by 20 years. Phase 1 of construction was completed in 2023 and Phase 2 will take place in 2024.

**Airport Hotel** – Negotiations have started with a hotel hospitality firm to develop, manage, and operate a hotel on site at Norfolk International Airport.

**New Combined Security Checkpoint** – TSA security checkpoints at each of the two concourses will be combined to a single, larger checkpoint. Construction on the \$40 million project is expected to start in 2025.

**New Departures Area** – This project would create a new Departures curb that would run parallel to the Arrivals area and combine the two current ticketing areas. Construction is expected to start in 2025.

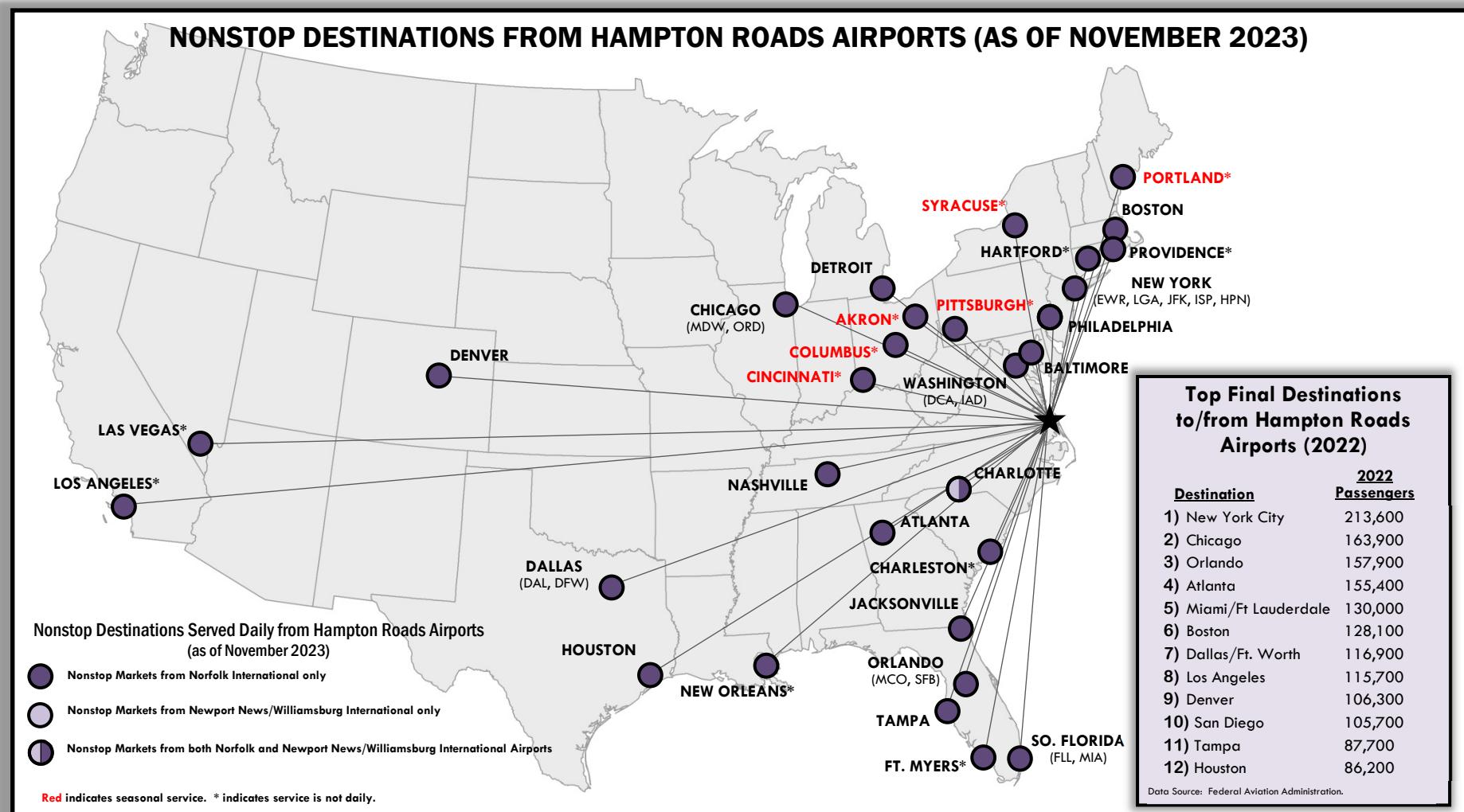


**Concourse A Extension** – Still in the planning stages, this \$75 million project would add several gates onto the end of the existing Concourse A.



was Chicago with 163,900 passengers, and the third most popular final destination was Orlando with 157,900 passengers. By comparison, in 2019 the most popular destination was also New York, with 212,900 passengers.

Of the top twelve markets for Hampton Roads air travelers in 2022, only San Diego is not served by any nonstop service from Hampton Roads airports. In recent years, this number of top markets has been as high as six.





Cargo levels handled by the Port of Virginia – the third largest container port on the East Coast – once again reached record levels in 2022, providing a boost to both the regional and statewide economies.

The Port of Virginia is comprised of four facilities in Hampton Roads: Norfolk International Terminals (NIT), Newport News Marine Terminal (NNMT), Portsmouth Marine Terminal (PMT), and the Virginia International Gateway (VIG) facility. The Virginia Port Authority also manages the Port of Richmond and operates an inland port facility near Front Royal. In addition, there are a number of private terminals in the region, such as Lambert's Point Docks and Elizabeth River Terminals.



Hampton Roads continues to be the largest exporter of coal in the country. Over 32 million tons of coal were shipped through the region in 2022. The amount of coal shipped through Hampton Roads has fluctuated over the last decade between 22 million tons in 2016 and 51 million tons in 2013. This

## NOTABLE PORT DATA NUMBERS

▲ 39%

37% ▼

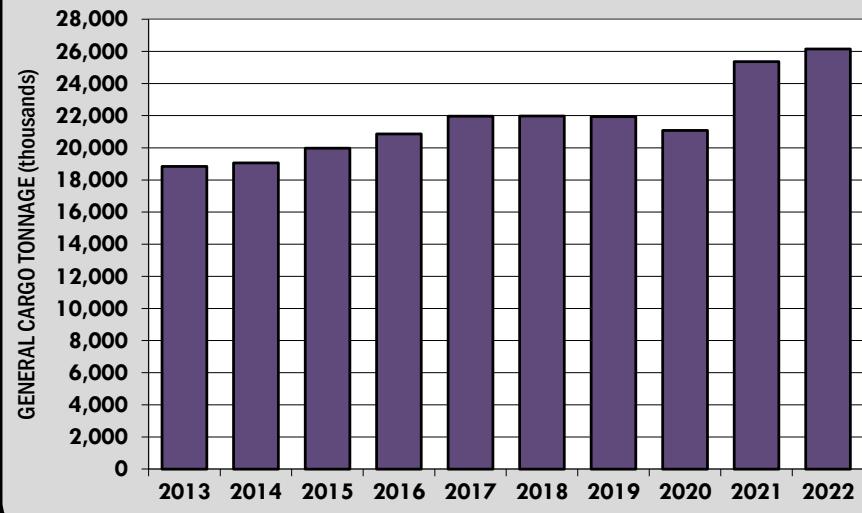
3rd

The increase in general cargo tonnage handled by the Port of Virginia between 2013 and 2022.

The decrease in the amount of coal shipped through Hampton Roads from 2013 to 2022.

The rank of the Port of Virginia among East Coast ports in the volume of containerized cargo handled in 2022. Nationally, the Port of Virginia ranked 6<sup>th</sup> highest.

## GENERAL CARGO TONNAGE HANDLED BY THE PORT OF VIRGINIA, 2013-2022



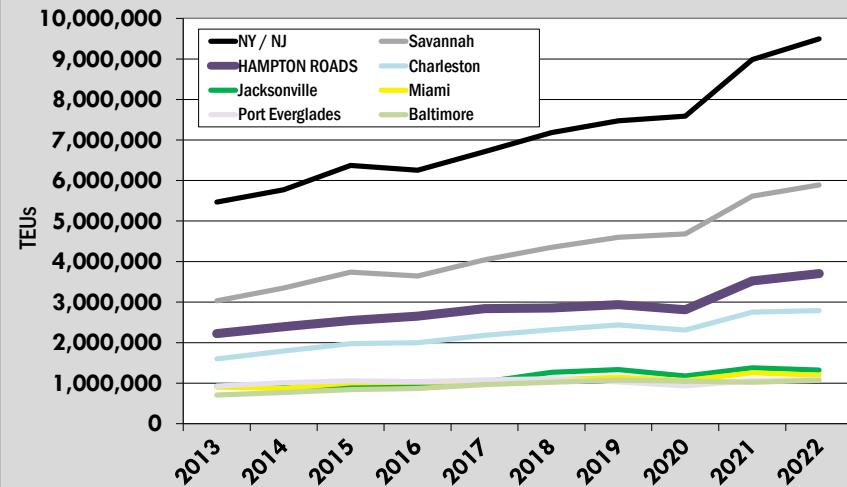


fluctuation is largely due to the cost competitiveness of American coal compared to other countries.

Over 26 million tons of general cargo, primarily transported in containers, was handled by the Port of Virginia in 2022. This level of cargo was a record handled by the Port of Virginia, and is 39% higher than the amount handled by the Port in 2013.

The maritime industry also measures containerized cargo using a standard called “20-foot container equivalent units”, or TEUs. The Port of Virginia handled over 3.7 million TEUs in 2022. This is up 67% from 2.2 million TEUs handled in 2013. The Port of Virginia ranked third highest among East Coast ports in the volume (in terms of TEUs) of containerized cargo handled in 2022, and had the highest growth rate among these East Coast ports from 2020 to 2022.

## GENERAL CARGO (in TEUs) HANDLED AT TOP EAST COAST PORTS, 2013-2022



Data sources: American Association of Port Authorities, various port facilities. TEUs are twenty-foot container equivalent units, a common method of measuring freight.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**Capital Improvements** – Work was recently completed on a number of major projects at The Port of Virginia, including:

- NIT - Rail improvements and converting the South Yard to automated rail-mounted gantry cranes that allow the facility to handle 700,000 more TEUs annually were completed in 2020. The new North Gate semi-automated gate complex that connects NIT directly to the Intermodal Connector was completed in 2017. Work is currently underway on an expansion of the Central Rail Yard, with completion expected in 2024.
- VIG – The Phase II Expansion project was completed in 2019, which includes an extended berth with new cranes, additional truck gates, and new container and rail yards. These improvements allow VIG to handle over one million more TEUs annually.



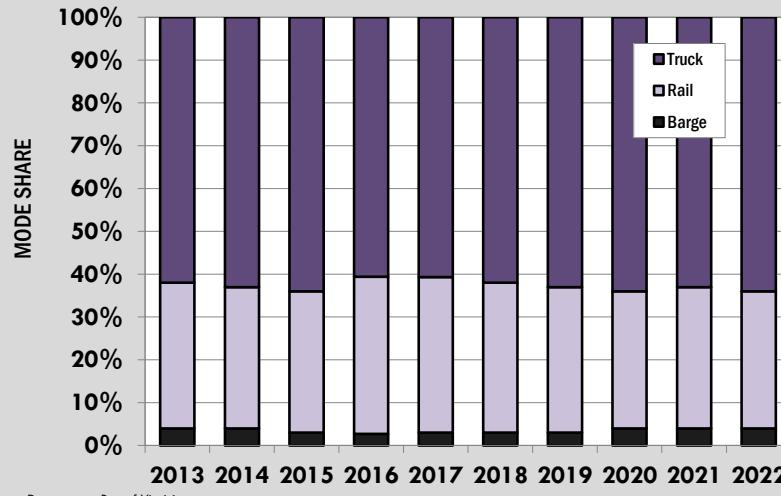
NIT CENTRAL RAIL YARD EXPANSION

Image Source: VPA

**Wider, Deeper, Safer** – In order to better accommodate the larger ships that have arrived in recent years, the Port of Virginia has planned the “Wider, Deeper, Safer” project which will deepen the channels from 50 feet to 55 feet and widen the channels to allow for two-way traffic of ultra-large container vessels. Work began on deepening the Thimble Shoal Channel, which leads into the Norfolk Harbor, in 2019 and is expected to be complete in 2024.



## MODE SPLIT OF GENERAL CARGO HANDLED BY THE PORT OF VIRGINIA, 2013-2022



In 2022, 64% of the general cargo handled by the Port of Virginia arrived or departed by truck, 32% by rail, and 4% by barge. The share of freight moved by rail through the Port of Virginia has ranged from 32% - 37% over the last decade.

The cruise industry also has a presence in Hampton Roads, with cruises calling at the Decker Half Moone Cruise Center in Norfolk. Norwegian Cruise Lines and Carnival Cruise Lines are offering cruises from Norfolk as a home port in 2023. A total of 180,000 passengers sailed from Norfolk in 2022, with additional cruises planned for future years, including year-round sailings beginning for the first time in 2025.

HRTPO conducts a number of freight planning efforts such as the Regional Freight Study to better understand the movement of freight and its impacts on the region. More information is available at <http://www.hrtpo.org/page/freight>.

## BEHIND THE NUMBERS

The ships calling at the Port of Virginia have gotten much larger in recent years, largely due to the widening of the Panama Canal. In July 2016 the first ship with a capacity of 10,000 TEUs arrived at the port, but only ten months later, a 13,000 TEU ultra-large container vessel – The Cosco Development – called at the Port. In August 2017 the 14,400 TEU CMA-CGM Theodore Roosevelt visited VIG, followed by many other 14,000+ TEU ships. In September 2020, a 15,300 TEU ship – the CMA-CGM Brazil – called at the Port.



Hampton Roads and the Port of Virginia are well-positioned to handle these larger ships. Shipping channels in the Hampton Roads harbor are currently dredged to a depth of 50 feet, which, along with no overhead restrictions, currently allows for the largest ships in the world to use the Port of Virginia. In addition, the Port is in the process of widening and deepening the channels to 55 feet to allow for two-way traffic of ultra-large container vessels, which is deeper than any other East Coast port.

The recently completed improvements to Norfolk International Terminals and the Virginia International Gateway complex will also help the Port of Virginia handle this expected growth. Both NIT and VIG can each now handle over 2 million TEUs annually, which is above the 3.7 million TEUs that were handled in total by the Port of Virginia in 2022.



There are passenger rail travel options provided to both the Peninsula and the Southside, and passenger levels reached record levels in Hampton Roads in 2022, largely due to increased service to the region.

A number of passenger rail options are available in Hampton Roads. Amtrak service is available on the Peninsula in Newport News and Williamsburg, and in 2012 Amtrak began providing direct service to the Southside in Norfolk. A year earlier the Tide, a 7.4-mile light rail line operated by Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), began operation in the City of Norfolk (the Tide is addressed in the Public Transportation section of this report.)



The number of passengers using Amtrak service in Hampton Roads had largely remained flat over the last decade prior to the pandemic, but reached record levels in 2022. There were a total of 248,500 passengers who boarded or departed Amtrak trains in Hampton Roads in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022, with 70,600 passengers at the Newport News station, 48,100 passengers at the Williamsburg station, and 129,800

## NOTABLE RAIL TRAVEL NUMBERS

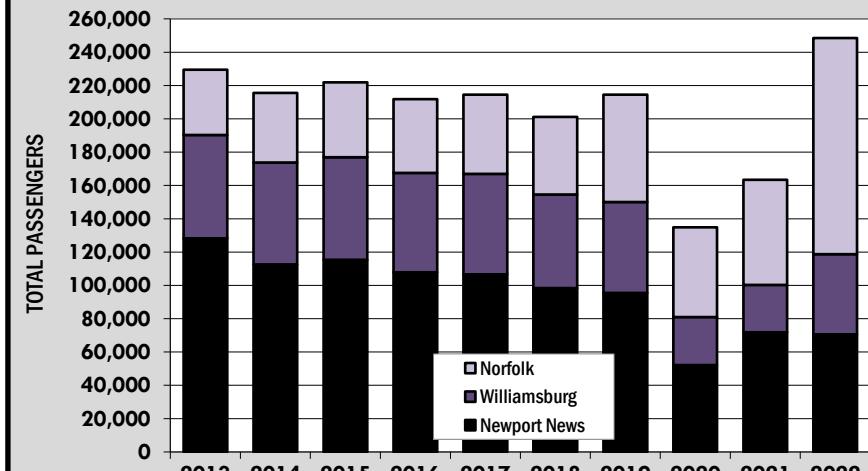
8%  
▲

12%  
▼

The increase in the number of passengers that boarded or departed Amtrak trains in Hampton Roads between Federal Fiscal Years 2013 and 2022.

The decrease in the number of crashes at highway-rail crossings in Hampton Roads from the 2003-2012 time period to the 2013-2022 period.

## TOTAL PASSENGERS BOARDING OR DEPARTING AMTRAK TRAINS IN HAMPTON ROADS, FFY 2013-2022



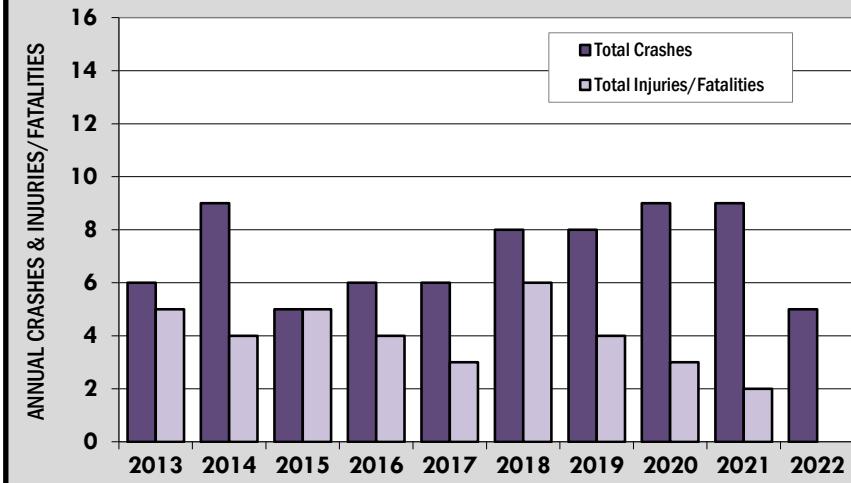
Data source: Amtrak. Federal Fiscal Years run from October to September.



passengers at the Norfolk station. The number of passengers boarding or departing Amtrak trains in Hampton Roads increased 52% between FFY 2021 and 2022, and increased 8% from the levels seen in 2013.

With the number of freight and passenger trains crossing the region each day, ensuring the safety of highway-rail crossings is a necessity. There were five crashes between trains and vehicles at highway-rail crossings in Hampton Roads in 2022, resulting in no injuries and no fatalities. Between 2013 and 2022, there were 71 crashes at highway-rail crossings in Hampton Roads, resulting in 5 fatalities and 31 injuries. The number of crashes at Hampton Roads highway-rail crossings has greatly decreased, down from 184 crashes in the 1990s and 102 crashes in the 2000s.

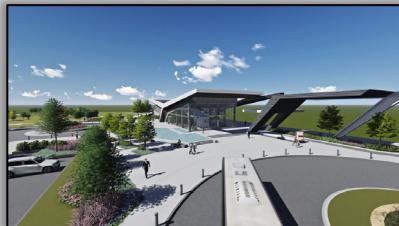
## TOTAL CRASHES AND INJURIES/FATALITIES AT HIGHWAY-RAIL CROSSINGS IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022



Data source: Federal Railroad Administration.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**Passenger Rail Improvements** – In July 2022 Amtrak expanded passenger rail service to the Southside from two to three trains per day. This additional service was assisted by an agreement signed in 2021 by the Governor where the Commonwealth of Virginia will purchase 223 miles of track and 384 miles of right-of-way from CSX. This agreement will help separate freight and passenger rail traffic to improve service levels, allow the potential to expand rail to all parts of Virginia, double state-supported Amtrak trains to provide nearly hourly service in some sections of the state, increase Virginia Railway Express commuter service by 60%, and lay the foundation for the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor.



**Newport News Multimodal Station** – Ground breaking for a new multi-modal station near Bland Boulevard in the City of Newport News occurred on July 21, 2020. The station will replace the current Amtrak station near Mercury Boulevard and include new inter-city bus service, additional parking, and improved connections including HRT, shuttles to the Newport-News Williamsburg airport, and taxi service. Construction on the \$47 million facility is expected to be complete by the spring of 2024.



The large number of rivers, bays, and streams makes bridges a prominent part of the Hampton Roads transportation network. Adequately funding the maintenance of these structures, however, will be difficult as bridges in Hampton Roads continue to age.

Bridges are a vital component of the Hampton Roads transportation network. Major spans such as the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel, Coleman Bridge, James River Bridge, and High Rise Bridge provide a connection between distinct areas of the region. Bridges on the Interstate system create a limited-access network designed to improve mobility throughout the region, while smaller structures such as culverts span the myriad of creeks, swamps, and streams in the region.

There are 1,277 bridges\* in Hampton Roads. These important components of the roadway network, however, are aging. The median age of bridges in Hampton Roads is currently 43 years old, and 113 bridges (9%) are at least 70 years old.

All bridges in Hampton Roads are inspected regularly by qualified inspectors. Depending on the condition and design of each bridge, these inspections occur at intervals of two years or less. Based on these inspections, bridges may be classified as “structurally deficient”, which are structures with elements that need to be monitored and/or repaired. Structurally deficient bridges typically need to be rehabilitated or replaced to address deficiencies. It must be noted, however, that structurally deficient bridges are not necessarily unsafe.

\* - Bridges are defined by the National Bridge Inventory as any structure that carries or spans vehicular traffic on a public roadway and has a length of more than 20 feet. Bridges less than or equal to 20 feet in length are not included in these statistics, nor are bridges on military bases and private property.

## NOTABLE BRIDGE NUMBERS

2.8%

9%

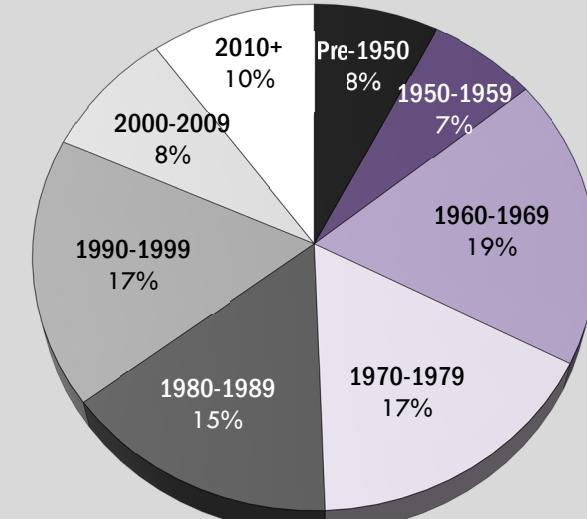
33rd

The percentage of bridges in Hampton Roads that were classified as structurally deficient as of August 2023.

The percentage of bridges in Hampton Roads that are at least 70 years old as of 2023.

Hampton Roads rank among 41 large metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people in terms of the percentage of structurally deficient bridges.

## BRIDGES IN HAMPTON ROADS BY YEAR BUILT



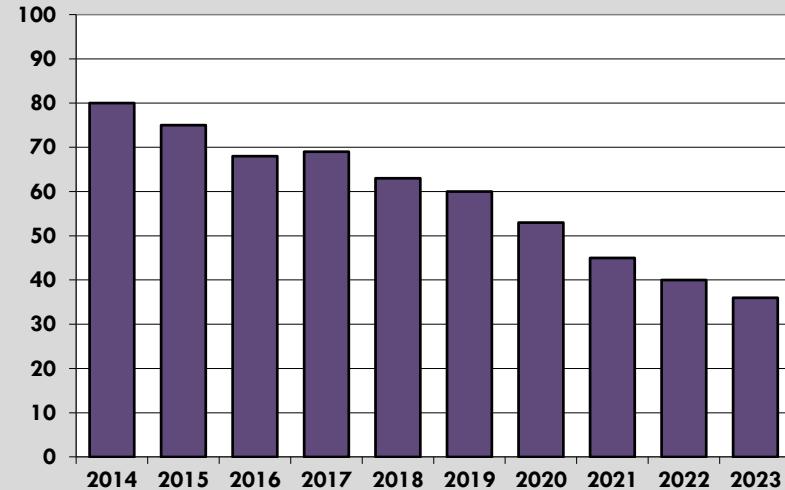
Data sources: VDOT, FHWA. Data as of August 2023.

Bridge inspectors will close or impose weight limits on any bridge that is judged to be unsafe.

There were 36 bridges (2.8%) that were classified as structurally deficient in Hampton Roads as of August 2023. This number has decreased nearly every year from 2014, when 80 bridges (6.6%) in the region were classified as structurally deficient.

The percentage of bridges that are classified as structurally deficient in Hampton Roads is better than the percentage in many other comparable metropolitan areas. Hampton Roads ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> highest among 41 large metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people in the percentage of structurally deficient bridges in each region.

## STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2014-2023



Data sources: VDOT, FHWA. Data as of August 2023.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**High Rise Bridge** – The parallel High Rise Bridge was opened to I-64 traffic traveling towards Virginia Beach in July 2022. The new 100-foot high fixed span is located just to the south of the existing facility, which will remain in use for traffic traveling towards Suffolk. Completion of the I-64 project is expected to occur in late 2023.



Image Source: VDOT.



Image Source: VDOT.

**Statewide Special Structures** – There are many large and unique bridge and tunnel structures located throughout Virginia, and in particular in the Hampton Roads region. VDOT has identified 25 Special Structures throughout the Commonwealth that are tunnels, movable bridges, or large and complex structures. A special fund was created by legislation to rehabilitate/replace, operate, and maintain 17 of these structures that are not currently covered by existing contracts or ongoing projects, of which 7 are located in Hampton Roads. The fund will provide \$540 million to Special Structures for Fiscal Years 2024 – 2029.



However, Hampton Roads ranks much lower in terms of the percentage of bridges that are classified in “Good” condition using federal standards. At 31.8%, Hampton Roads ranks 9<sup>th</sup> lowest among the 41 comparable metropolitan areas between one and four million people in terms of the percentage of bridges classified as being in good condition.

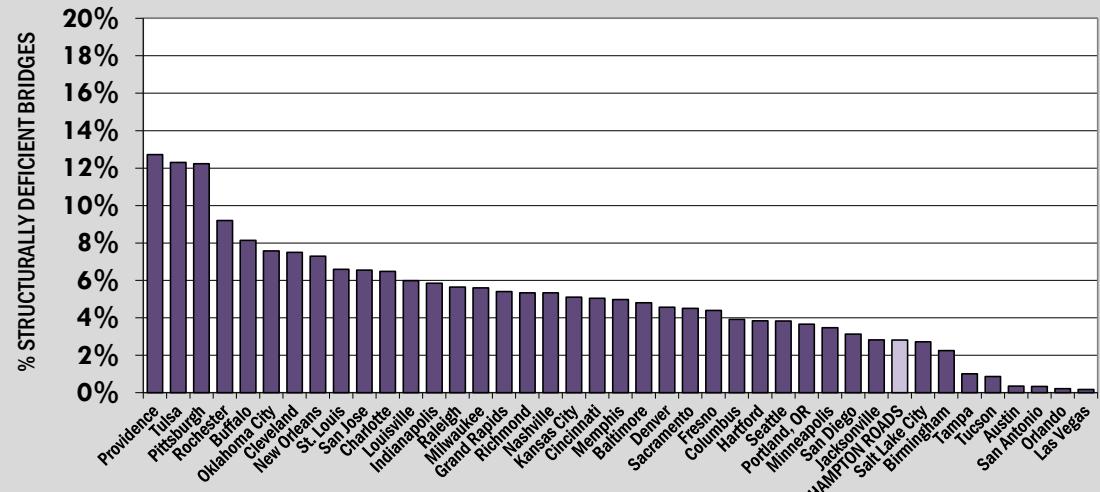


JAMES RIVER BRIDGE

Image Source: VDOT

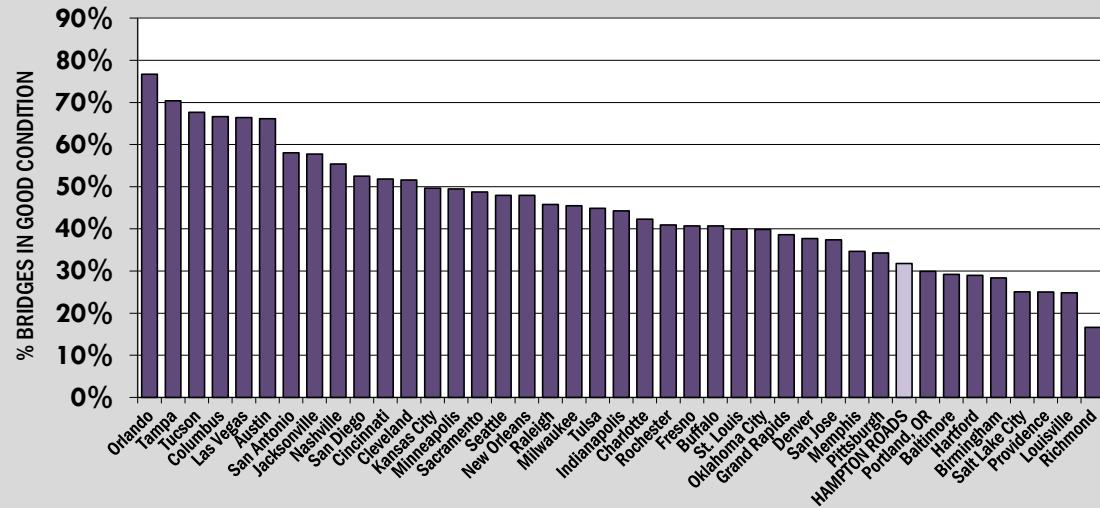
HRTPO released an update to the *Hampton Roads Regional Bridge Study* – which looks at various aspects of the region’s bridges – in 2018. An update to the study will be released in 2024. The Hampton Roads Regional Bridge Study is available on HRTPO’s website at <http://www.hrtpo.org>.

## STRUCTURALLY DEFICIENT BRIDGES – LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS



Data sources: FHWA, VDOT. FHWA data as of June 2023, Hampton Roads (VDOT) data as of August 2023.

## BRIDGES IN GOOD CONDITION – LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS



Data sources: FHWA, VDOT. FHWA data as of June 2023, Hampton Roads (VDOT) data as of August 2023.

# PAVEMENT CONDITION



VDOT's pavement rehabilitation efforts have greatly improved the condition of roadways in Hampton Roads, but pavement in the region is generally in worse condition than in other areas of the Commonwealth.

VDOT annually prepares the State of the Pavement report, which details the condition and ride quality of state-maintained roadways. VDOT produces this report using data collected annually on each mile of Interstate and Primary roadway throughout the state and a sample of Secondary roadways. Based on this data, VDOT categorizes both the pavement condition and ride quality of Virginia roadways.

Pavement condition describes the amount of pavement distresses – such as cracking, patching, and rutting – on each roadway. The Critical Condition Index (CCI) is a measure that is calculated based on these distresses. Pavement condition is rated as excellent, good, fair, poor, or very poor based on the CCI. Roadways that are in poor or very poor condition are considered to be deficient, and VDOT has a goal that no more than 18% of Interstate and Primary roadway pavement condition be classified as deficient.

The percentage of roadways in poor condition in Hampton Roads has greatly improved in recent years. As recently as 2010, more than one third of state-maintained Interstate and Primary roadways in Hampton Roads had a deficient pavement condition. As of 2022 only 0.4% of Interstate mileage and 1.8% of non-interstate National Highway System (NHS) mileage in Hampton Roads had a poor pavement condition.

## NOTABLE PAVEMENT CONDITION NUMBERS

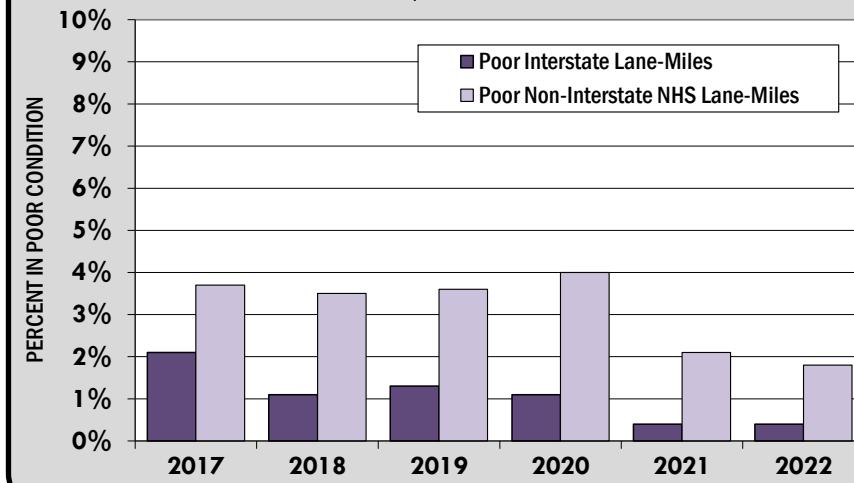
0.4%

1.8%

Percent of interstate lane-miles in Hampton Roads that were in poor condition in 2022. This is down from 2.1% in 2017.

Percent of non-interstate National Highway System (NHS) lane-miles in Hampton Roads that had a poor pavement condition in 2022. This is down from 4.0% in 2020.

## PERCENT OF INTERSTATE AND NON-INTERSTATE NHS ROADWAY PAVEMENT IN POOR CONDITION IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2017-2022



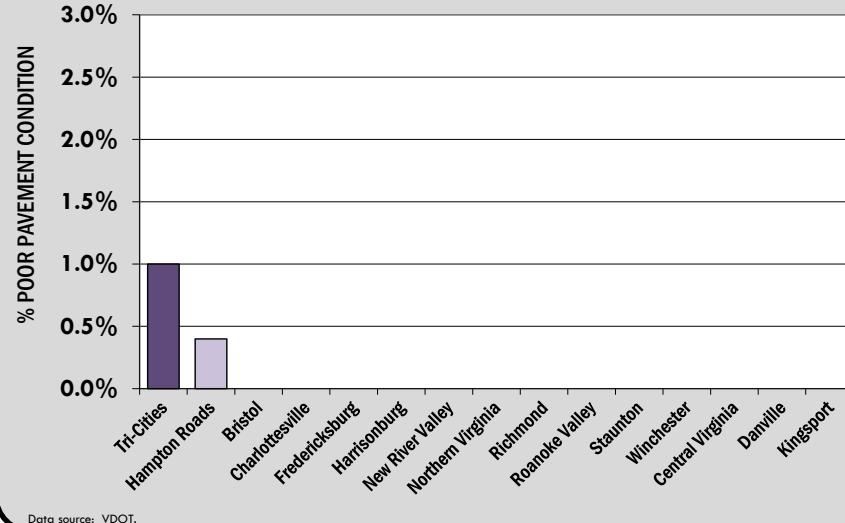


While the percentage of pavement in poor condition has improved in Hampton Roads, the percentage of pavement in good condition has decreased. The percentage of interstate mileage in Hampton Roads with pavement in good condition decreased from 54% in 2017 down to 51% in 2022. The percentage of non-interstate NHS in good condition also decreased, from 20% in 2017 to 16% in 2022.

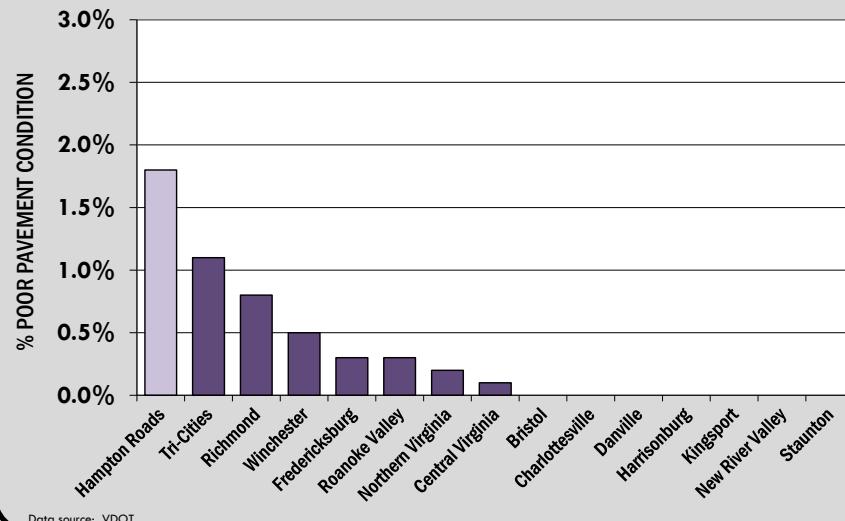


The pavement condition in Hampton Roads is in worse condition than in other areas of the state. At 0.4%, the percentage of interstate pavement in poor condition in 2022 is higher than in every other MPO throughout the state other than the Tri-Cities. All other areas throughout the state have no Interstate pavement in poor condition. In terms of the non-interstate NHS, the percentage of pavement in poor condition in 2022 is higher in Hampton Roads (1.8%) than every other metropolitan area throughout Virginia.

## PERCENT OF INTERSTATE PAVEMENT IN POOR CONDITION BY VIRGINIA MPO, 2022



## PERCENT OF NON-INTERSTATE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM (NHS) PAVEMENT IN POOR CONDITION, 2022

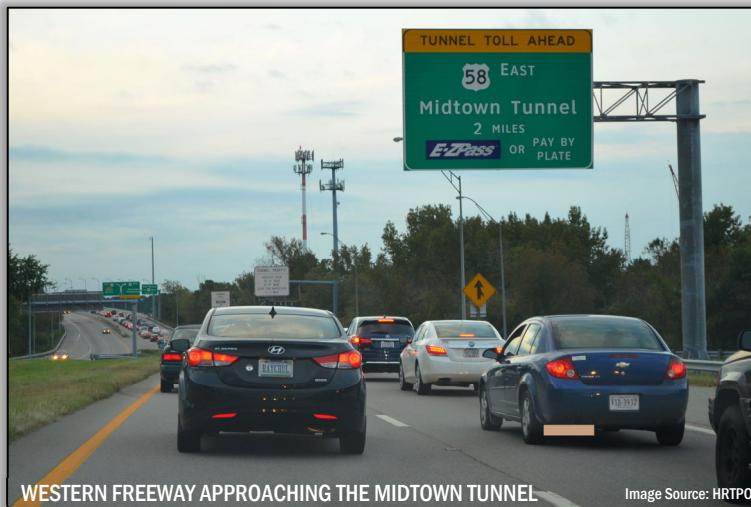


# ROADWAY USAGE



After reaching record levels, roadway travel levels in Hampton Roads have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Roadway travel levels, however, have nearly recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

The amount of roadway travel is measured in terms of vehicle-miles of travel, which is the total number of miles every vehicle in the region travels over a period of time. VDOT annually releases estimates of jurisdictional roadway travel levels based on traffic counts collected on a regular basis. VDOT estimates that there were nearly 40 million vehicle-miles of travel (VMT) on the typical day in Hampton Roads in 2022.



The amount of roadway travel was increasing in Hampton Roads prior to the pandemic according to VDOT estimates. Between 2014 and 2019, there was a 7% increase in daily vehicular travel in Hampton Roads. However, roadway travel

## NOTABLE ROADWAY USAGE NUMBERS

▲  
1%

▲  
1%

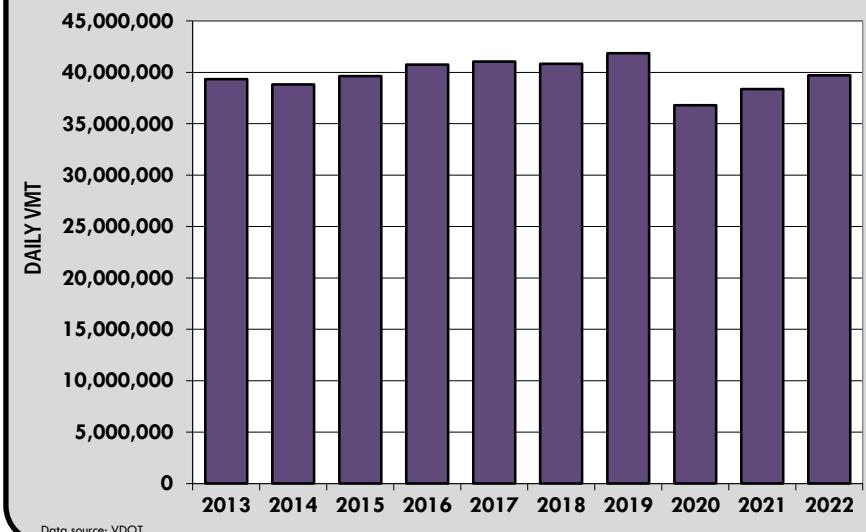
30<sup>th</sup>

The increase in daily roadway travel in Hampton Roads between 2013 and 2022 according to VDOT estimates.

The change in the amount of daily roadway travel in Hampton Roads between 2013 and 2022 based on regional continuous count stations.

Hampton Roads rank among 41 large metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people in terms of vehicular travel per capita in 2021.

## DAILY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL (VMT) IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022





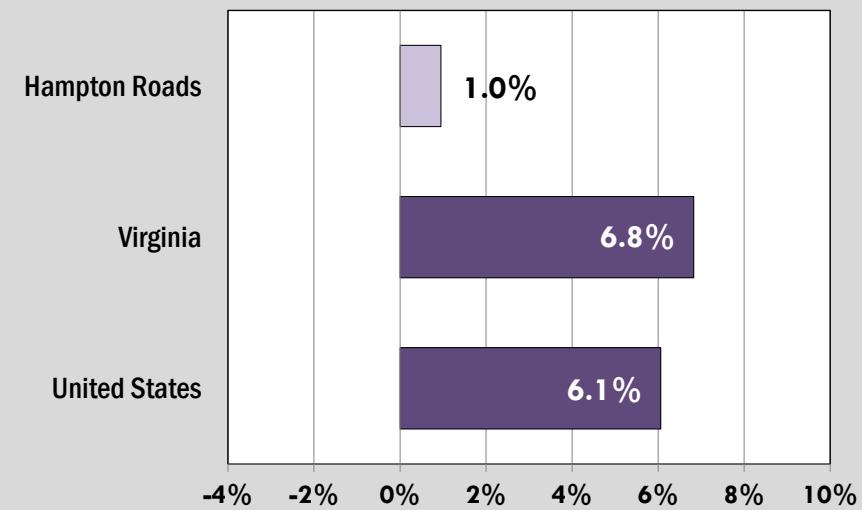
in the region decreased due to the pandemic, with a 12% decrease in regional roadway travel between 2019 and 2020. Roadway travel increased 8% from 2020 to 2022, but is still below the pre-pandemic levels.

Similar to Hampton Roads, both Virginia and the United States experienced a decrease in roadway travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 2014 and 2019, roadway travel grew by 5.5% in Virginia and 7.5% across the country. Roadway travel decreased by 11% in Virginia between 2019 and 2020 before increasing 14% from 2020 to 2022. Across the country roadway travel decreased 14% from 2019 to 2020 before increasing 12% from 2020 to 2022.

The vehicular travel per capita in Hampton Roads was 22.7 vehicle-miles per person per day in 2022, down 6.3% from 24.2 daily vehicle-miles per capita in 2019 and down 1.5% from 23.0 per day in 2013.

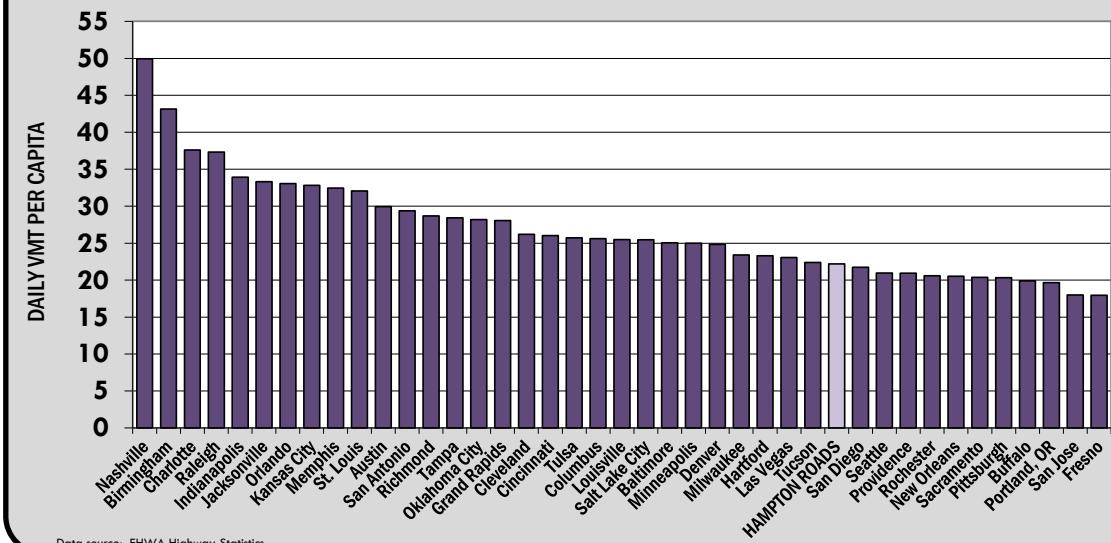
Among 41 large metropolitan areas in the United States with populations between one and four million people, Hampton Roads ranked 30<sup>th</sup> highest in vehicular travel per capita in 2021. Nashville experienced roadway travel levels that were more than twice the levels seen in Hampton Roads, and areas such as Birmingham, Charlotte and Raleigh had at least 10 more miles of travel daily per capita than Hampton Roads.

## CHANGE IN VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL IN HAMPTON ROADS, VIRGINIA, AND THE UNITED STATES, 2013 TO 2022



Data sources: VDOT, FHWA Highway Statistics.

## DAILY VEHICLE-MILES OF TRAVEL PER CAPITA IN LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2021



Data source: FHWA Highway Statistics.

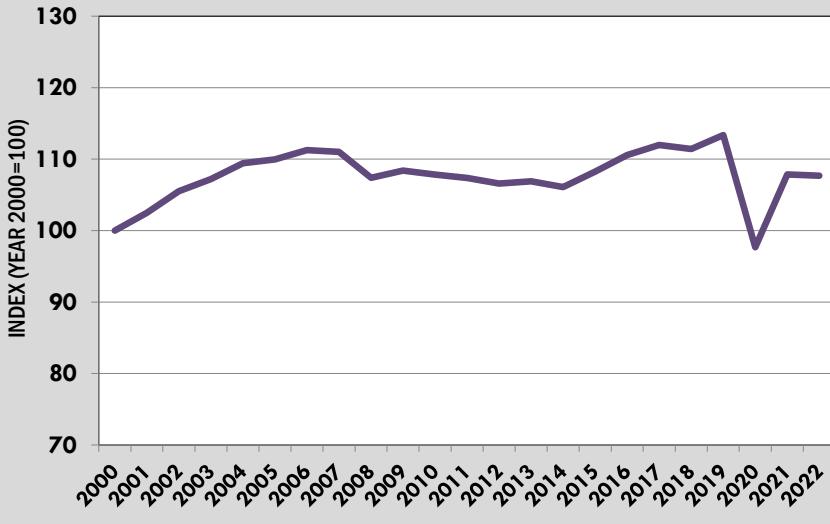


Another method of measuring the change in roadway travel is by using count stations that continuously collect traffic volume data throughout the entire year. In Hampton Roads there are approximately 80 locations equipped with continuous count stations, primarily on major roadways such as freeways and principal arterials. Based on the data collected at these locations, regional traffic volumes grew 8% between 2000 and 2022. However, regional traffic volumes decreased 14% from 2019 to 2020 due to the impacts of the pandemic before increasing 10% from 2020 to 2022.

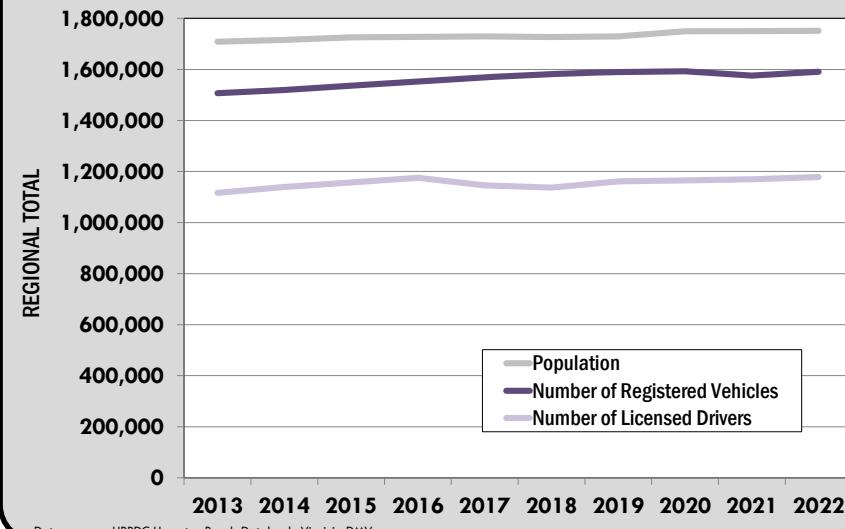


There were 1,591,000 vehicles registered in Hampton Roads in 2022, or 0.91 vehicles for every Hampton Roads resident. The growth in the number of registered vehicles between 2013 and 2022 (+5.5%) was higher than the growth in population (+2.5%) over this period.

## CHANGE IN REGIONAL ROADWAY TRAVEL BASED ON CONTINUOUS COUNT STATIONS, 2000-2022



## POPULATION, REGISTERED VEHICLES, AND LICENSED DRIVERS IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022



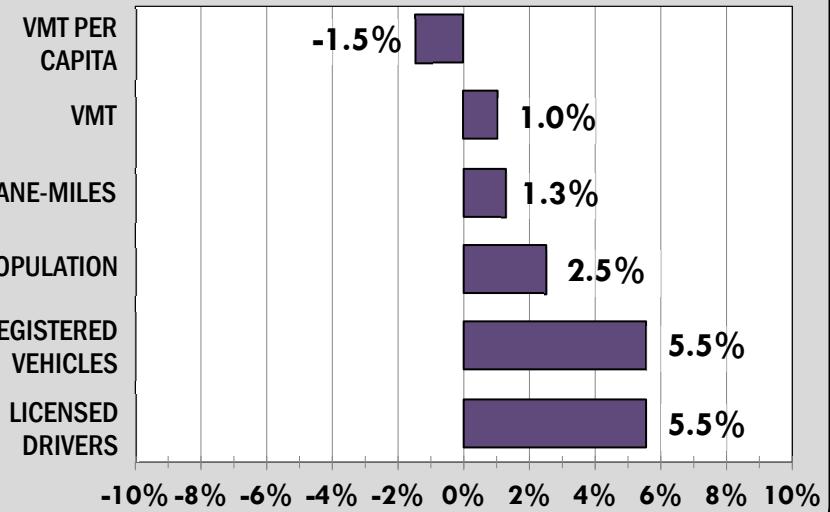


The growth in the number of licensed drivers in Hampton Roads has also outpaced population growth. There were 1,178,000 licensed drivers in Hampton Roads in 2022 – up 5.5% from 2013 – and there were 1.35 registered vehicles for every licensed driver. This 1.35 registered vehicles per licensed driver rate in 2022 is equal to the rate in the region in 2013.

Between 2013 and 2022, the amount of roadway capacity in Hampton Roads in terms of lane mileage\* increased by 1.3%. This is lower than both the growth in the regional population (+2.5%) but higher than the change in regional vehicle-miles traveled (+1.0%).

\* - A lane-mile is defined as the length of a roadway times the number of lanes and is commonly used to describe the amount of roadway capacity. A one mile section of a roadway that is 6 lanes wide comprises 6 lane-miles.

## CHANGE IN VMT PER CAPITA, LANE-MILES, VMT, POPULATION, LICENSED DRIVERS, AND REGISTERED VEHICLES IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022



Data sources: HRPDC Hampton Roads Databook, Virginia DMV, VDOT.

# CONGESTION DATA



Travel times, the total amount of time spent driving, and the amount of time wasted in congestion is largely similar in Hampton Roads to other comparable metropolitan areas throughout the country.

TomTom, a consumer electronics and navigation technology company, produces the TomTom Traffic Index, which provides a measure of traffic congestion in 80 metropolitan areas throughout the United States and over 400 areas worldwide. TomTom prepares this analysis using anonymous GPS data that they collect from navigation devices, vehicle in-dash systems, and smartphones applications.

The Travel Time Index is a percentage that represents the amount of extra travel time experienced by drivers across the entire year. This regional index is produced by establishing a baseline of travel times during uncongested, free flow conditions for each road segment in the area and then comparing it with travel time data they collect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the entire year. A Travel Time Index value of 10% means that the extra travel time during a typical trip during any time of the day is 10% more than an average trip would take during uncongested conditions.

The Hampton Roads Travel Time Index was 18% in 2022, meaning the typical trip took on average 18% longer than the same trip during uncongested conditions. The Travel Time Index varied between 16% and 19% in Hampton Roads prior to the pandemic between 2013 and 2019, so congestion levels in 2022 have returned to levels that were typical prior to the pandemic.

## NOTABLE CONGESTION NUMBERS

14<sup>th</sup>

18<sup>th</sup>

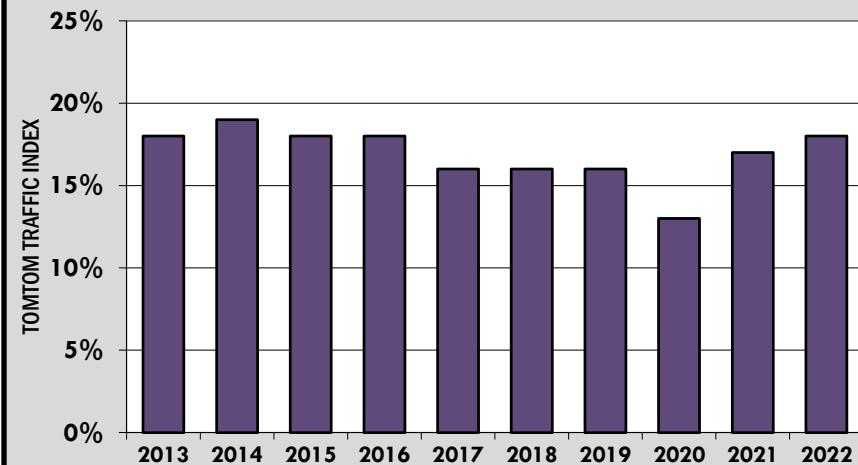
26<sup>th</sup>

Hampton Roads rank among large areas with populations between one and four million people in terms of the average amount of time it took to travel 10 kilometers in 2022.

Hampton Roads rank among large areas with populations between one and four million people in terms of the average annual time spent driving in 2022.

Hampton Roads rank among large areas in terms of hours lost due to congestion in 2022.

## TOMTOM TRAFFIC INDEX IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022



Data source: TomTom.

# CONGESTION DATA (continued)



TomTom looked at regional travel times for the year 2022 in order to determine the amount of time it takes on average to drive 10 kilometers. In Hampton Roads, the average time to drive 10 kilometers in 2022 was 9 minutes and 50 seconds. According to TomTom, the hours in Hampton Roads with the highest travel times were 4-5 pm on Thursdays (11 hours 50 minutes), followed by 4-6 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and 5-6 pm on Thursdays (11 hours 40 minutes).

## REGIONAL TOMTOM TRAFFIC INDEX BY TIME OF DAY, 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12:00 AM	8 min 50 s	8 min 30 s	8 min 40 s	8 min 50 s			
	8 min 40 s	8 min 30 s	8 min 40 s	8 min 50 s			
02:00 AM	8 min 30 s	8 min 20 s	8 min 20 s	8 min 30 s	8 min 20 s	8 min 20 s	8 min 30 s
	8 min 20 s	7 min 50 s	8 min	8 min	8 min	8 min	8 min 20 s
04:00 AM	8 min	7 min 40 s	7 min 50 s				
	7 min 40 s	7 min 50 s	7 min 50 s	7 min 50 s	7 min 50 s	7 min 50 s	7 min 40 s
06:00 AM	7 min 50 s	8 min 40 s	8 min 50 s	8 min 50 s	8 min 40 s	8 min 30 s	7 min 50 s
	8 min	9 min 40 s	10 min	10 min 10 s	10 min	9 min 30 s	8 min 10 s
08:00 AM	8 min 20 s	9 min 50 s	10 min 10 s	10 min 20 s	10 min	9 min 40 s	8 min 30 s
	8 min 30 s	9 min 30 s	9 min 40 s	9 min 40 s	9 min 40 s	9 min 30 s	9 min
10:00 AM	8 min 50 s	9 min 30 s	9 min 40 s	9 min 30 s			
	9 min 10 s	9 min 40 s	9 min 50 s	10 min	9 min 50 s	10 min 10 s	9 min 50 s
12:00 PM	9 min 30 s	10 min	10 min 10 s	10 min 10 s	10 min 10 s	10 min 30 s	10 min 10 s
	9 min 30 s	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min 40 s	10 min 10 s
02:00 PM	9 min 30 s	10 min 20 s	10 min 20 s	10 min 30 s	10 min 30 s	11 min	10 min 10 s
	9 min 20 s	10 min 40 s	11 min	11 min 10 s	11 min 20 s	11 min 40 s	10 min
04:00 PM	9 min 20 s	11 min	11 min 30 s	11 min 40 s	11 min 50 s	11 min 40 s	9 min 50 s
	9 min 20 s	11 min	11 min 30 s	11 min 40 s	11 min 40 s	11 min 20 s	9 min 50 s
06:00 PM	9 min 10 s	10 min	10 min 20 s	10 min 20 s	10 min 20 s	10 min 30 s	9 min 40 s
	9 min 10 s	9 min 40 s	9 min 50 s	9 min 30 s			
08:00 PM	9 min 10 s	9 min 30 s	9 min 40 s	9 min 20 s			
	9 min	9 min 20 s	9 min 30 s	9 min 10 s			
10:00 PM	8 min 50 s	9 min 10 s	9 min 10 s	9 min 10 s	9 min 10 s	9 min 20 s	9 min
	8 min 40 s	9 min	9 min	9 min	9 min	9 min 10 s	8 min 50 s

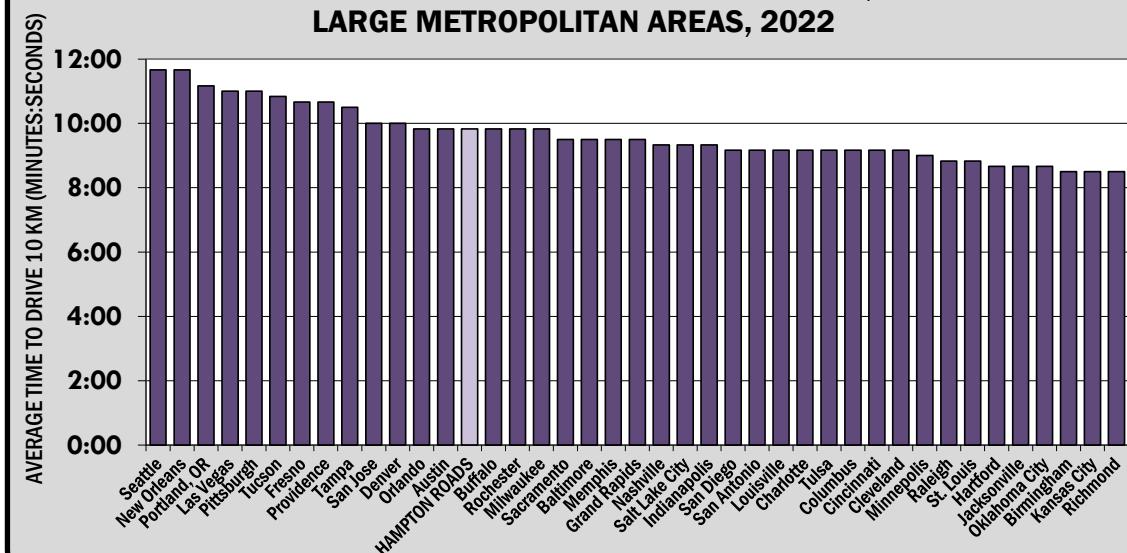
Source: TomTom.

This average time to travel 10 kilometers is slightly higher than those in other comparable areas. Among the 41 metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people, Hampton Roads ranked 14<sup>th</sup> highest in terms of average 10-kilometer travel time.

TomTom also produces other travel time measures based on their GPS data, including the time spent driving and the amount of time lost to congestion.

According to TomTom, Hampton Roads residents spent an average of 82 hours driving in the region in 2022. This average time spent driving is comparable to other large metropolitan areas. Among the 41 metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people, Hampton

## AVERAGE TIME TO DRIVE 10 KILOMETERS, LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2022

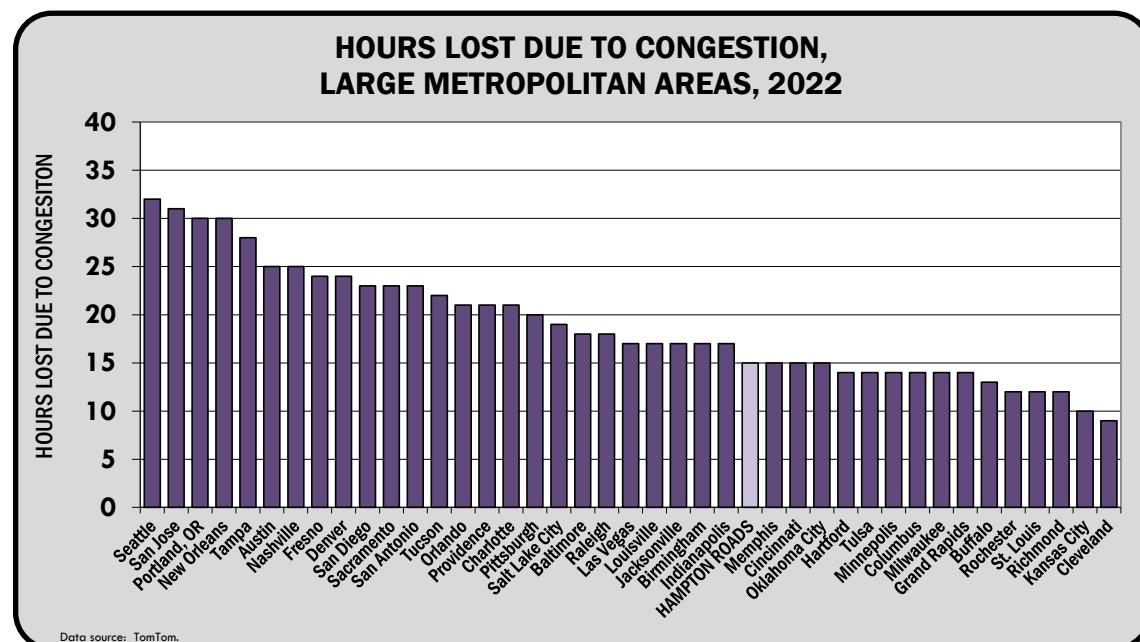
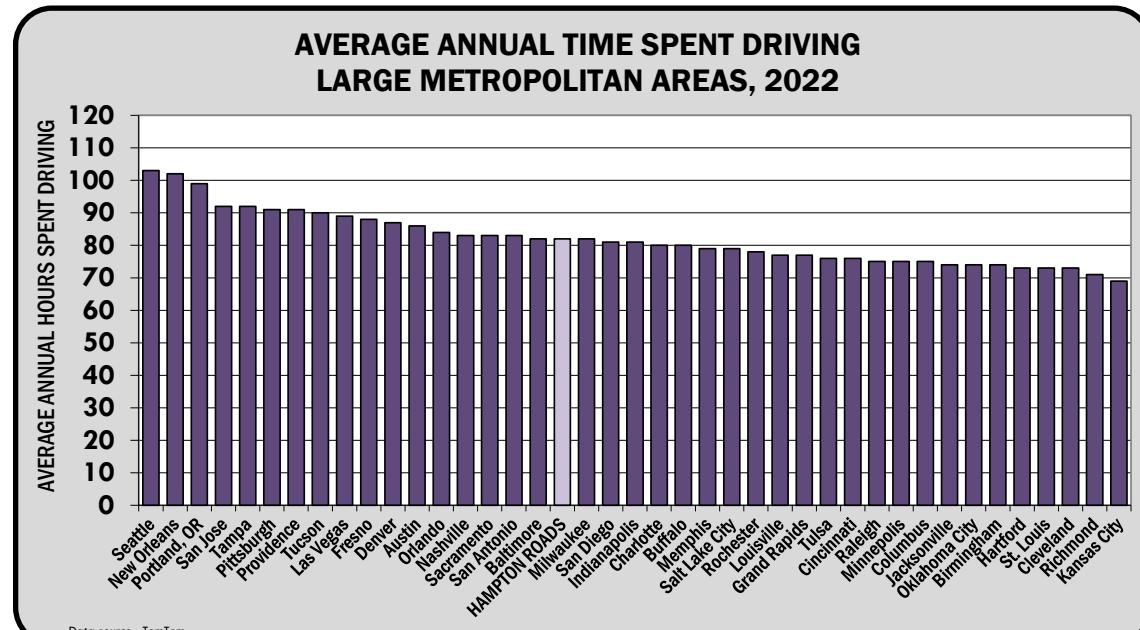


# CONGESTION DATA (continued)



Roads ranked 18<sup>th</sup> highest in terms of the average annual time spent driving.

In Hampton Roads, travelers lost an average of 15 hours due to being stuck in congestion in 2022. This is slightly lower than the average in comparable metropolitan areas. Among the 41 metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people, Hampton Roads ranked 26<sup>th</sup> highest in terms of the average number of hours travelers lost due to congestion.





In spite of having the highest percentage of commuters that work in a jurisdiction that is different than the one they reside in, the travel time to work in Hampton Roads is comparable to many other metropolitan areas.

The United States Census Bureau annually collects and releases socioeconomic data through the American Community Survey (ACS). As part of the ACS, information regarding the commuting characteristics of residents, including commuting modes, travel time to work, and the localities where commuters work and live, is collected for each metropolitan area.

According to the ACS, the mean travel time to work in Hampton Roads was 24.9 minutes in 2022. The regional mean travel time to work has largely ranged between 23 and 25 minutes throughout the 2000s.

Among the 41 large metropolitan areas throughout the United States with a population between one and four million people, Hampton Roads has an average travel time to work, ranking 21<sup>st</sup> highest in 2022. Since 2008, Hampton Roads has ranked between 21<sup>st</sup> highest and 31<sup>st</sup> highest in terms of travel time to work among the 41 large metropolitan areas.

## NOTABLE COMMUTING NUMBERS

76%

The percentage of commuters in Hampton Roads that drove alone to work in 2022.

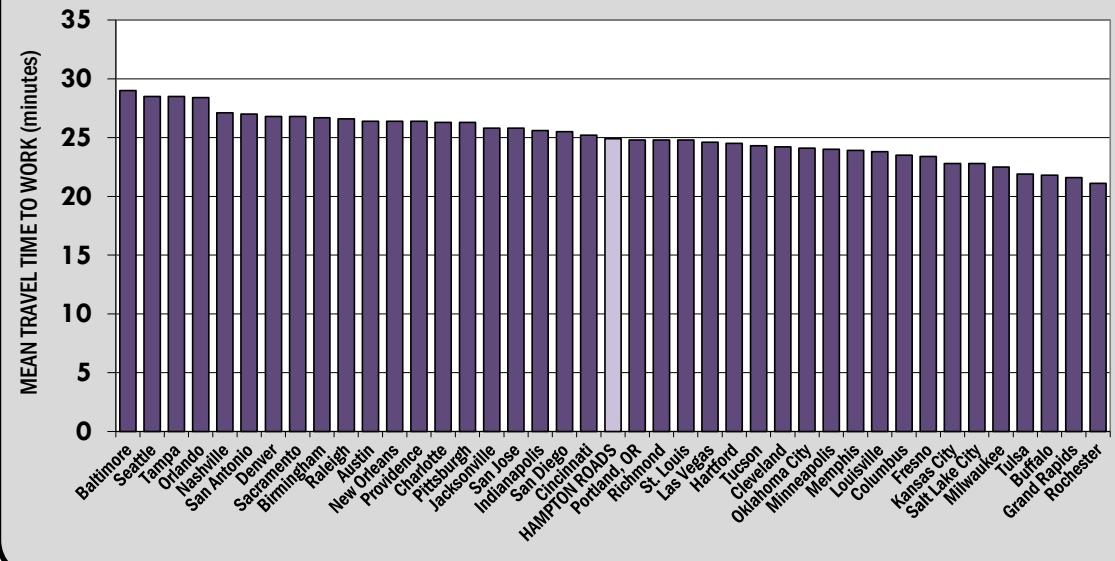
46%

The percentage of workers in Hampton Roads that worked in a jurisdiction that was different from the one they resided in in 2022.

24.9

The mean travel time to work in minutes in Hampton Roads in 2022.

## MEAN TRAVEL TIME TO WORK IN LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2022



Data source: US Census Bureau.

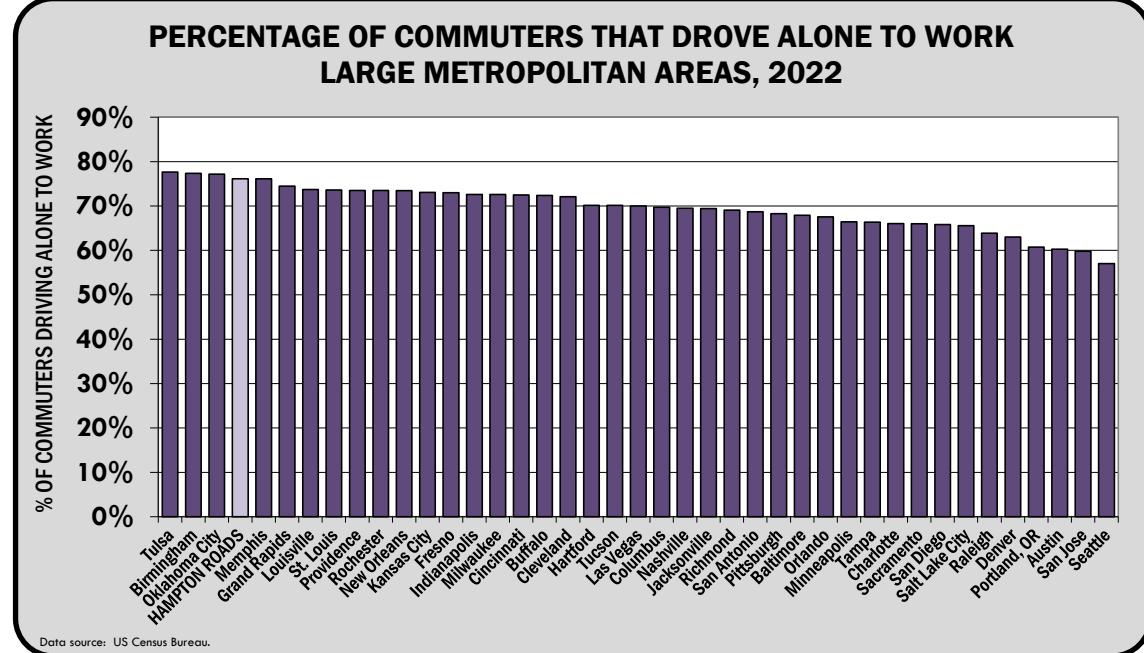
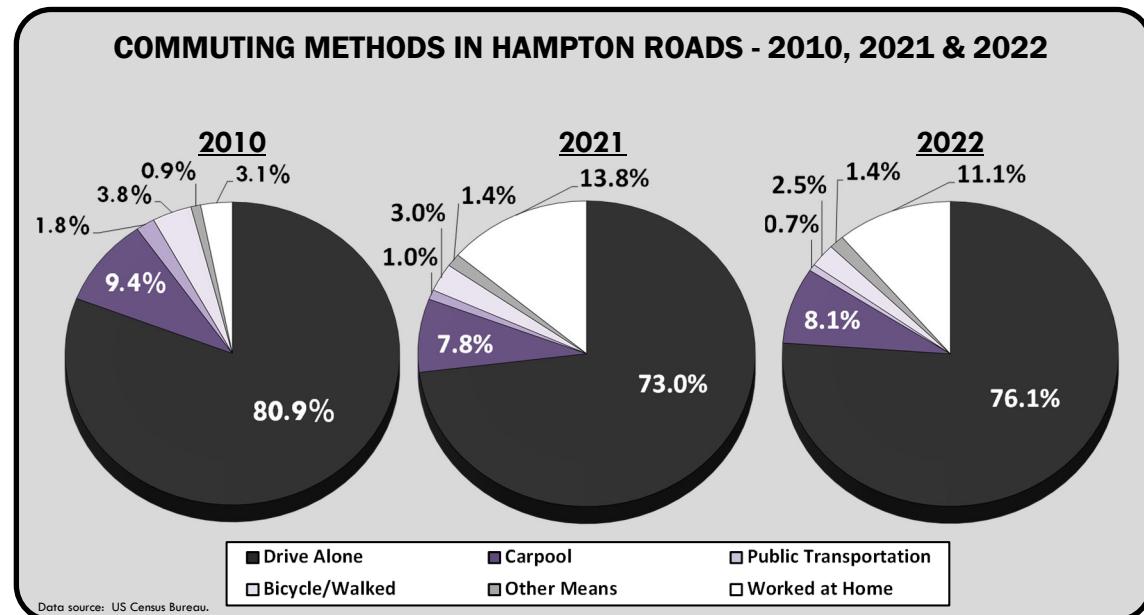
# COMMUTING (continued)



Many Hampton Roads residents, however, have longer commutes. In 2022, nearly one out of every three Hampton Roads commuters (31%) traveled 30 minutes or longer to work, and 5% had commutes of an hour or more.



In 2022, 76% of commuters in Hampton Roads drove alone to work. This percentage is down from 81% prior to the pandemic in 2019, largely due to more people working from home. The percentage of commuters in Hampton Roads using other modes also decreased due to the impacts of the pandemic. This includes using public transportation (decreased from 1.6% in 2019 to 0.7% in 2022) and bicycling/walking (3.3% in 2019 to 2.5% in 2022). Carpooling to work slightly increased, from 7.8% in 2019 to 8.1% in 2022, and working from home greatly increased, from 4.5% in 2019 to 11.1% in 2022.



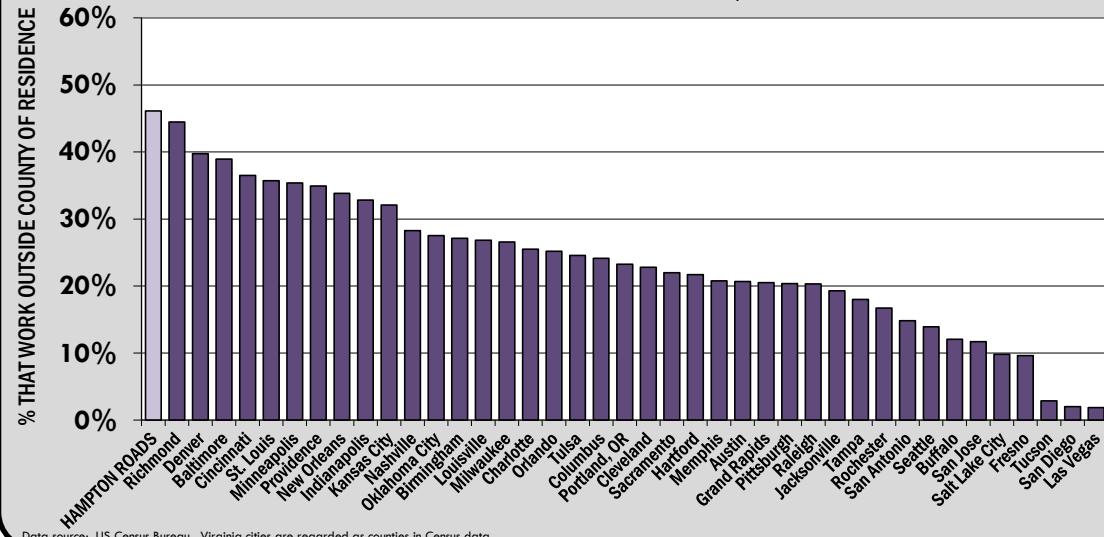


Although the percentage of commuters driving alone to work in Hampton Roads has been reduced post-pandemic, it is higher than in other comparable areas. Hampton Roads ranked 4<sup>th</sup> highest among the 41 large metropolitan areas in terms of the percentage of commuters that drove alone to work in 2022.

An area where Hampton Roads ranks particularly high is in the percentage of workers that work outside of their locality of residence. In 2022, 46% of all workers in Hampton Roads worked in a jurisdiction that was different than the one they resided in. This percentage is lower than that seen in previous years due to a larger percentage of the population working from home. The percentage in Hampton Roads, however, is higher than the percentage seen in other areas, ranking highest among the 41 large metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people.

An important aspect of commuting is accessibility to jobs. Accessibility is the ease and feasibility of reaching destinations, and it combines mobility with the understanding that travel is driven by a desire to reach destinations. Accessibility can be measured for most transportation

## PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS THAT WORKED OUTSIDE COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2022

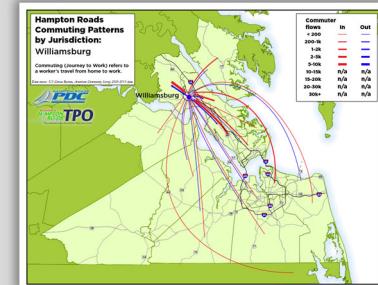


Data source: US Census Bureau. Virginia cities are regarded as counties in Census data.

## LOCALITY-TO-LOCALITY COMMUTING INFORMATION

According to Census figures, nearly half of all Hampton Roads commuters work in a jurisdiction that is different than the one they reside in, and in 2022 this ranked higher than the percentage seen in all other areas with populations between one and four million people. Because of the interregional commuting that happens in Hampton Roads, HRTPO maintains a site that includes information on regional locality-to-locality commuting, including maps and tables showing these commuting patterns.

Information on regional locality-to-locality commuting is available on HRTPO's website at <http://www.hrtpo.org/page/hampton-roads-journey-to-work-maps>.





modes to the number of destinations reachable within a certain amount of travel time.

The Accessibility Observatory at the University of Minnesota regularly produces the [Access Across America](#) report. These reports estimate the accessibility to jobs by automobile, walking, biking, and public transportation for each of the 11 million census blocks in the country.

There are 732,000 jobs in Hampton Roads according to the Access Across America report. As shown to the right, nearly half of all jobs (47%) are reachable within 30 minutes by driving, while 1% or less of all jobs are reachable within 30 minutes by public transportation, biking, and walking.

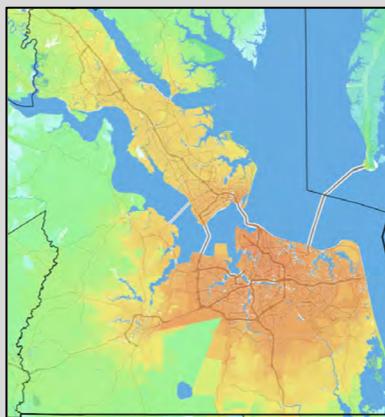
## NUMBER OF JOBS IN HAMPTON ROADS REACHABLE BY TRAVEL TIME, 2020

MODE	JOBS REACHABLE BY TRAVEL TIME THRESHOLD (MINUTES)					
	10	20	30	40	50	60
Automobile	36,290	188,033	347,270	484,922	595,580	688,256
	5.0%	25.7%	47.4%	66.2%	81.3%	94.0%
Public Transportation	283	1,566	4,935	11,349	21,559	35,825
	0.0%	0.2%	0.7%	1.6%	2.9%	4.9%
Biking*	2,003	5,749	8,228	9,549	10,642	11,462
	0.3%	0.8%	1.1%	1.3%	1.5%	1.6%
Walking	275	1,275	3,165	5,995	9,827	14,528
	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	0.8%	1.3%	2.0%

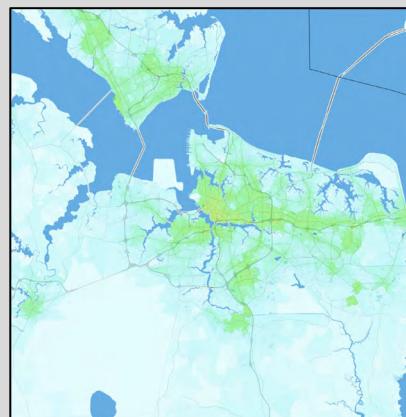
Data source: University of Minnesota Accessibility Observatory. \* - Biking reflects medium stress conditions, which reflects using all bike infrastructure including separated bike lanes and paths, on-street unprotected bike lanes, certain shared lanes, and mixing with traffic on some non-arterial streets.

## NUMBER OF JOBS IN HAMPTON ROADS REACHABLE WITHIN 30 MINUTES BY MODE, 2020

### AUTOMOBILE



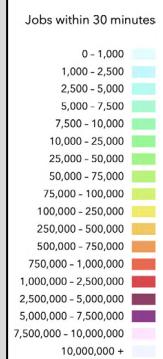
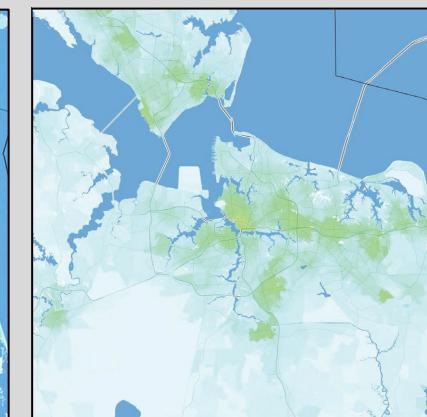
### TRANSIT



### BIKING\*



### WALKING



Data source: University of Minnesota Accessibility Observatory. \* - Biking reflects medium stress conditions, which reflects using all bike infrastructure including separated bike lanes and paths, on-street unprotected bike lanes, certain shared lanes, and mixing with traffic on some non-arterial streets.



In order to encourage commuting to work via carpool, Hampton Roads has a network of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. The lanes – which are restricted to vehicles with at least two occupants from 6:00 am – 8:00 am and 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm on weekdays – include:

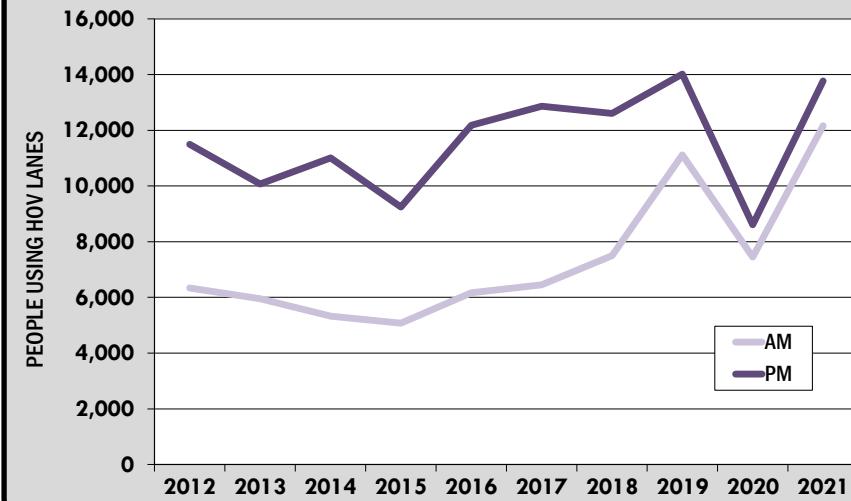
- I-64 Southside - Between Battlefield Boulevard and I-264
- I-64 Peninsula - Between Bland Boulevard and I-64
- I-264 - Between Downtown Norfolk and Rosemont Road in Virginia Beach
- I-564 - Between I-64 and the Naval Base

In addition, the barrier-separated reversible lanes on I-64 between I-564 and I-264 in Norfolk were converted to Express Lanes in 2018, as described in the callout box to the right.

Usage of the HOV lanes has varied over the last decade, but decreased significantly in 2020 due to the pandemic. However, usage returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2021. A total of 12,200 people used the regional HOV lanes during the AM restricted hours each weekday in 2021, and 13,800 people used the lanes during the PM restricted hours.

Many vehicles in the HOV lanes, however, do not include multiple occupants, which is generally illegal other than in the Express Lanes. The average vehicle occupancy in regional HOV lanes during restricted hours was 1.22 in 2021, indicating that most vehicles only have one occupant.

## AVERAGE USAGE OF HOV LANES EACH WEEKDAY IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2012-2021



Data source: VDOT. 2018-2021 data includes the Express Lanes.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**Express Lanes** – In 2018, VDOT converted the I-64 barrier-separated reversible HOV lanes between I-564 and I-264 in Norfolk to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) or Express Lanes. During restricted periods (weekdays from 5 am to 9 am and from 2 pm to 6 pm), people driving alone can now use the I-64 Express Lanes by paying a toll that varies based on congestion levels. Vehicles with two or more people can continue to use the lanes for free with an E-ZPass Flex device.



More information on the Express Lanes system, including the upcoming expansion of the system, is included in the Tolling section of this report.



The number of motor vehicle crashes in Hampton Roads decreased during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the number of fatalities suffered in the region increased significantly during the pandemic, and remain much higher than pre-pandemic levels.

There were a total of 24,712 crashes in Hampton Roads in 2022 according to data collected by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. The number of crashes in Hampton Roads had been increasing over the second half of last decade before decreasing in 2020 due to the impacts of the pandemic. The number of crashes in the region decreased 3% from 2013 to 2022.

The number of injuries resulting from traffic crashes has followed a similar trend to the number of crashes over the last decade. There were 15,118 injuries that resulted from traffic crashes in Hampton Roads in 2022. The number of injuries in Hampton Roads decreased by 2% from 2013 to 2022.

The number of fatalities in Hampton Roads, however, has largely increased over the last decade, including during the pandemic. There were 162 fatalities resulting from traffic crashes in Hampton Roads in 2022. While this is down from the record high of 179 fatalities in the region in 2021, the number of fatalities increased 24% in Hampton Roads over the last decade. Despite this increase, the increase in the number of fatalities in Hampton Roads over the last decade is lower than the increase seen across the state (+36%) and throughout the country (+30%).

## NOTABLE ROADWAY SAFETY NUMBERS

3%

The decrease in the annual number of crashes in Hampton Roads between 2013 and 2022.

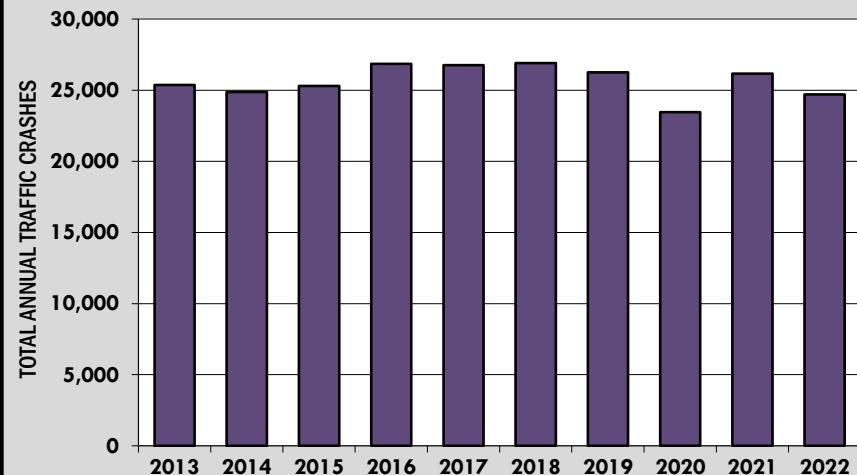
2%

The decrease in the annual number of injuries in Hampton Roads between 2013 and 2022.

24%

The increase in the annual number of fatalities in Hampton Roads between 2013 and 2022.

## CRASHES IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022



Data source: Virginia DMV.

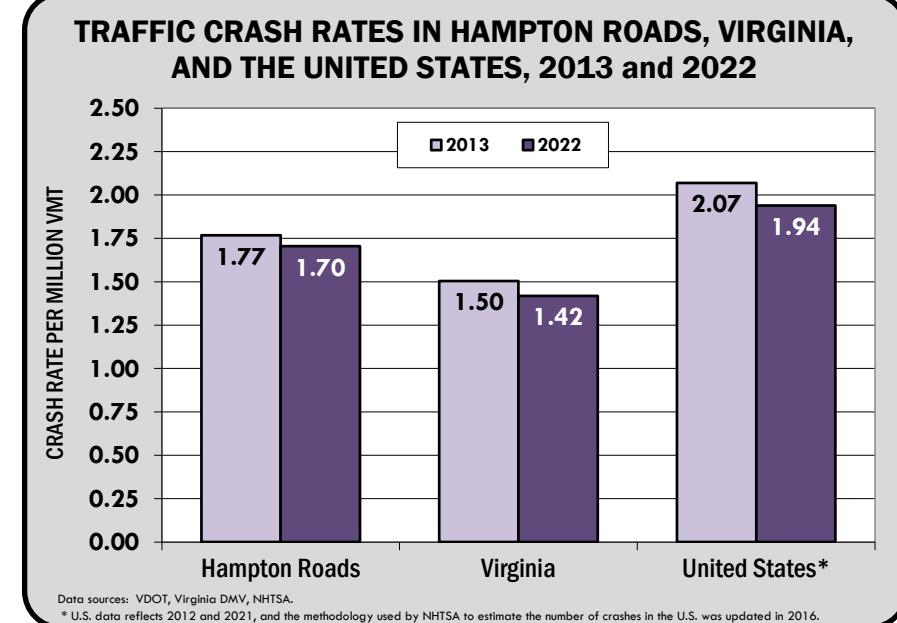
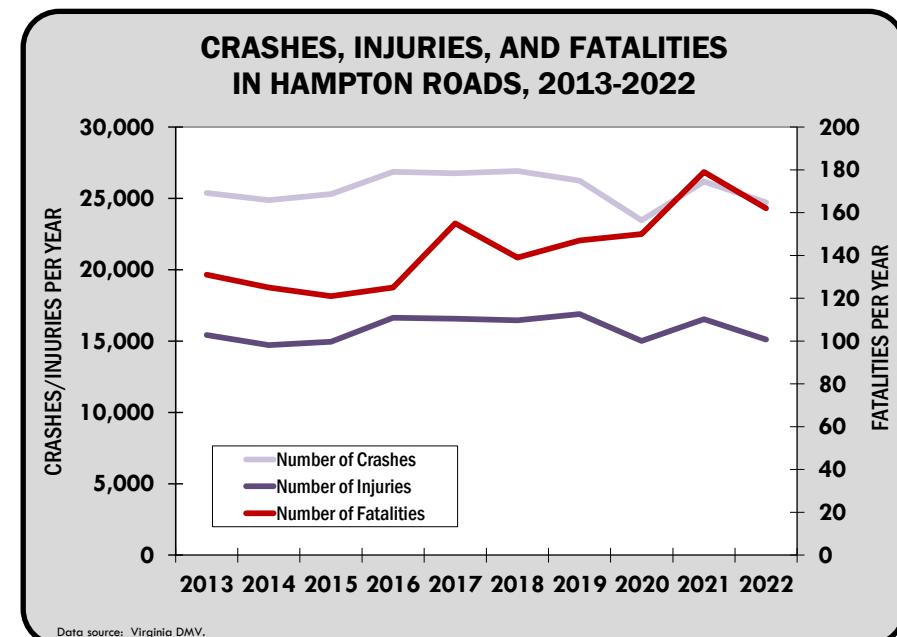


The rate of crashes relative to the amount of travel has also decreased in Hampton Roads over the last decade. The crash rate in Hampton Roads decreased from 1.77 crashes per million vehicle-miles of travel (VMT) in 2013 to 1.70 crashes per million VMT in 2022, a 4% decrease. This compares to a 6% decrease in the crash rate seen across Virginia during this period.



Image Source: VSP

The crash rate in Hampton Roads was higher than the statewide rate in 2022. In addition, the crash rate in Hampton Roads was higher than the crash rate experienced in other metropolitan areas of Virginia including Northern Virginia (1.39 crashes per million VMT), and Richmond (1.55), but was lower than the crash rate experienced in the Roanoke metropolitan area (1.73).





Unlike the crash rate, the fatality rate in Hampton Roads has increased over the last decade. The Hampton Roads crash fatality rate was 1.17 fatalities per 100 million VMT in the three-year period from 2020 to 2022, up 39% from 0.84 fatalities per 100 million VMT in the 2011 to 2013 time period (fatality rates are often reported over multiple year periods due to the number of fatalities that occur in any given year). The fatality rate in Hampton Roads from 2020 to 2022 was nearly twice the rate experienced in the Northern Virginia area (0.61 fatalities per 100 million VMT). The fatality rate was also higher than the rate in the Richmond area (1.12), but was lower than the fatality rate in the Roanoke area (1.35).

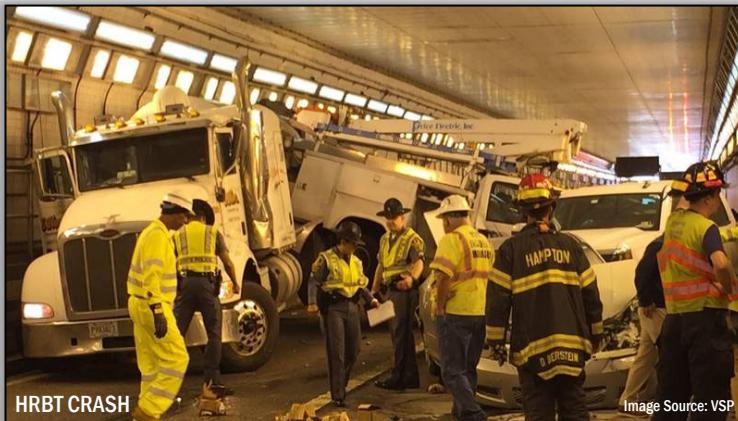
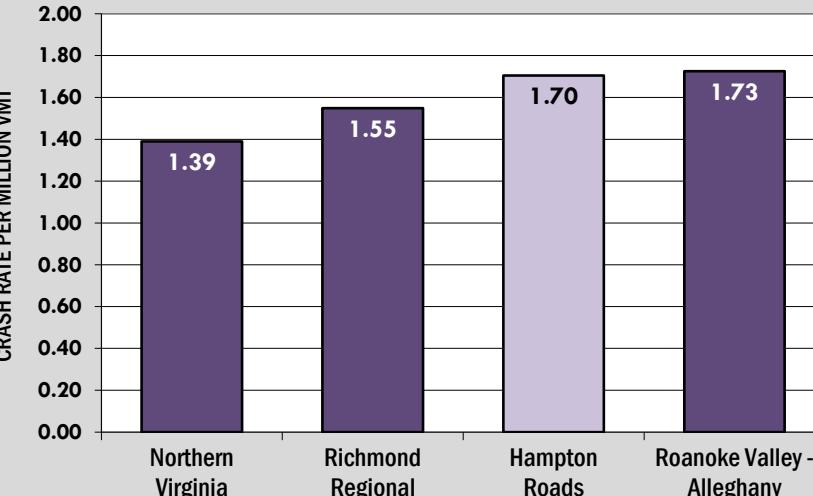


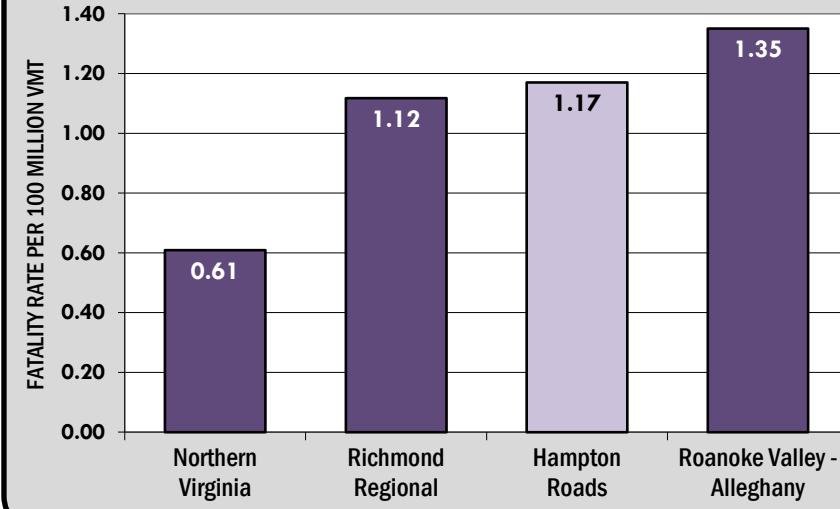
Image Source: VSP

Safety belt use has an impact on the severity of injuries and the number of fatalities resulting from crashes. In 2022, Virginia had an observed safety belt usage rate of 75.6%. In the most recent available data, Hampton Roads observed safety belt usage rates were 87.9% in 2021 in the cities on the Southside and 75.8% in the localities on the Peninsula.

## TRAFFIC CRASH RATES IN VIRGINIA METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2022



## TRAFFIC CRASH FATALITY RATES IN VIRGINIA METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2020-2022





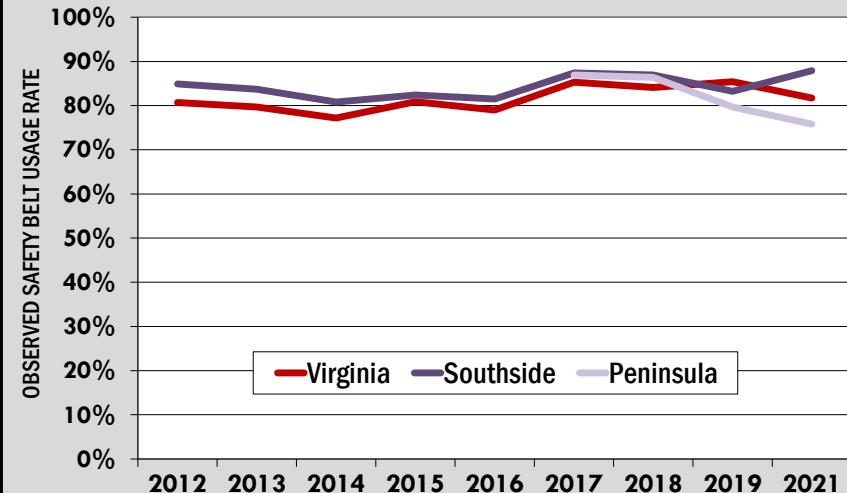
Virginia's safety belt usage rate in 2022 was well below the national rate of 91.6%, and was the lowest usage rate of any state in the country. This is largely due to Virginia not having a primary enforcement safety belt law, which allows law enforcement officers to ticket a driver for not wearing a safety belt without any other traffic offense occurring. A total of 35 states/districts have primary enforcement safety belt laws as of 2022.



HRTPO prepares an analysis of regional roadway safety through the Hampton Roads Regional Safety Study. This study examines regional crash trends, the location of crashes throughout the region, general safety countermeasures, and analyzes in detail high crash locations in each Hampton Roads locality. Equity factors are also examined for high crash locations. More information on the Hampton Roads Regional Safety Study is available at

<http://www.hrtpo.org/page/roadway-safety>.

## SAFETY BELT USAGE RATE IN HAMPTON ROADS AND VIRGINIA, 2012-2021



Data source: Old Dominion University Seat Belt Use in Virginia report. Southside includes the area defined in the report as South East Cities, which includes Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Suffolk. Peninsula includes the area defined in the report as York, which includes Williamsburg, Poquoson, Hampton, Newport News, and York County. Data was not collected in 2020, and the Peninsula was not collected in 2012-2016.



Over 22,000 trucks enter and exit Hampton Roads each weekday, serving not only the third busiest port on the East Coast but also supporting the commerce and economic vitality of the region.

Freight movement is a critical component of the Hampton Roads economy, and trucks are the primary mode for moving freight to and from the Port of Virginia. Trucks also supply the goods used by each resident and business in the region.

In 2022, over 22,000 trucks entered or exited Hampton Roads through major gateways each weekday. The number of trucks passing through Hampton Roads gateways increased nearly every year over the last decade, with only a small decrease occurring in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The primary gateway for trucks entering or exiting Hampton Roads is I-64. An average of 7,500 trucks used I-64 to enter or exit the region each weekday in 2022, which accounted for 34% of the trucks passing through the region's major gateways. The share of trucks using I-64 as a gateway, however, has decreased, down from 36% in 2013. The next most heavily-used gateways to the region are Route 58 (5,400 trucks each weekday in 2022) and Route 460 (2,600 trucks). Both Route 58 and Route 460 have seen an increasing share of trucks entering and exiting the region over the last decade. Combined, I-64, Route 58, and Route 460 accounted for 70% of all trucks passing through the region's major gateways in 2022.

## NOTABLE TRUCK TRAVEL NUMBERS

▲ 16%

The increase in the amount of truck travel each day in Hampton Roads between 2013 and 2022.

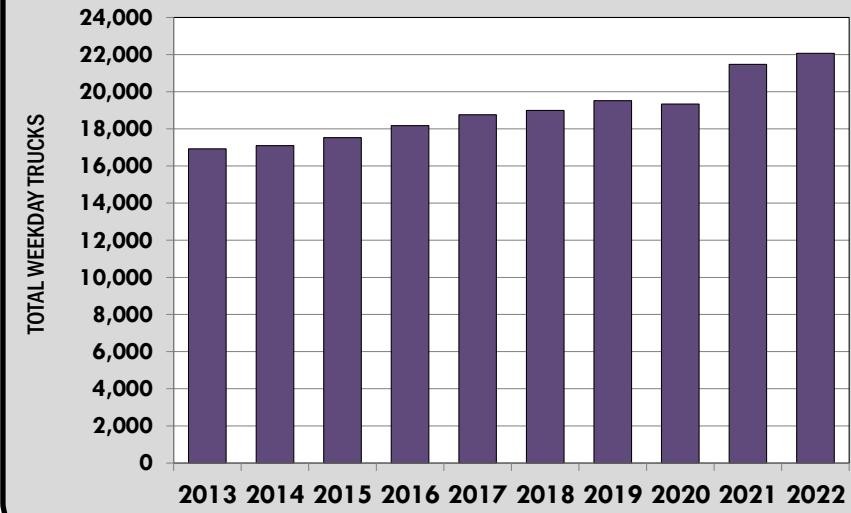
▲ 30%

The increase in the number of trucks that entered or exited Hampton Roads each weekday at major gateways between 2013 and 2022.

64%

The percentage of all freight handled by the Port of Virginia that was transported by truck in 2022.

## NUMBER OF TRUCKS PASSING THROUGH HAMPTON ROADS GATEWAYS EACH WEEKDAY, 2013-2022





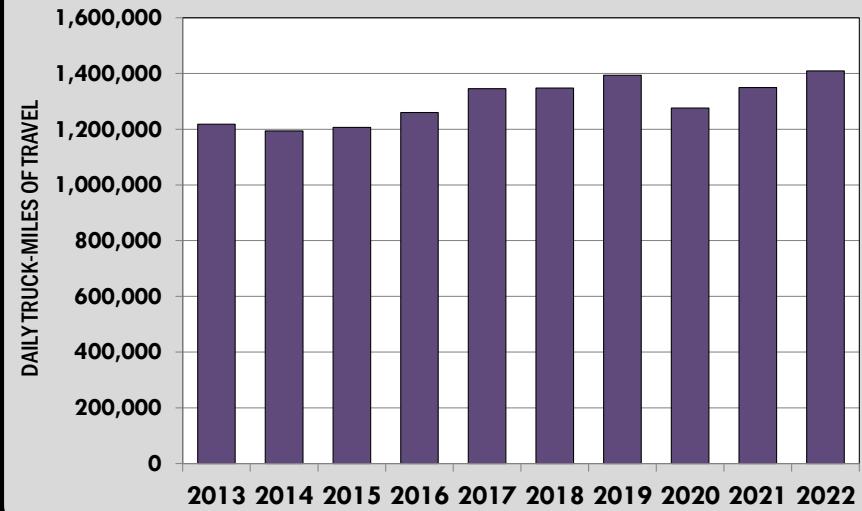
There was over 1.4 million miles of truck travel each day in Hampton Roads in 2022 according to VDOT, which accounted for 3.5% of the nearly 40 million vehicle-miles of travel experienced each day throughout the region. Regional truck travel levels increased 16% between 2013 and 2022, in spite of decreasing 8% from 2019 to 2020 due to the pandemic.

A major issue involving truck travel in Hampton Roads is overheight trucks at the tunnels. This is especially an issue at the westbound Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT), which has a lower vertical clearance than other tunnels in the area. A total of 7,500 trucks were stopped, measured, and turned around at tunnels in Hampton Roads in 2022, which is down from 15,400 trucks in 2016 due to improvements including public awareness campaigns and additional sensors and signs.

Of these 7,500 trucks, 6,100 occurred at the westbound Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, and 4,305 of these HRBT turnarounds occurred at the tunnel entrance on the South Island, which greatly impacts congestion and safety since traffic is stopped in both directions for the turnaround.

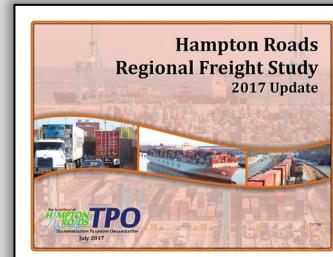


## DAILY TRUCK TRAVEL IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022



Data source: VDOT.

## HRTPO REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY



For the past two decades, the HRTPO has engaged in numerous freight planning activities, including the development of the [Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study](#), which serves as a comprehensive resource document on the multimodal transportation system. This report details the movement of goods across all freight modes – highways, ports, railways, and airports.

Special emphasis is placed on freight moving by trucks across highways as they serve as the predominant mover of freight in the region.

Work is underway on an update to the Regional Freight Study, with completion expected in 2024.



Public transportation usage decreased both in Hampton Roads and nationally throughout the 2010s, and this decrease in ridership accelerated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public transportation services in Hampton Roads are primarily provided by three agencies. The Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) provides transit service in James City County, Williamsburg, and northern York County, while Suffolk Transit provides transit service throughout that city. Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) provides service in the remaining urbanized areas of the Peninsula and Southside.

There were 7.6 million unlinked trips\* taken on HRT, WATA, and Suffolk Transit public transportation services in Hampton Roads in 2022. This number includes ridership on regular and express buses, tourist oriented services, light rail, demand response/paratransit, vanpools, and the HRT passenger ferry.

The number of trips taken on public transportation in Hampton Roads has decreased throughout the last decade, and particularly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Annual transit ridership decreased 64% in Hampton Roads from 2013 to 2022, with a decrease of 50% from 2019 to 2022 due to the impacts of the pandemic.

\* - An unlinked trip is a passenger trip made on one transit vehicle. If a passenger boards two buses to get from origin to destination that is considered to be two unlinked trips.

## NOTABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NUMBERS

64%  
▼

34<sup>th</sup>

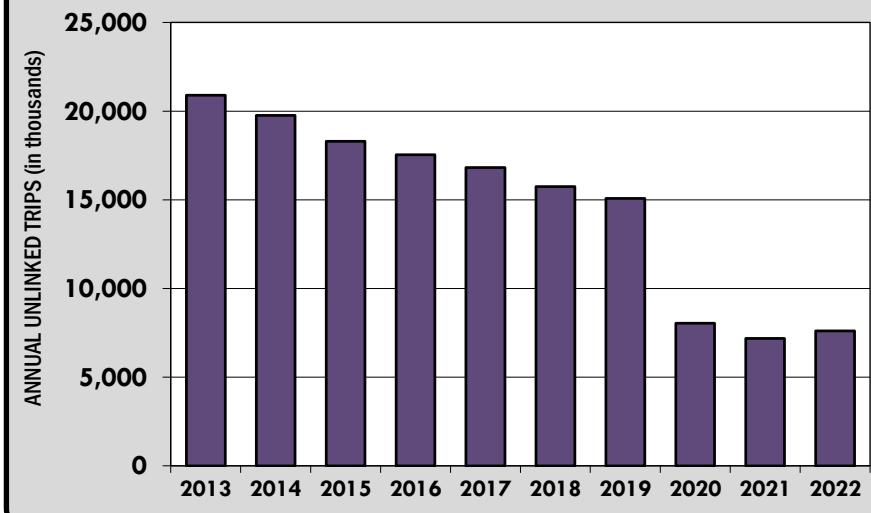
30<sup>th</sup>

The change in the annual number of passenger trips taken on public transportation in Hampton Roads from 2013 to 2022.

Hampton Roads rank among the 41 large metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people in terms of public transportation use per capita in 2022.

Hampton Roads rank among the 41 large metropolitan areas in terms of transit operating and capital expenses per capita in the most recent National Transit Database data.

## PASSENGER TRIPS TAKEN ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022



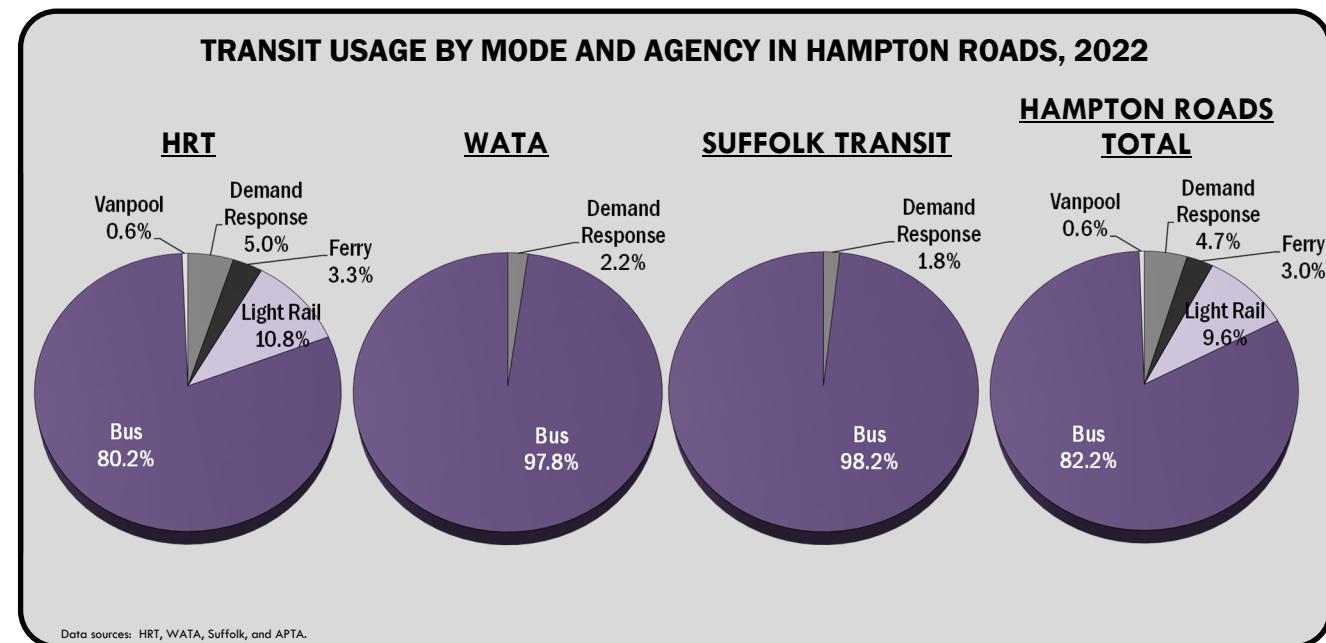
Data sources: HRT, WATA, Suffolk, American Public Transportation Association (APTA).



The vast majority of public transportation trips in Hampton Roads – 82% in 2022 – are taken on regular or express bus service. Light rail comprised 11% of all HRT transit trips and 10% of all regional transit trips, and all other modes (including ferry, demand response/paratransit services, and vanpools) comprised the remaining 8%.

Public transportation usage in Hampton Roads lags behind other metropolitan areas. At 4.2

## TRANSIT USAGE BY MODE AND AGENCY IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2022



## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS IN HAMPTON ROADS

A variety of public transportation options are available in Hampton Roads. These options include:



**Conventional Bus**  
Conventional bus service is provided on an extensive regional network by HRT, WATA and Suffolk Transit.



**Express Bus**  
Regional express bus service, known as the 757 Express, is provided by HRT.



**Tourist Oriented Services**  
Tourist-oriented service in Hampton Roads includes the VB WAVE at the Oceanfront, Colonial Williamsburg shuttle services, and the Williamsburg and Yorktown Trolleys.



**Light Rail**  
HRT began operating light rail service on a 7.4-mile line in Norfolk in 2011.



**Ferries**  
Passenger ferry service is provided by HRT between Downtown Norfolk and Portsmouth, and vehicular ferry service is provided by VDOT across the James River between Surry County & Jamestown.



**Commuting Alternatives**  
Commuting alternatives are provided by Traffix. These alternatives include ridesharing, telecommuting, van leasing, and guaranteed ride programs.



**Paratransit**  
HRT, WATA, and Suffolk Transit offer demand response/paratransit services using a variety of vehicles, including lift-equipped vans.



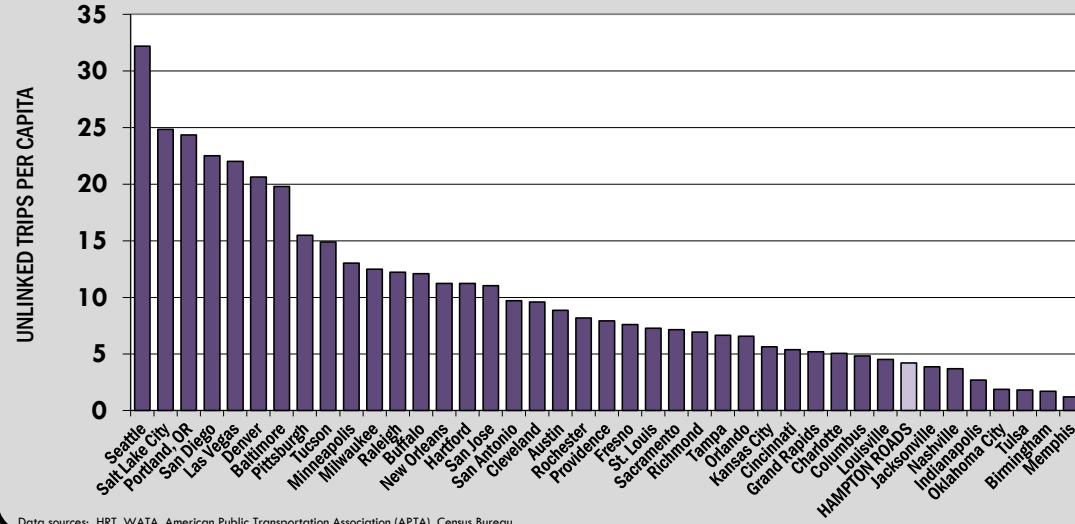
passenger trips on public transportation per capita in 2022, Hampton Roads ranked 34<sup>th</sup> highest among the 41 large metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people.

Metropolitan areas such as Seattle, Salt Lake City, Portland and San Diego have transit usage rates per capita more than five times higher than Hampton Roads.

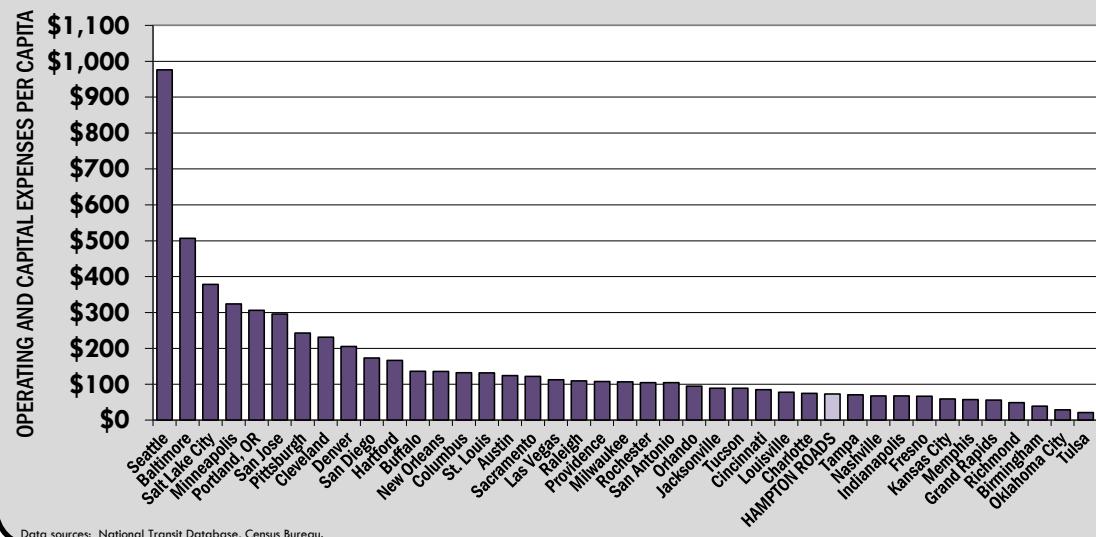


Hampton Roads spends less on public transportation on a per capita basis than many other comparable metropolitan areas. According to an analysis of the National Transit Database, \$73 was spent per capita on transit operating and capital expenses in Hampton Roads in Reporting Year 2021. This ranked the region 30<sup>th</sup> highest among the 41 large metropolitan areas. Seattle spent about 14 times

## PASSENGER TRIPS PER CAPITA ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2022



## TRANSIT OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSES PER CAPITA IN LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS, REPORTING YEAR 2021





more per capita on public transportation than was spent in Hampton Roads, while Baltimore spent nearly seven times more per capita.

This level of spending on public transportation in Hampton Roads has contributed to an older fleet of vehicles. The average age of HRT buses is just over 9 years as of 2023, which is beyond FTA's benchmark average fleet age of 7.5 years. However, HRT is in the midst of replacing a large portion of its bus fleet, which is expected to lower HRT's average fleet age below the federal benchmark by 2024.

Most of WATA's fleet has been replaced in recent years. However, WATA has recently assumed control of the Colonial Williamsburg bus fleet, which includes some buses that are nearly 20 years old. As of 2023, the average age of WATA's bus fleet is 9.5 years old, which is a slight decrease in age from an average of 10 years in 2015.

Transit buses are older in Hampton Roads than in other comparable metropolitan areas. Among large metropolitan areas throughout the country with populations between one and four million people, the median age of transit buses was 6.7 years

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**Connecting VA** – The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has launched a new multimodal trip planning tool that allows users to find information on multimodal transit options and rideshare partners. More information is available at <https://connectingva.drpt.virginia.gov>.



**Hampton Roads Regional Transit Program** – In 2020, Governor Northam signed legislation that provides a dedicated regional public transportation funding source for the first time. The new Hampton Roads Regional Transit Program and Fund (HRRTF), which is administered through the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC), is funded through an additional grantor's tax, a regional transient occupancy tax, and a reallocation of statewide recordation taxes. Through February 2023 a total of \$99 million has been collected for the HRRTF.

The centerpiece of the Hampton Roads Regional Transit Program is a new core and connected bus network, or "regional backbone", referred to as the 757 Express that connects the six cities served by HRT with high-frequency, inter-jurisdictional service.



The legislation also called for HRTPO to create a Regional Transit Advisory Panel (RTAP), which is comprised of representatives of business and industry groups, employers, shopping destinations, institutions of higher education, military installations, health care centers, public transit entities, and other groups. The purpose of the panel is to provide feedback to the regional planning process on the long-term vision for a multimodal regional public transit network in Hampton Roads.

The RTAP has developed key recommendations to enhance/strengthen transit in the region and held a Transit Advocacy Day to bring awareness to public transportation. More information on the RTAP and their recommendations is available at [https://www.hrtpo.org/page/regional-transit-advisory-panel-\(rtap\)](https://www.hrtpo.org/page/regional-transit-advisory-panel-(rtap)).



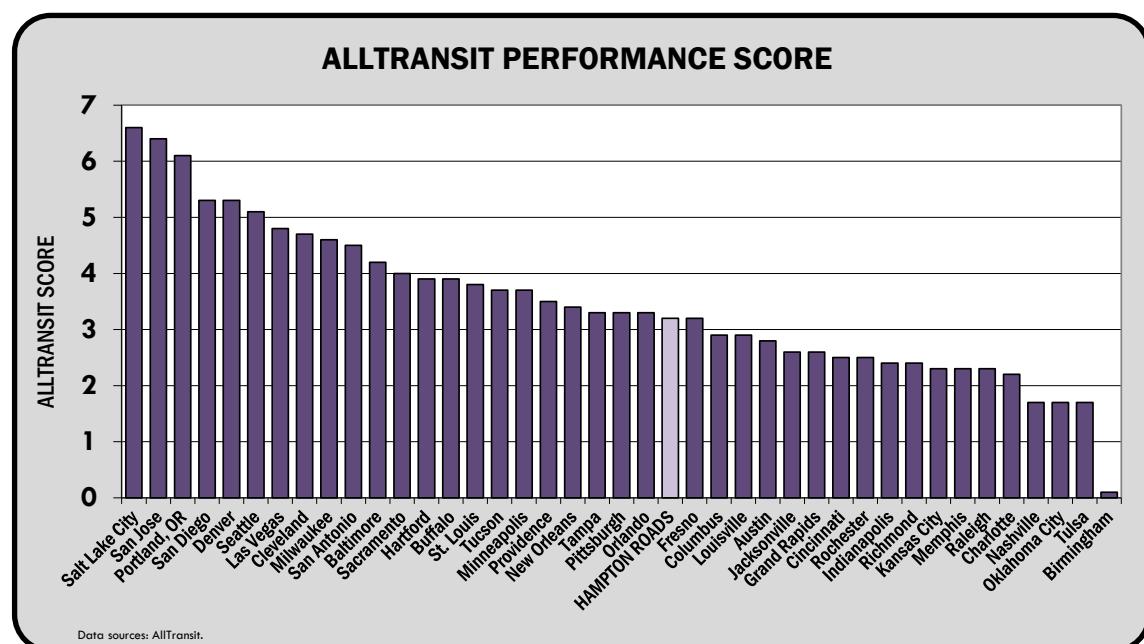
in Reporting Year 2021 according to the National Transit Database. Only seven of the large metropolitan areas (Portland, San Jose, Buffalo, Charlotte, Louisville, Oklahoma City and Fresno) had an average transit bus age that was older than the bus fleet in Hampton Roads.

AllTransit, which is a joint project of the Center for Neighborhood Technology and TransitCenter, has produced an analysis of transit in each area based on data assembled from 900 transit agencies. One measure produced by Alltransit – the AllTransit Performance Score – is an overall regional transit score that looks at connectivity, access to land area and jobs, and frequency of service. Examples of factors included in the score are connections to other routes, the number of workers using transit to travel, jobs accessible in a 30-minute transit ride, and jobs, workers, and households within ½ mile of transit.

Areas are given a score from 0 to 10, with higher scores indicating better transit performance according to AllTransit's analysis. Hampton Roads, with a score of 3.2, ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> highest among the 41 metropolitan areas with a population between one and four million people. This is higher than the Richmond (2.4), Raleigh (2.3), and Charlotte (2.2) areas.



Image Source: HRT.





Active transportation planning, which aims to improve the safety and mobility of all types of non-motorized transportation options, has expanded both in Hampton Roads and across the country in recent years.

Active transportation is defined as including all forms of human-powered transportation. The most common forms of active transportation are bicycling and walking, but it also includes using a wheelchair and activities such as in-line skating or skateboarding. Bicycle lanes, multi-use paths, sidewalks, crosswalks, and trails are all non-motorized transportation facilities designed to improve the mobility and safety of active transportation users.



VIRGINIA CAPITAL TRAIL

Image Source: VDOT

There are currently over a thousand miles of shared use paths, bike lanes, paved shoulders, wide sidewalks, signed shared roadways, and

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FACILITY TYPES

There are various types of non-motorized facilities throughout Hampton Roads. Examples of these facilities include:

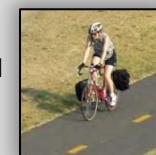
### Bike Lanes

A portion of the roadway is designated by signs and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles.



### Shared Use Paths

A facility physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic intended for the use of bicycles, pedestrians, and other active transportation users.



### Paved Shoulders

A paved portion of a roadway to the right of the edge stripe on which bicyclists may ride. These areas are not to be marked as bike lanes.



### Wide Outside Lanes

An outside travel lane with a width of at least 14 feet.



### Signed Shared Roadway

A roadway designated by bike route signs that serve to provide continuity to other bicycle facilities.



### Grade Separated Crossing

Facilities that are designed to continue non-motorized facilities through high volume roadways, railroads, or natural barriers.



### Sidewalks

Non-motorized facilities between the curb line and adjacent property line that are designed primarily for foot traffic and users with smaller wheeled devices.



### Trails

Routes developed primarily for outdoor recreational purposes.





trails that comprise the bicycle and pedestrian network across Hampton Roads. These non-motorized facilities vary greatly, from secluded park trails to dedicated bike lanes along major roadways to popular multi-use paths such as the 52-mile Virginia Capital Trail.



DISMAL SWAMP CANAL TRAIL

Image Source: Chesapeake

In recent years, several Active Transportation facilities have been added throughout Hampton Roads. Examples of these facilities include sections of the Suffolk Seaboard Coastline Trail, road diets on various roadways including Lafayette Boulevard and Ocean View Avenue, and the Bike Loop in the Ghent section of Norfolk.

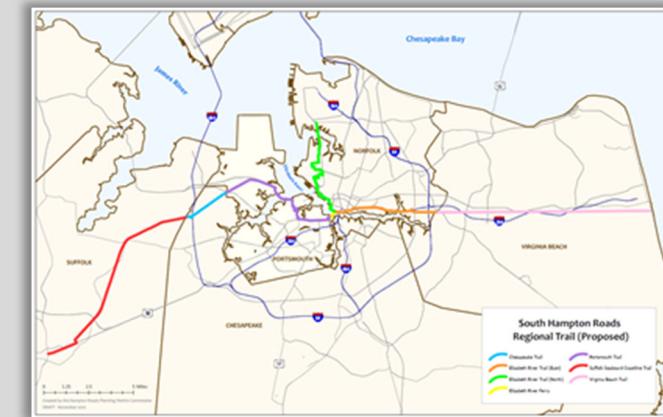
## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**Suffolk Seaboard Coastline Trail** – The Suffolk Seaboard Coastline Trail is envisioned as an 11-mile trail that will connect Downtown Suffolk with the City of Chesapeake. The first portion of the trail, a 2.3-mile section near the village of Driver, opened in 2015 and another 1.1-mile section of the trail between Shoulders Hill Road and the Chesapeake City Line was completed in early 2017. Another phase spanning 1.5 miles between Nansemond Parkway and Suburban Drive was completed in 2021. Additional sections of this trail and the continuation of the trail into the City of Chesapeake are funded and are expected to begin construction in the near future.



**Regional Trails** – Planning is underway on a number of facilities throughout the region. The South Hampton Roads Trail is planned as a 41-mile trail connecting Suffolk with the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Five miles of the trail, overlapping the Suffolk Seaboard Coastline Trail, is complete. Plans are also underway for portions of this trail in Chesapeake and Portsmouth.

Sections of the Birthplace of America Trail (which is described later in this section) in Hampton, Newport News, and York County, are also being funded for construction.





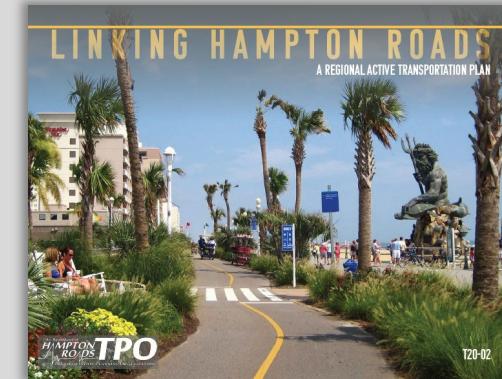
Most jurisdictions in Hampton Roads have created plans that are specifically dedicated to improving active transportation. Examples include:

- A bicycle advisory committee that helped prepare a Regional Bicycle Facilities Plan and map in the Historic Triangle (James City County, Williamsburg, and York County)
- Virginia Beach's Active Transportation Plan
- Norfolk's Strategic Bike and Pedestrian Plan
- Hampton's Bike Walk Hampton Strategic Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Suffolk's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Portsmouth's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Isle of Wight County's Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Master Plan
- Southampton County's Active Transportation Plan
- Surry County's Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

HRTPO has also developed a regional active transportation plan, as described further in the box to the right.

## LINKING HAMPTON ROADS

HRTPO has developed a regional active transportation plan for the Hampton Roads region. The purpose of this regional plan is to provide a clear structure for the development of new facilities, programs, and policies that will link the region by developing greater active transportation facilities and promoting active and healthy lifestyles throughout the region.



The development of the Linking Hampton Roads regional active transportation plan included an open public participation process with residents providing input through online surveys, public events, stakeholders meetings, advocacy group input, and the regional Active Transportation Subcommittee.

The Linking Hampton Roads plan includes a regional analysis of current conditions and existing facilities; a comprehensive, recommended active transportation network; and recommended design guidelines for the development of active transportation facilities. Goals of the plan include:

- Improve safety for all users including people with access and functional needs
- Link the region throughout with active transportation facilities
- Improve health outcomes in the region
- Promote and encourage the growth of the region's economy and tourism

The final version of the Linking Hampton Roads report was approved by the HRTPO Board in 2020. The Linking Hampton Roads report is available at <https://www.hrtpo.org/page/active-transportation>.

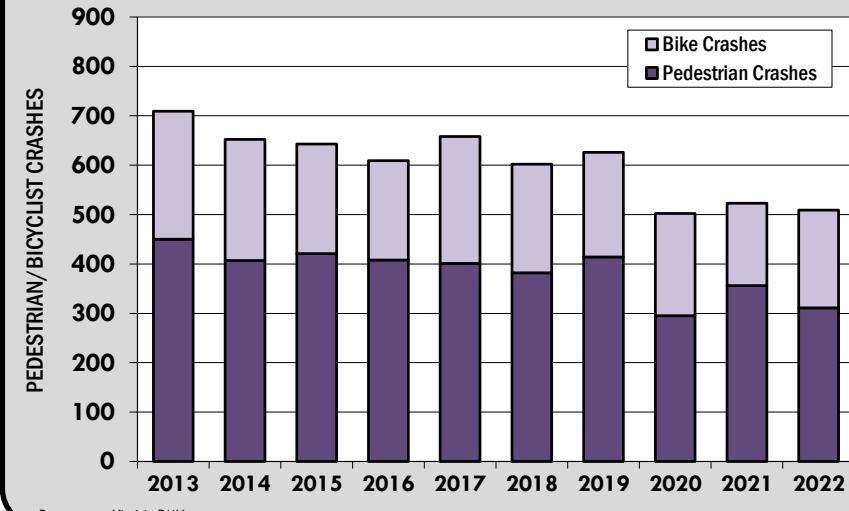


In addition, VDOT has developed statewide active transportation plans. The [State Bicycle Policy Plan](#) includes policy recommendations that guide the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of bicycle facilities. The [State Pedestrian Policy Plan](#) establishes a vision for the future of walking in Virginia. The plan is a guide for officials, organizations, and individuals to improve pedestrian policy and accommodations. VDOT has also recently developed a [Pedestrian Safety Action Plan](#). Much of the planning for these efforts has been conducted through the Virginia Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), and the regional HRTPO Active Transportation Subcommittee/VDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee.

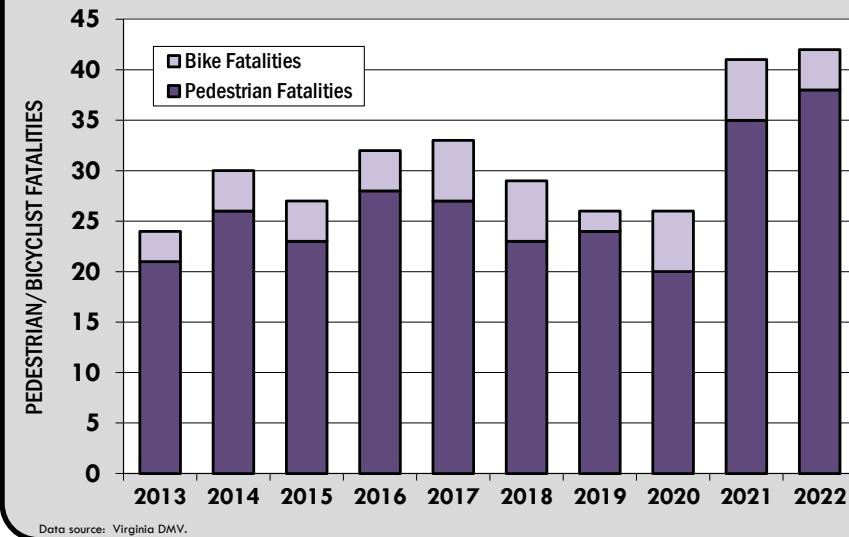
Although it is difficult to measure the total amount of walking and bicycling, the percentage of people that commute to work by mode is collected by the Census Bureau. In Hampton Roads, 2.5% of workers walked or rode bicycles to commute to work in 2022. This percentage is lower than the percentage seen in the region in 2000 (3.0%) and 2010 (3.8%).

Pedestrians and bicyclists are the most vulnerable users of the transportation system, and ensuring their safety is critical. There were 509 active transportation crashes – 311 involving pedestrians and 198 involving bicyclists – in Hampton Roads in 2022. These crashes resulted in a total of 42 fatalities, 38 of which were pedestrians and 4 of which were bicyclists. The number of crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists in Hampton Roads has decreased 28% since 2013, and decreased 19% from 2019 to 2021. The number of pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities in Hampton Roads, however, increased 75% from 2013 to 2022. Pedestrian and bicyclist crashes comprised 2% of the

## CRASHES INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS OR BICYCLISTS IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022



## PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLIST FATALITIES IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2013-2022

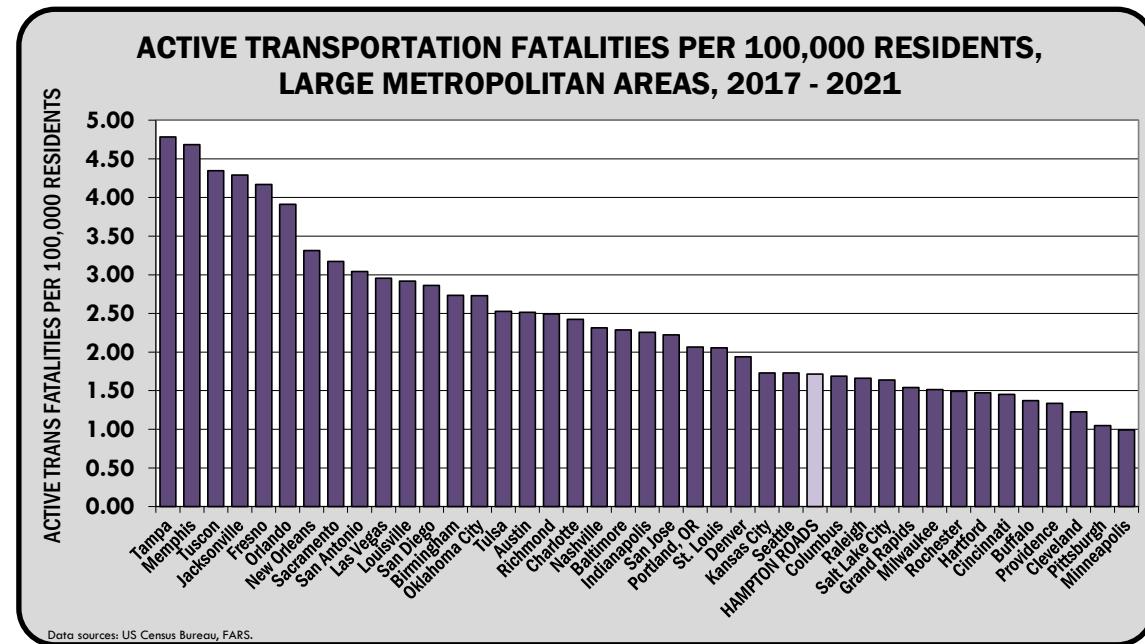




total crashes in Hampton Roads between 2013 and 2022, but comprised 22% of all roadway fatalities in the region during this time.

The rate of active transportation fatalities in Hampton Roads is lower than other comparable areas. Hampton Roads ranked 28<sup>th</sup> highest among the 41 large metropolitan areas between one and four million people in terms of the rate of active transportation fatalities per resident for the years 2017 - 2021.

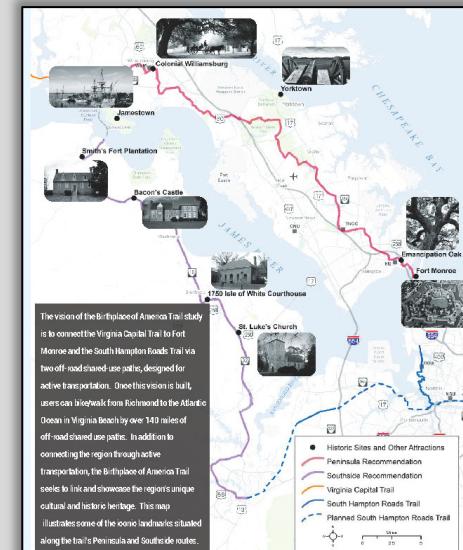
More information on HRTPO's Active Transportation planning efforts is available at <http://www.hrtpo.org/page/active-transportation>.



## BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICA TRAIL

HRTPO staff, with assistance from VDOT and a subcommittee made up of localities and local agencies, has been involved in studying the Birthplace of America Trail (BOAT). The BOAT is envisioned as an extension of the Virginia Capital Trail from its current terminus at Jamestown to Fort Monroe and the western terminus of the South Hampton Roads Trail, which would provide a connection all the way to the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Once built, the Virginia Capital Trail, Birthplace of America Trail, and South Hampton Roads Trail will connect Richmond to Coastal Virginia with over 140 miles of separated, paved off-road trails.

The [Birthplace of America Trail study](#) was adopted by the HRTPO Board in July 2017. With the study adopted, HRTPO staff and localities are working towards finding funding for constructing and marketing the trail. Sections of the trail in Hampton, Newport News, and York County have recently received funding via federal and state funding programs.





In recent years, legislation has been passed by the Virginia General Assembly that comprehensively reformed how transportation projects are funded and selected, increased revenues, and created funding sources specifically devoted to constructing major projects in areas of the state including Hampton Roads.

With statewide transportation funding levels falling well behind needs about a decade ago, the Virginia General Assembly passed multiple bills that comprehensively reformed how transportation is funded throughout the Commonwealth and increased funding levels. In addition, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is providing additional revenues for transportation over the previous federal funding levels.

Funding for many aspects of the statewide transportation system is allocated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), including the construction and maintenance of Virginia's highway system, transportation operations, debt payments, administration, and support for ports, aviation, rail, public transportation, and space flight. For Fiscal Year 2024, the CTB approved a \$9.8 billion statewide transportation budget, which is significantly larger than the budgets in recent years. As of June 2023, the CTB projects that a total of \$55.4 billion will be available in the statewide transportation budget for FY 2024-2029, which is 25% higher than the budgets from FY 2018-2023.

HB 2313 created a dedicated regional funding stream for Hampton Roads in 2013, referred to as the Hampton Roads Transportation Fund (HRTF). Increases in regional sales and fuel taxes have generated \$2.0 billion as of 2023, and is

## NOTABLE TRANSPORTATION FINANCING NUMBERS

▲  
**25%**

▲  
**25%**

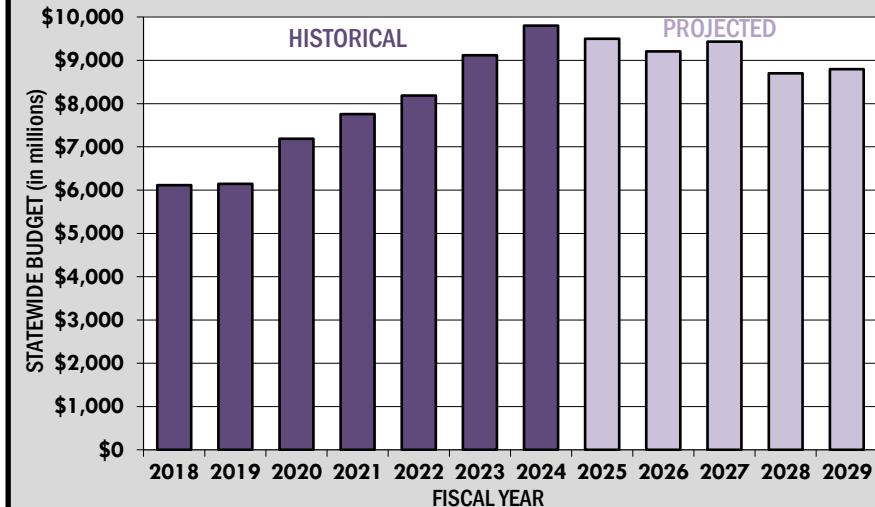
**12<sup>th</sup>**

The projected change in Virginia's statewide transportation budget from Fiscal Years (FY) 2018-2023 to FY 2024-2029.

The projected increase in funding that will be available for new highway construction statewide from FY 2018-2023 to FY 2024-2029.

Virginia's rank among the 50 states and D.C. in terms of average taxes and fees collected on each gallon of unleaded gasoline as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

## HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED STATE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET, FY 2018-2029



Data source: VDOT. State fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of the listed year. Projected budgets as of June 2023. Includes all revenues including regional funds.



projected to produce an additional \$1.7 billion for use on major regional roadway, bridge, and tunnel projects in FY 2024-2029. Another \$235 million is expected to be collected in Hampton Roads in FY 2024-2029 for the Hampton Roads Regional Transit fund.

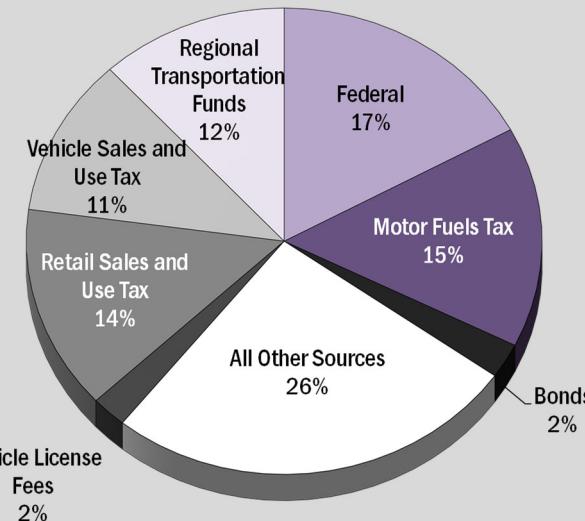
The revenue for Virginia's transportation budget is collected from various sources. Federal sources are the largest component, comprising 17% of Virginia's transportation revenues in FY 2024. The next largest sources are the tax on motor fuels (15%) and the retail sales and use tax (14%). The regional transportation taxes that are now levied throughout the state comprise another 12% of Virginia's transportation revenue in FY 2024.

The amount of funding needed to operate and maintain Virginia's aging roadways and bridges continues to increase. Between FY 2024-2029, \$16.7 billion will be allocated statewide to maintenance and operations. This is up 23% from the \$13.6 billion allocated between FY 2018-2023.

The amount of funding available for new roadway construction has increased in recent years but is expected to decrease in future years. Including the regional roadway funds, \$24.1 billion is projected to be available for new roadway construction in Virginia between FY 2024-2029. This is up 25% from the \$19.3 billion in funding that was allocated to construction in FY 2018-2023.

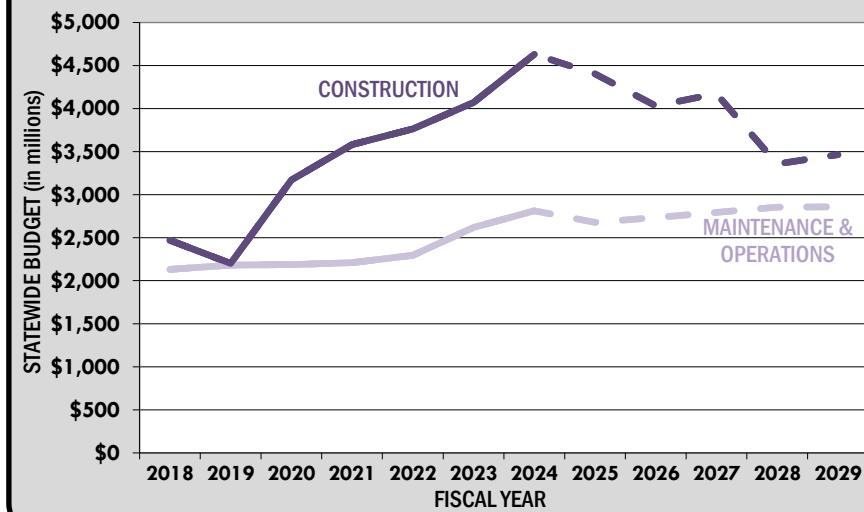
Historically, the amount of funding allocated to roadways in Virginia has lagged behind other states, but that has changed in recent years. Using the most recent data available from the U.S. Census Bureau (2021), Virginia ranked 15<sup>th</sup> highest among

## TRANSPORTATION REVENUES IN VIRGINIA BY SOURCE, FISCAL YEAR 2024



Data source: VDOT.

## HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED STATEWIDE FUNDING MAINTENANCE VS. CONSTRUCTION, FY 2018-2029



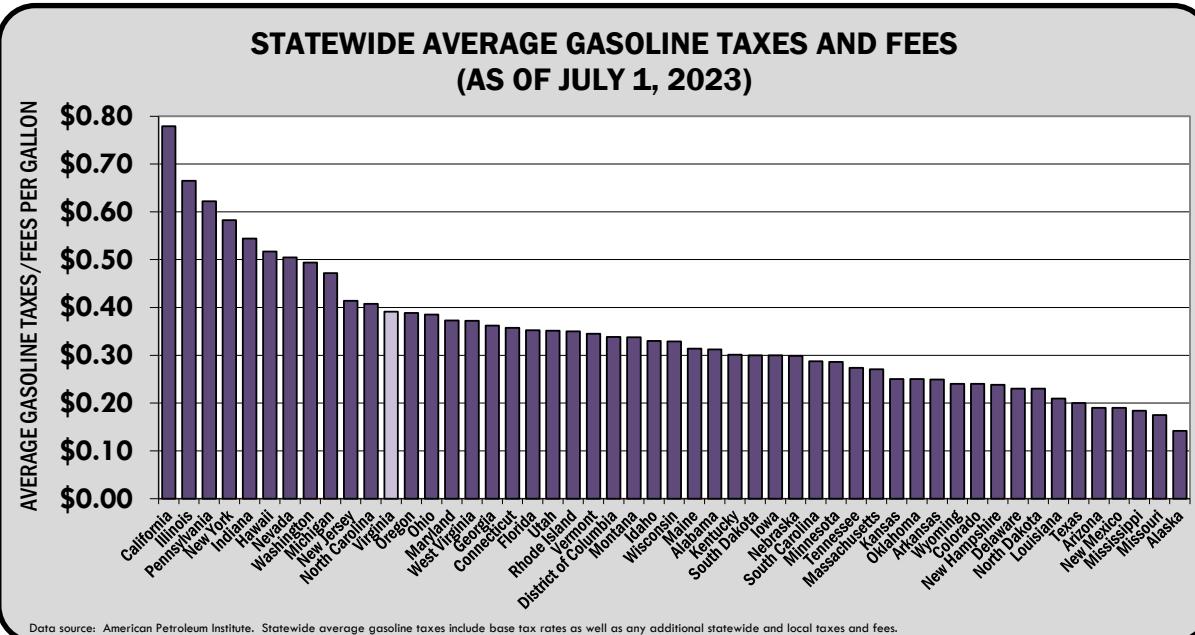
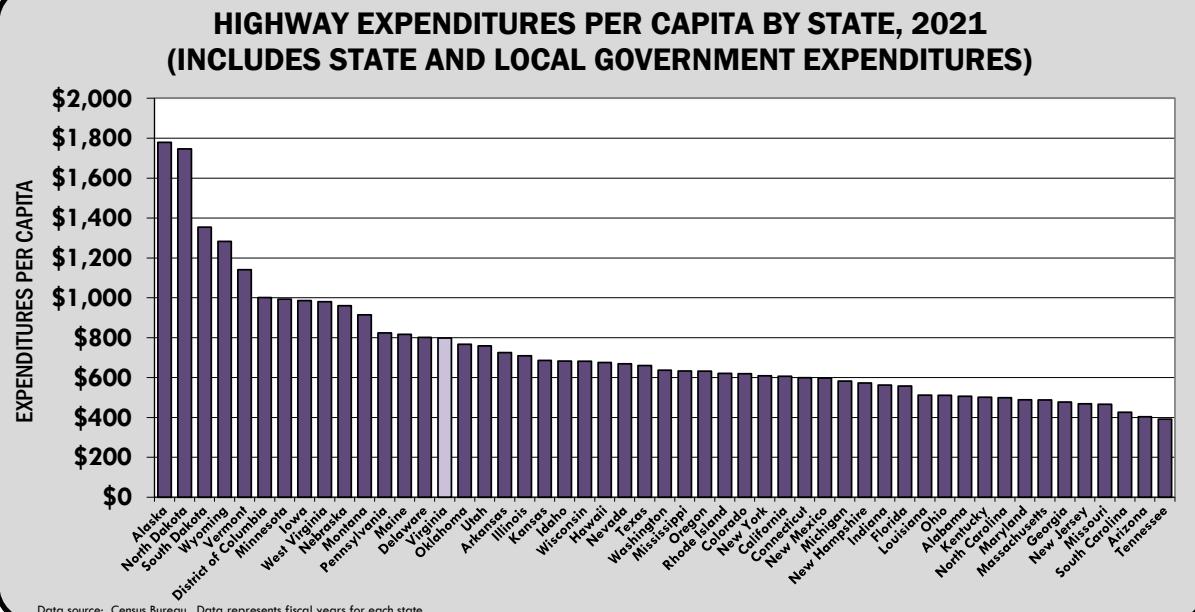
Data source: VDOT. Projected budgets as of June 2023. Construction budgets include regional revenues, and maintenance includes Special Structures.



the 50 states and the District of Columbia in highway expenditures per capita. Over the previous decade, however, Virginia ranked as low as 32<sup>nd</sup> highest, which occurred in 2015.

The level of gasoline taxes and fees collected in Virginia had been lower than in most other states, but that is no longer the case due to recent tax increases. The gasoline tax in Virginia as of July 2023 is 39.1 cents per gallon for unleaded fuel and 40.2 cents for each gallon of diesel fuel. The unleaded fuel rate is comprised of a 29.8 cent per gallon excise tax, 0.6 cent per gallon tax for the petroleum underground storage tank fund, and an additional 8.7 cent per gallon regional tax on gasoline charged in areas throughout the state. As described on the next page, fuel taxes now increase by the rate of inflation each year as of 2022.

Virginia had the 12<sup>th</sup> highest statewide average taxes and fees collected on each gallon of unleaded gasoline among the 50 states and D.C. as of July 2023. This is up from 29<sup>th</sup> highest in 2020 and 41<sup>st</sup> highest in 2019.





## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**House Bill 1414** - Signed into law in 2020, HB 1414 increased the revenue dedicated to transportation in Virginia. The legislation made the following changes to transportation funding:

- On July 1, 2020, the statewide gas excise tax increased by 5 cents per gallon, from 16.2 cents per gallon to 21.2 cents per gallon. This was followed on July 1, 2021, by another 5 cent per gallon increase, up to 26.2 cents per gallon.
- In 2022 and the following years, statewide fuel taxes will be adjusted annually based on an index related to inflation levels.
- The regional gas tax that was in place in Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia, and localities along the I-81 corridor was expanded to the remainder of the state. This regional gas tax was 7.6 cents per gallon and is being indexed in future years to inflation levels.
- Imposes a fee on fuel efficient, alternative fuel, and electric vehicles. The fee is based on 85% of the difference between the fuel tax paid on the average vehicle and the fuel tax paid on the fuel-efficient vehicle. The legislation repeals the vehicle license tax that had been in place for electric vehicles.
- Creates the option for owners of fuel efficient, alternative fuel, and electric vehicles to pay a mileage-based user fee in place of the new fee described above.
- Reduces most passenger vehicle registration fees by \$10.
- Creates the Special Structures Fund for the maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of large, complex bridges and tunnels throughout the state.
- The bill also established a new Virginia Passenger Rail Authority and created a number of new transportation safety programs.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** – On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). In addition to providing additional funding for infrastructure in a number of areas, the IIJA serves as the federal surface transportation reauthorization legislation for five years (Federal Fiscal Years 2022-2026). Highlights of the IIJA include:

- Provides \$973 billion over five years for investments in transportation, water, energy, environmental remediation, public lands, broadband, and resilience. Of this total, \$550 billion is new investments.
- \$284 billion is provided for new investments for transportation:
  - Roads and Bridges: \$110 billion
  - Transit: \$39 billion
  - Rail: \$66 billion
  - Safety: \$11 billion
  - Airports: \$25 billion
  - Ports and Waterways: \$17 billion
  - Electric Vehicle Chargers: \$7.5 billion
  - Electric Buses: \$7.5 billion
  - Reconnecting Communities: \$1 billion
- Provides an additional \$1.6 billion in formula-based surface transportation funding for Virginia over the next five years, and an additional \$640 million for Virginia transit agencies.
- Includes numerous discretionary grant opportunities, including new opportunities related to priority projects, bridge replacements, passenger rail expansion, reconnecting communities, and low/no emission buses.



Fuel prices have increased both in Hampton Roads and throughout the country in recent years. However, in spite of increasing statewide and additional regional fuel taxes, fuel prices in Hampton Roads remain lower than in most comparable areas.

The average cost of a gallon of regular unleaded fuel in Hampton Roads was \$3.45 on October 1, 2023. This is 22 cents per gallon higher than one year earlier but is \$1.53 per gallon lower than the high seen on June 15, 2022. Average fuel prices in Hampton Roads are 28 cents per gallon higher than the \$3.17 rate experienced a decade earlier.



FUEL PRICES

Image Source: HRTPO

Fuel prices in Hampton Roads are now lower than in most other metropolitan areas in Virginia, largely due to regional taxes being expanded to all other areas throughout the state. Fuel prices were on average 4 cents per gallon higher in Richmond, 5 cents per gallon higher in Roanoke, 12 cents per gallon higher

## NOTABLE FUEL PRICES NUMBERS

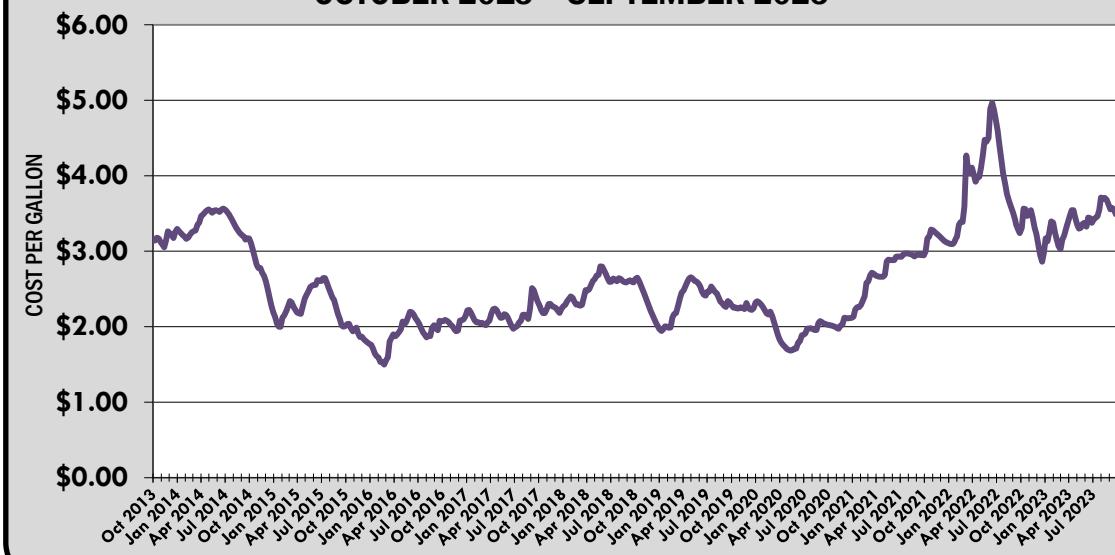
7%

The increase in the cost of a gallon of unleaded fuel in Hampton Roads between October 1, 2013, and October 1, 2023.

30th

Hampton Roads rank, among the 41 large metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people, in terms of the cost per gallon of regular unleaded fuel as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

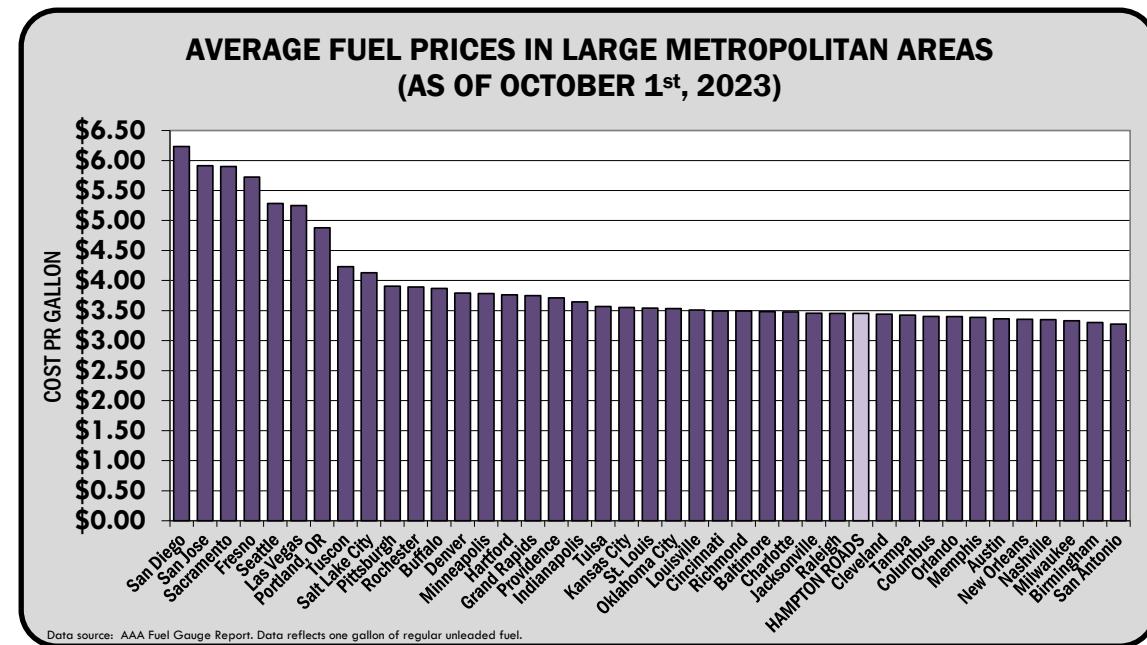
## AVERAGE FUEL PRICES IN HAMPTON ROADS OCTOBER 2013 – SEPTEMBER 2023





in Charlottesville, and 18 cents per gallon higher in Northern Virginia than in Hampton Roads as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Statewide, the average cost of fuel was \$3.53 per gallon on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 8 cents higher than the rate in Hampton Roads.

Fuel prices in Hampton Roads are also below national averages. Among the 41 metropolitan areas with a population between one and four million people, Hampton Roads had the 30<sup>th</sup> highest average fuel price as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Fuel prices in Hampton Roads were 45 cents per gallon lower than the large metropolitan area average.



## BEHIND THE NUMBERS

As described in the Transportation Financing section in this report, recent legislation has both increased the revenue provided for transportation and changed the way gasoline is taxed in Virginia. In spite of the additional regional and statewide fuel taxes, fuel prices in Hampton Roads have actually decreased relative to comparable metropolitan areas throughout the country. Prior to the first legislation to increase revenues in 2013, fuel prices in Hampton Roads were 10 cents per gallon lower than the comparable large metropolitan area average. Even with the additional and increased regional and statewide fuel taxes in place in Hampton Roads, fuel prices in the region were 45 cents per gallon lower than the comparable large area average as of October 2023.





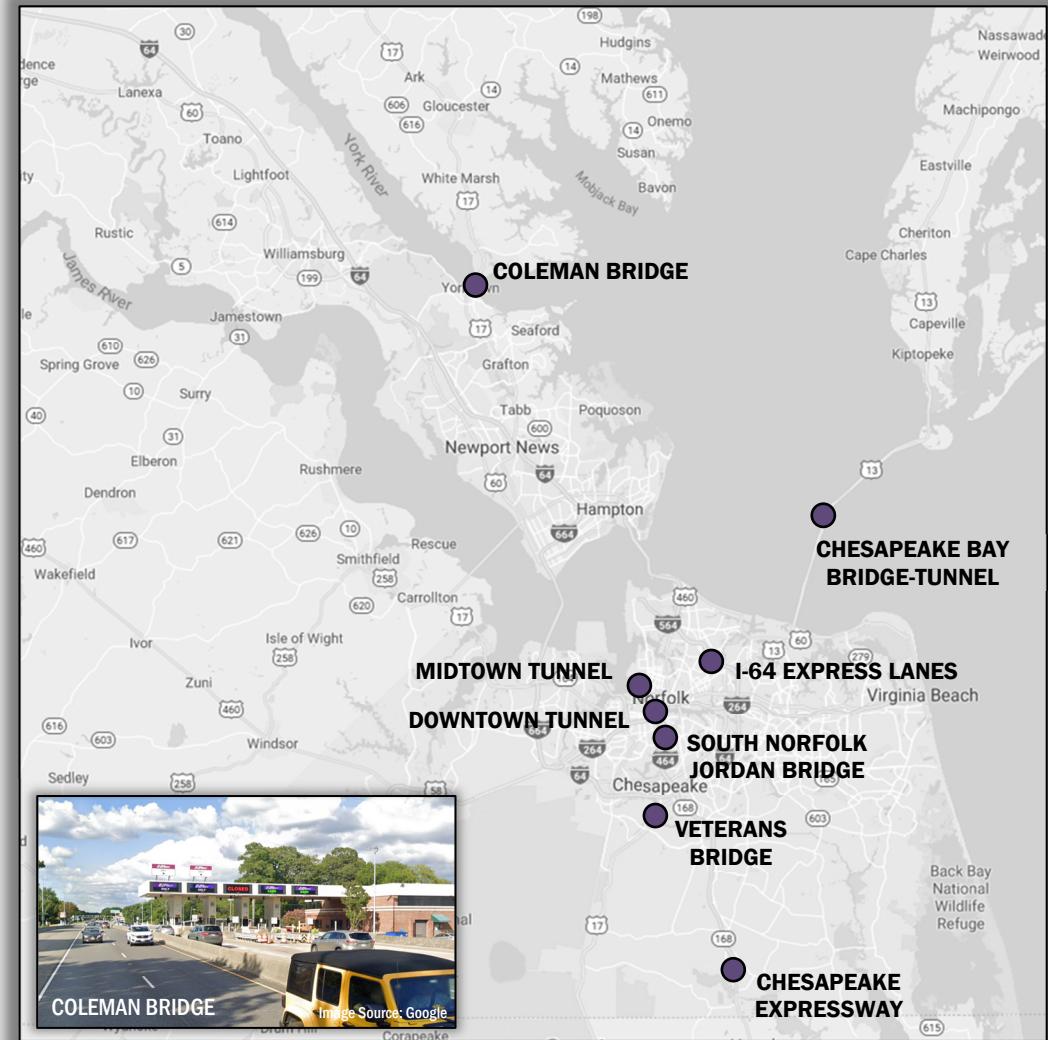
In spite of new funding mechanisms, tolling is an important funding source for many facilities throughout Hampton Roads, and the amount of tolls collected annually in the region has more than tripled over the last decade.

Although the amount of funding dedicated to transportation improvements in Hampton Roads has increased in recent years with the creation of the Hampton Roads Transportation Fund and additional state and federal funding, tolls are also used as a funding mechanism on some regional roadway facilities.

Eight facilities throughout Hampton Roads currently charge tolls, as shown in the map to the right. Tolls were implemented at the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels in 2014 as part of the Midtown Tunnel Widening/MLK Freeway Extension Project and at the Veterans Bridge in Chesapeake in 2017 when the Steel Bridge was replaced with a widened, fixed span.

In 2018 the reversible HOV lanes on I-64 in the City of Norfolk were converted to Express Lanes. Whereas previously only those traveling with two or more people could legally use the reversible lanes during peak travel periods, the conversion allows those traveling alone to use the lanes if they pay a toll via E-Z Pass. The tolls for those traveling alone vary based on the amount of congestion on the facility and can change every 10 minutes.

## ROADWAY FACILITIES IN HAMPTON ROADS WITH TOLLS (AS OF JULY 2023)





In 2022 approximately \$226 million was collected in tolls at these eight facilities. By comparison, only about \$61 million was collected at toll facilities in Hampton Roads a decade earlier, most of which occurred at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel.

Since 2011, VDOT has administered the Toll Relief Fund program to reduce tolls at the Downtown and Midtown Tunnels for economically disadvantaged users. As of 2023 nearly 12,000 users were enrolled in the program, and the income threshold was increased in October 2023 from \$50,000 to \$65,000. More information is available at <https://www.vdottollrelief.com>.

## CURRENT TOLL RATES (AS OF JULY 2023)

FACILITY	PASSENGER VEHICLES				HEAVY VEHICLES			
	EZPass		NON EZ PASS		EZPass		NON EZ PASS	
	PEAK*	NON-PEAK	PEAK*	NON-PEAK	PEAK*	NON-PEAK	PEAK*	NON-PEAK
Midtown Tunnel	\$2.77	\$2.10	\$6.95	\$6.28	\$11.08	\$6.28	\$15.26	\$10.46
Downtown Tunnel	\$2.77	\$2.10	\$6.95	\$6.28	\$11.08	\$6.28	\$15.26	\$10.46
Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel	\$18.00	\$14.00	\$18.00	\$14.00	\$21.00 - \$52.00		\$21.00 - \$52.00	
Chesapeake Expressway	\$9.00	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$4.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Coleman Bridge	\$0.85		\$2.00		\$3.00 - \$4.00		\$3.00 - \$4.00	
South Norfolk Jordan Bridge	\$2.99		\$6.95		\$11.35	\$6.65	\$15.55	\$10.85
Veterans Bridge	\$1.41		\$3.41		\$3.53		\$5.53	
I-64 Express Lanes	Variable	-	Variable	-	Not permitted			

Data sources: VDOT, ERC, City of Chesapeake, Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, South Norfolk Jordan Bridge.

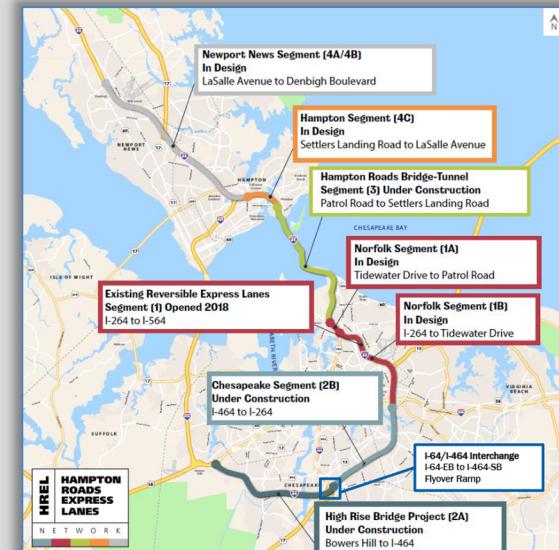
Peak Times: - Downtown and Midtown Tunnel: Monday – Friday from 5:30 am to 9:00 am and 2:30 pm – 7:00 pm.  
- Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel: Friday – Sunday between May 15 and September 15.  
- Chesapeake Expressway: Saturday – Sunday between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

## EXPRESS LANES NETWORK

In 2019, the HRTPO Board adopted a resolution endorsing the Hampton Roads Express Lanes Network as a continuous HOT-2 network (which means those traveling with two or more people can use the lanes for free and those traveling alone can use the lanes if they pay a toll). The resolution indicates that the Network should begin on I-64 at Jefferson Avenue, proceed along I-64 through Bowers Hill and continue along I-664 to I-64 at the Hampton Coliseum. Funding, operation, and use of toll revenues will be managed by HRTAC.

Segment 1 in the Reversible Lanes of I-64 became operational as Express Lanes in 2018, and Segment 2 is expected to become operational in late 2023. Segment 3 is being constructed as part of the HRBT Expansion Project, which is expected to be completed along with Segment 4 and part time shoulders in Segment 1 by 2028.

Information on the Express Lanes Network is available at <https://www.64expresslanes.org>.





Not only have a number of critical projects been completed throughout the region in recent years, but with additional funding being provided through new federal, statewide and regional sources, several major projects are either underway or will soon begin construction.

The list of recently completed roadway projects in Hampton Roads varies greatly in size and type, including constructing new roadways, widening existing roadways, constructing new tunnels, replacing bridges, and smaller projects such as adding turn lanes and traffic signals.

A total of 44 major roadway projects have been completed throughout Hampton Roads since the beginning of 2013. These projects include constructing a new tube at the Midtown Tunnel; replacing the Gilmerton, Lesner, and Steel (Veterans) Bridges; constructing a new railroad overpass into Norfolk International Terminals; improving the I-64/I-264 Interchange, and opening new facilities such as the Intermodal Connector, MLK Freeway Extension, Atkinson Boulevard, Skiffes Creek Connector, and the completion of Lynnhaven Parkway. Many sections of roadway were widened, including I-64 on the Peninsula and the Southside, George Washington Memorial Highway, Military Highway (including a new continuous-flow intersection at Northampton Boulevard), Princess Anne Road, Saunders Road, and Witchduck Road.

## MAJOR ROADWAY PROJECTS COMPLETED IN HAMPTON ROADS, JANUARY 2013 – DECEMBER 2023

FACILITY	LOCATION	IMPROVEMENT TYPE	COMPLETION DATE
Atkinson Boulevard	Warwick Blvd to Jefferson Ave	New 4 lane facility	2020
City Center Boulevard	Warwick Blvd to Jefferson Ave	New 4 lane facility	2015
Coliseum Drive Extension	Hampton Roads Center Pkwy to Butler Farm Rd	New 4 lane facility	2022
Commander Shepard Boulevard	Big Bethel Rd to North Campus Pkwy	New 4 lane facility	2014
Dominion Boulevard	GW Hwy to Cedar Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2017
Dominion Boulevard	Cedar Rd to Great Bridge Blvd	Widen to 4 lanes	2017
Fort Eustis Boulevard	Jefferson Ave to Route 17	Widen to 4 lanes	2012
George Washington Memorial Highway	Hampton Hwy to Wolf Trap Rd	Widen to 6 lanes	2016
Hampton Boulevard	Railroad into Norfolk International Terminals	New overpass	2015
Holland Road	Nimmo Pkwy to Dam Neck Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2018
I-64	Northampton Boulevard	Interchange Improvements	2018
I-64	Norview Ave	Ramp improvement	2013
I-64	Route 199 (Exit 234) to Route 199 (Exit 242)	Widen to 6 lanes	2021
I-64	Route 199 (Exit 242) to Yorktown Rd	Widen to 6 lanes	2019
I-64	Yorktown Road to Bland Boulevard	Widen to 6 lanes	2017
I-64 Express Lanes	Reversible HOV lanes	Conversion to Express Lanes	2018
I-64 Express Lanes	I-264 to I-464	Conversion to Express Lanes	2023
I-64/High Rise Bridge	I-264/I-664 and I-464/Chesapeake Expressway	Widen to 6 lanes	2023
I-64/I-264 Interchange	Phase I	Interchange Improvements	2019
I-64/I-264 Interchange	Phase II	Interchange Improvements	2022
I-664 Northbound	Route 13/58/460 to Dock Landing Road	Widening	2019
Indian River Road	Kempsville Rd	Intersection Redesign	2020
Intermodal Connector	I-564 to Naval Station Norfolk/NIT	New 4 lane facility	2018/2021
Ironbound Road	Strawberry Plains Rd to Longhill Connector Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2013
Longhill Road	Olde Towne Rd to Route 199	Widen to 4 lanes	2023
Lynnhaven Parkway	Centerville Tpk to Indian River Rd	New 4 lane facility	2017
Midtown Tunnel	Between Portsmouth and Norfolk	Widen to 4 lanes	2017
Military Highway	Gilmerton Bridge	Replace Bridge	2013
Military Highway	Lowery Rd to Northampton Blvd	Widen to 8 lanes	2018
Military Highway	Northampton Blvd/Princess Anne Rd	Intersection Redesign	2018
Military Highway	Northampton Blvd to Robin Hood Rd	Widen to 6 lanes	2018
MLK Freeway	I-264 to High St	New 4 lane facility	2016
Nansemond Parkway	Shoulders Hill Rd to Chesapeake CL	Widen to 4 lanes	2018
Nimmo Parkway	Holland Rd to General Booth Blvd	New 4 lane facility	2014
Portsmouth Boulevard	Suffolk CL to Jolliff Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2018
Princess Anne Road	Dam Neck Rd to Nimmo Pkwy	Widen to 4 lanes	2014
Princess Anne Road	General Booth Blvd to Sandbridge Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2022
Route 58	Business Route 58 East of Courtland	New interchange	2018
Saunders Road	Newport News CL to Big Bethel Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2016
Shore Drive	Lesner Bridge	Replace Bridge	2018
Skiffes Creek Connector	Route 60 to Route 143	New 2 lane facility	2022
Tumpike Road	Frederick Blvd to Constitution Ave	Widen to 4 lanes	2018
Wesleyan Drive	Northampton Blvd to Baker Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2013
Witchduck Road	I-264 to Virginia Beach Blvd	Widen to 6 lanes	2021



A number of major roadway projects are currently underway throughout the region. These projects include expanding the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, extending the Hampton Roads Express Lanes Network, and adding a parallel tunnel at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Many other roadway widening and improvement projects are also underway including the Deep Creek Bridge, First Colonial Road, Laskin Road, and Route 58/Holland Road.



LASKIN ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Image Source: VDOT

Upcoming roadway projects throughout Hampton Roads are programmed in VDOT's Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) and HRTPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Examples of roadway projects that are expected to begin construction over the next

## UPCOMING & ONGOING MAJOR ROADWAY PROJECTS IN HAMPTON ROADS

FACILITY	LOCATION	IMPROVEMENT TYPE	PROJECTED COMPLETION
			DATE
Bridge Road	Windward Ln to Harbour View Blvd	Widen to 6 lanes	2027
Centerville Turnpike	Kempsville Rd to Indian River Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2027
Centerville Turnpike	Lynnhaven Pkwy to Kempsville Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2027
Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel	Thimble Shoal Tunnel	Widen to 4 lanes	2027
Cleveland Street	Witchduck Rd to Independence Blvd	Widen to 3 lanes	2028
Croaker Road	Route 60 to Rochambeau Dr	Widen to 4 lanes	2025
Dam Neck Road	Salem Rd to Virginia Beach Amphitheater	Widen to 4 lanes	2029
Elbow Road	Indian River Road to Salem Road	Relocated 4 lane facility	2028
First Colonial Road	Laskin Rd to I-264	Widen to 6 lanes	2024
George Washington Highway	Deep Creek Bridge	Widen to 4 lanes	2026
George Washington Highway	Yadkin Rd to Canal Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2029
George Washington Memorial Highway	Farmwood Rd to Hook Rd	Widen to 6 lanes	2030
George Washington Memorial Highway	Wolf Trap Rd to Old York-Hampton Hwy	Widen to 6 lanes	2029
Godwin Blvd	Suffolk Bypass to Kings Fork Rd	Widen to 6 Lanes	2027
High Street	Churchland Bridge	Replace/Rehabilitate Bridge	2024
Holland Rd	Independence Blvd to South Plaza Trail	Widen to 6 Lanes	2033
Holland Rd	South Plaza Trail to Rosemont Rd	Improve to Superstreet	2032
I-64/Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel	Settlers Landing Rd to I-564	Widen to 6/8 lanes	2027
I-64/Denbigh Interchange		New interchange	2031
I-64/I-464 Interchange		New ramp	2027
I-64 Express Lanes - Segment 1A	Patrol Rd to Tidewater Dr	New shoulder lanes	2026
I-64 Express Lanes - Segment 1B	Tidewater Dr to I-264	New shoulder lanes	2028
I-64 Express Lanes - Segment 4A/4B	Jefferson Ave to LaSalle Ave	Convert HOV to Express Lanes	2026
I-64 Express Lanes - Segment 4C	LaSalle Ave to Settlers Landing Rd	Convert HOV to Express Lanes	2026
Indian River Road	Lynnhaven Pkwy to Elbow Rd	Relocated 4 lane facility	2026
Laskin Road	Fremac Dr to Oriole Dr	Widen to 6 lanes	2024
Laskin Road	Phillip Ave to Republic Rd	Widen to 6 lanes	2033
Laskin Road	Republic Rd to Fremac Dr	Widen to 8 lanes	2024
Little Back River Road	Clemwood Pkwy to Harris Creek Rd	Widen to 3 lanes	2030
Little Back River Road	King St to Clemwood Pkwy	Widen to 3 lanes	2026
Nansemond Parkway	Commonwealth Railway	New underpass	2025
Nike Park Road Extension	Reynolds Dr to Route 17	New 2 lane facility	2025
Nimmo Parkway	Albuquerque Dr to Sandbridge Rd	New 2 Lane Facility	2031
Oyster Point Road	Operations Dr to Jefferson Ave	Widen to 6 Lanes	2030
Rosemont Road	Dam Neck Rd to Lynnhaven Pkwy	Widen to 4 Lanes	2028
Route 58	West of Manning Bridge Rd to Suffolk Bypass	Widen to 6 lanes	2024
Shoulders Hill Road	Pughsville Rd to Bennetts Creek Park Rd	Widen to 4 lanes	2034
Shoulders Hill Road	Bennetts Creek Park Rd to Laycock Ln	Widen to 4 lanes	2032
SPSA Interchange		New Interchange	2026
Victory Boulevard	Route 17 to Hampton Hwy	Widen to 6 lanes	2025
Virginia Beach Boulevard	George St to Newtown Rd	Widen to 6 lanes	2030
Virginia Beach Boulevard	Winburne Ln to George St	Widen to 6 lanes	2030
Wythe Creek Road	Commander Shepard Blvd to Poquoson CL	Widen to 3 lanes	2026
Wythe Creek Road	Hampton CL to Alphus St	Widen to 3 lanes	2026

Data sources: VDOT, HRTPO, various localities. Projected completion date as of July 2023.



six years include constructing the Nike Park Road Extension, improving the I-64/I-464 Interchange, and widening sections of Centerville Turnpike, George Washington Memorial Highway, Indian River Road, Victory Boulevard, and Wythe Creek Road.

More information on programmed roadway improvement projects is included in the SYIP and TIP. VDOT's SYIP can be accessed at <http://syip.virginiadot.org>. HRTPO has a website devoted to the TIP (<http://www.hrtpotip.org>) that includes the TIP document, details on programmed roadway projects, an overview of the TIP development process, and an Interactive Project Map.



## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT)** – After decades of looking at ways to increase roadway capacity across the Hampton Roads Harbor, ground breaking for the widening of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel took place on October 29, 2020. The project will include the addition of twin 2-lane bored tunnels to the west of the existing tunnels and the widening of the adjacent 4-lane segments of the I-64 corridor between I-664 at the Hampton Coliseum and I-564. The project is expected to be complete by early 2027.

More information on the project is available at <http://www.hrbtexpansion.org>.





Hampton Roads continues to be a leader in managing the regional transportation system through transportation operations, which is a cost-effective method of maximizing the safety and capacity of the existing network.

The safety, security, and mobility of roadway users are enhanced by the active management of the regional transportation system. Transportation operations is a cost-effective strategy for improving the transportation network as funding for new roadway construction becomes more competitive and constructing major roadway projects becomes more challenging. Transportation operations involves trained and coordinated personnel managing the system with Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies. Examples of transportation operations include incident management (such as VDOT's Safety Service Patrol), traffic signal coordination, E-Z Pass electronic toll collection, changeable message signs, and traveler information.

In Hampton Roads, the freeway system is managed by the VDOT Eastern Region Transportation Operations Center (TOC). The Eastern Region TOC monitors traffic conditions throughout the region, maintains and operates ITS infrastructure on the regional Interstate system, responds to and clears crashes and other types of incidents with the Safety Service Patrol, and informs travelers of roadway conditions via changeable message signs, highway advisory radio, and the 511 Virginia phone, smartphone app, social media, and other online services.

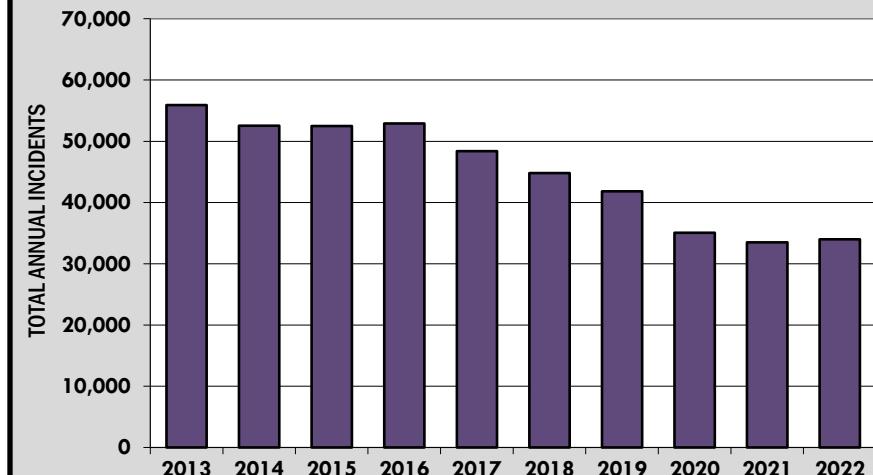
## VDOT EASTERN REGION TOC

The VDOT Eastern Region (Hampton Roads) Transportation Operations Center serves as the backbone for transportation operations in the region. Some facts about the TOC and its Safety Service Patrol:



- Covers **141 miles**, nearly the entire regional Interstate system.
- Includes over **300 closed-circuit cameras, 200 dynamic message signs**, 5 reversible roadway gate entrances, and hundreds of vehicle detection devices, all linked together by fiber optic cable.
- Responded to nearly **34,000 incidents** throughout the region in 2022.

## TOTAL INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO BY THE HAMPTON ROADS TOC SAFETY SERVICE PATROL, 2013-2022





In addition to VDOT's Hampton Roads Transportation Operations Center, most cities in the region maintain their own traffic management centers. These centers operate local traffic signal systems, changeable message signs, and cameras. Data and video can also be shared from these centers.

Another service provided by VDOT to improve mobility is 511 Virginia. 511 Virginia provides real-time traveler information via phone, email, X (formerly Twitter), text message, smartphone app, and the <http://www.511virginia.org> website. 511 Virginia includes information on road conditions, traffic speeds, work zones, camera images, changeable sign messages, weather closures, truck parking, and incidents. Information is also provided on tourist destinations, rest areas, airports, ridesharing, and transit throughout Virginia. Customizable route information is also available.

Traveler information is also provided on many platforms by private sector companies. Examples

## ITS TECHNOLOGIES IN HAMPTON ROADS

Many different Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technologies are in place in Hampton Roads. Nearly every mile of Interstate in the region is instrumented with ITS technologies, and cities throughout the region maintain ITS infrastructure as well. The following are examples of ITS technologies in use throughout Hampton Roads:



### Transportation Operations Centers (TOCs)

Centers that incorporate various ITS technologies to assist staff with traffic monitoring, incident response, and information dissemination.

### Vehicle Detection Devices

Records traffic volumes and speeds. Also notifies TOC staff of congestion and incidents.



### Reversible Roadway Gates

Allows traffic on limited-access roadways to be reversed based on commuting patterns, maximizing the use of the existing roadway.

### Emergency Vehicle Signal Preemption

Changes the traffic signal when emergency vehicles approach, improving safety and response time.



### Advanced Signal Systems

Improves the coordination and timing of traffic signals in a corridor or throughout an entire city, reducing the number of stops and delays.

### Shoulder/Lane Control

Allows the shoulder to be opened to vehicles during peak travel periods.



### CCTV Cameras

Provides roadway images to transportation operations centers and the public.



### Electronic Toll Collection

Allows travelers to pass quickly through toll gantries, avoiding backups due to paying tolls.



### 511 Virginia

Provides up-to-date traveler information via smart phones, the internet, and other methods.



### Changeable Message Signs

Provides up-to-date information to the traveling public.



### Transit Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL)

Provides the location of transit vehicles, aiding on-time performance.



### Highway Advisory Radio

Provides up-to-date traveler information through radio broadcasts on 1680 AM.

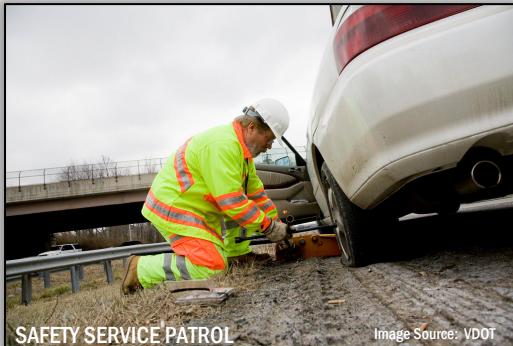


### Overheight Detection

Detects overheight vehicles to prevent damage to the region's tunnels and bridges.



include Google and Bing Maps, INRIX, Waze (which is also available through the 511 Virginia website), and local television and radio stations.



Regional transportation operations planning and coordination is conducted through multiple committees including the Hampton Roads Transportation Operations (HRTO) Subcommittee. The HRTO Subcommittee facilitates peer-to-peer information sharing and advises the HRTPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee on transportation operations issues. HRTO is comprised of professionals from each city, VDOT, transit agencies, the Virginia Port Authority, and other invited participants such as police and fire/EMS personnel. More information on regional operations efforts is available at <http://www.hrtpo.org/page/operations-and-its>.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**VDOT SmarterRoads Data Portal –**  
VDOT launched “[SmarterRoads](#)”, a cloud-based data portal that provides free, widespread access to a wealth of VDOT roadway and transportation information. Current datasets that are available include traffic volumes, crashes, sensors, incidents, sign messages and locations, tolling and trip pricing, weather events, and signal phasing and timing data.

Through the creation of the SmarterRoads portal, VDOT is assisting Connected and Automated Vehicle technology development by sharing operations data with third-party sector businesses, application developers and university partners.

**Crash Reconstruction** – VDOT recently purchased 3 Trimble Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) units to assist with fatal motor vehicle crash investigations in Hampton Roads. These units, which are included on VDOT Incident Management Coordinator trucks, greatly improve incident clearance times by reducing the setup time and the number of people required to operate the crash reconstruction equipment. In 2021, the average on-scene time while using the GNSS equipment was 1.6 hours per incident less than using the previous equipment, resulting in improved safety at the crash scene and reduced congestion.

Dataset	Description
Average Daily Traffic	Listing of each interstate and primary highway that estimates the average traffic on any given week day.
Crashes	Motor vehicle crash data that compiling all reportable accidents (crashes) that involve a fatality, injury or property damage of at least \$1,500.
Districts	Boundaries of the nine VDOT districts.
Dynamic Message Signs (Active)	Information on the location and the current (active) messages of all active Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) across the state.
Dynamic Message Signs (All)	Locations and current messages of all Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) across the state, regardless of being active or not.
Full Crash Data	Full crash data.
Map Data (MAP)	Intersection information, including the location of lanes and which signal group controls the movement of each lane. Provides opportunities for safety, mobility and environment applications.
Paving Schedules	Status of all pavement projects across the state. Pavement status is tracked by projects and are color coded to show status.
Road Construction	Road construction projects included in the annual Six Year Improvement Program that outlines the planned spending for proposed transportation projects for construction development or study for the next six years.
Signal Data: Controller Configuration	Site/intersection configuration file, including information on location, detectors, and phases.





Through a number of national, statewide, and regional efforts, the air quality of Hampton Roads has improved over the last decade, and is better than the air quality in all other comparable metropolitan areas.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the amount of airborne pollutants in each region. These airborne pollutants come from a variety of stationary sources such as factories and power plants, and mobile sources such as passenger cars, trucks, trains, and ships.

Ground-level ozone and other pollutants are measured in Hampton Roads at three ambient air quality stations maintained and monitored by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). These stations are located in Downtown Hampton, the Holland community in Suffolk, and the Tidewater Community College campus site in Northern Suffolk.

Each metropolitan area is designated as being in attainment or non-attainment of federal ozone air quality standards based on the amount of ground-level ozone recorded at monitoring stations and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. EPA determines these designations based on an eight-hour standard, under which violations are determined using the fourth-highest daily maximum eight-hour average ozone concentration over the course of the year, averaged over a three-year period. According to EPA regulations, if an area is in non-attainment, the area's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) must conduct emissions modeling to ensure conformity with the state's air quality plan.

## NOTABLE AIR QUALITY NUMBERS

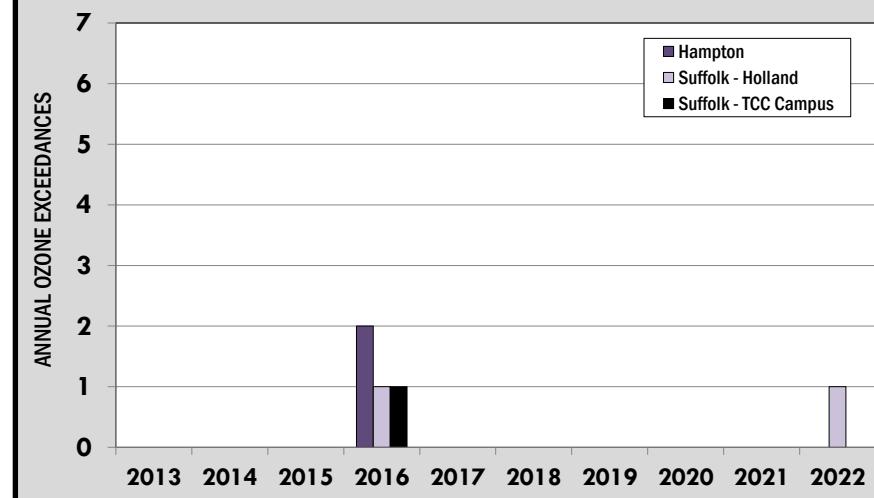
1

The number of eight hour ozone exceedances at Hampton Roads air quality monitoring stations in 2022.

1st

Hampton Roads rank, among the 41 large metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people, in terms of the best fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour ozone averages in 2022.

## EIGHT HOUR OZONE EXCEEDANCES AT REGIONAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS, 2013-2022



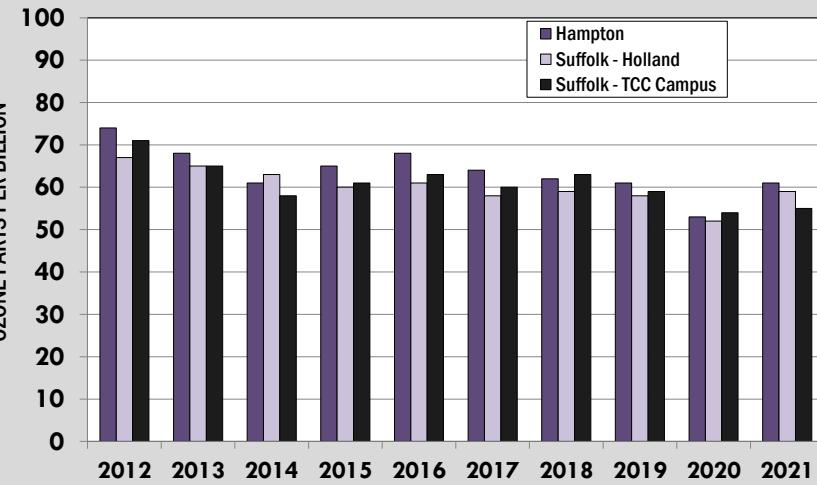


Prior to 2008, regions were classified as non-attainment if the fourth-highest eight-hour ozone averages were greater than 84 parts per billion (ppb) at any of the regional monitoring stations over a three-year period. This standard was lowered to 75 ppb in 2008. In 2015, EPA revised ozone standard levels down to 70 ppb, based on a review of scientific research on ozone's effects on public health. The lower standards took effect in 2017, using the previous three-year (2014-2016) ozone data.

In Hampton Roads, the 2019-2021 three-year ozone averages at the three monitoring stations were between 56 and 58 ppb, all below the 70 ppb threshold. Based on these readings, Hampton Roads is currently designated as an ozone attainment/maintenance area.

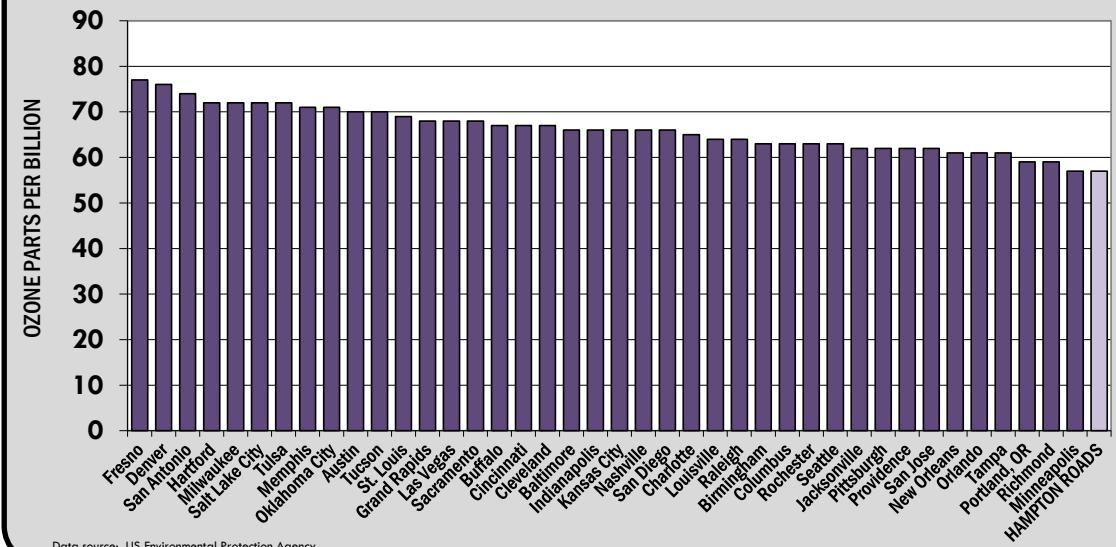
The air quality in Hampton Roads is better than the air quality in all other comparable metropolitan areas based on the eight-hour ozone standard. The fourth-highest eight-hour ozone level was 57 ppb in Hampton Roads in 2022 according to EPA data, which ranked the region best among the 41 large metropolitan areas with populations between one and four million people.

## FOURTH-HIGHEST DAILY MAXIMUM 8-HOUR OZONE AVERAGES IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2012-2021



Data source: Virginia DEQ.

## FOURTH-HIGHEST DAILY MAXIMUM 8-HOUR OZONE AVERAGES IN LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS, 2022



Data source: US Environmental Protection Agency.

# NATIONAL RANKING SUMMARY

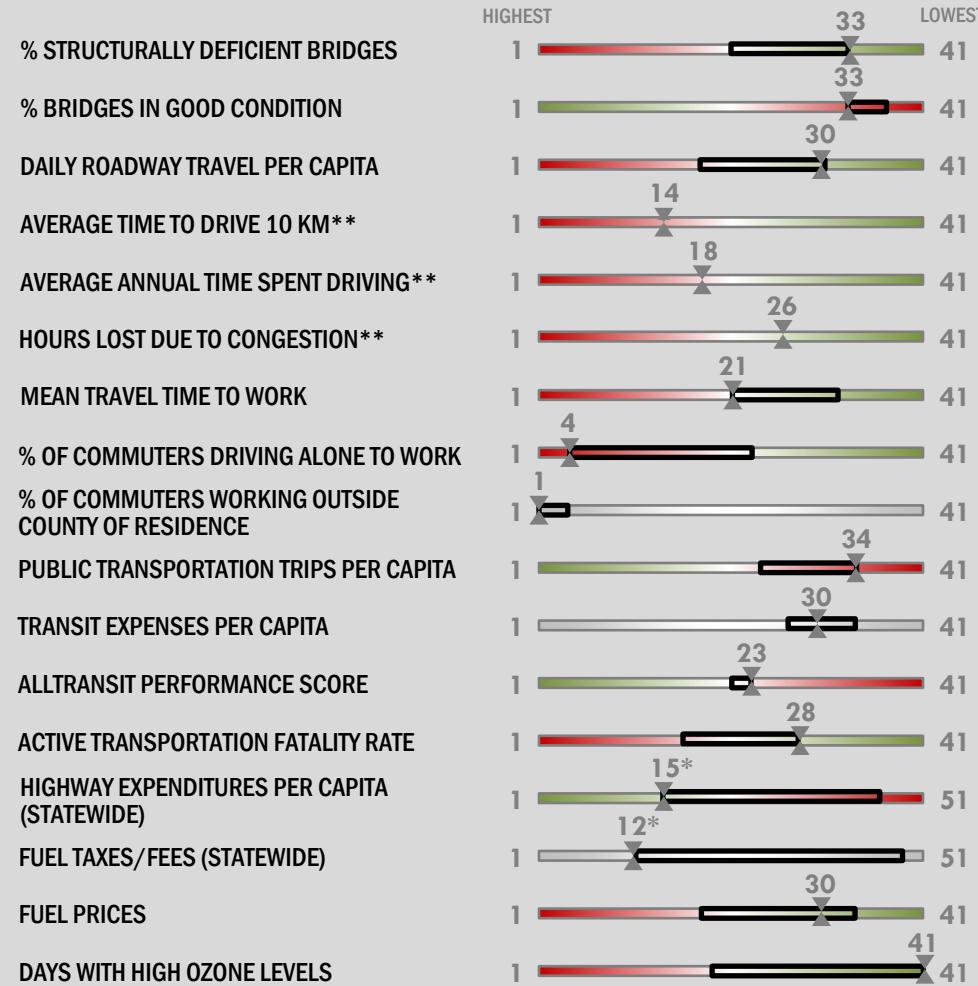


In many sections of this report, Hampton Roads is compared to other large metropolitan areas throughout the United States with populations between one and four million people. Many of these 40 other metropolitan areas have similar transportation issues to the Hampton Roads area, from congestion to funding shortfalls.

The figure to the right summarizes where Hampton Roads ranks in various transportation measures compared to the other large metropolitan areas, or in some cases where Virginia ranks compared to other states, based on the most recent data available. In addition, the range in Hampton Roads rank over the last decade is indicated by black boxes for each measure with a decade of available data.

Measures for which Hampton Roads ranks in the “green” indicate the region fares better than most of the comparable large metropolitan areas, whereas measures for which Hampton Roads is in the “red” indicate the region fares worse than the comparable areas.

## HAMPTON ROADS CURRENT RANK AMONG LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS



\*Statewide Ranking \*\*New Measure



The information provided in this report was compiled from a variety of sources. Data from each section of the report can be accessed from the locations described below for additional information:

**Air Travel** – The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) updates air passenger data for both the nation and individual airports at [http://www.faa.gov/airports/planning\\_capacity/passenger\\_allcargo\\_stats/passenger](http://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/passenger_allcargo_stats/passenger). Further information on airfares and capacity is available at <http://www.transtats.bts.gov>. Passenger data is also provided by each of the Hampton Roads airports at <http://www.norfolkairport.com> and <http://www.flyphf.com>.

**Port Data** – The Virginia Port Authority maintains up-to-date statistics regarding the Port of Virginia on their website <http://www.portofvirginia.com>. The Virginia Maritime Association also maintains extensive information regarding all aspects of the port. Their website is <http://www.vamaritime.com>. National port activity information is collected by the American Association of Port Authorities and is available at <http://wwwAAPA-ports.org>.

**Rail Travel** – Amtrak maintains a list of passenger volumes by station at their website <https://www.amtrak.com/state-fact-sheets>. Information regarding Virginia ridership and rail improvements is available from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation at <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov> and the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority at <https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/resources/ridership-reports>.

**Bridges** – VDOT maintains information on their website regarding most bridges throughout Virginia. This information is available at <http://www.virginiadot.org/info/Bridge.asp>.

**Pavement Condition** – VDOT releases pavement condition data on an annual basis as part of the State of the Pavement report. This report is available at [http://www.virginiadot.org/info/state\\_of\\_the\\_pavement.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/info/state_of_the_pavement.asp).

**Roadway Usage** – The Highway Statistics Series contains data on motor fuel, motor vehicles, driver licensing, highway finance, highway mileage, and federal aid for highways. The reports are released annually by the Federal Highway Administration and are located at <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics.cfm>.

VDOT also releases roadway usage data on an annual basis for every Virginia jurisdiction. This data is available at <http://www.virginiadot.org/info/ct-TrafficCounts.asp>.

**Congestion** – TomTom prepares an analysis annually to describe regional congestion levels. More information is located at [https://www.tomtom.com/en\\_us/traffic-index](https://www.tomtom.com/en_us/traffic-index).

The Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) at Texas A&M University releases the Urban Mobility Report, a study of mobility and traffic congestion on freeways and major streets in urbanized areas. The report is located at <http://mobility.tamu.edu>.

FHWA publishes the Urban Congestion Report, which details mobility and traffic congestion levels in urbanized areas throughout the country. The report is located at [https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/perf\\_measurement/ucr](https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/perf_measurement/ucr).

**Commuting** – The Bureau of the Census annually collects and distributes socioeconomic data via the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS includes commuting characteristics data for each city and region. Data from the American Community Survey is available at <https://data.census.gov>.



The Accessibility Observatory at the University of Minnesota regularly produces the Access Across America report. These reports estimate the accessibility to jobs by automobile, walking, biking, and public transportation for each of the 11 million census blocks in the country. The Access Across America reports are available at <http://access.umn.edu>.

**Roadway Safety** – The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) annually releases the Virginia Traffic Crash Facts document, which is a comprehensive overview of traffic crashes occurring throughout Virginia. The DMV also maintains crash query and mapping tools on their website. These documents and crash tools are located at [https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/safety/#crash\\_data/index.asp](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/safety/#crash_data/index.asp).

**Truck Travel** – VDOT releases truck travel data on an annual basis for every Virginia jurisdiction. This data is available at <http://www.virginiadot.org/info/ct-TrafficCounts.asp>.

**Public Transportation** – The Federal Transit Administration releases data on public transportation via the National Transit Database (NTD) program. The NTD is located at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/ntd>. The American Public Transportation Association also includes transit data on their website at <http://www.apta.com>. HRT and WATA also include public transportation statistics on their websites at <http://www.gohrt.com> and <http://www.gowata.org>.

AllTransit provides information on the performance of transit for each metropolitan area. More information on AllTransit is available at <http://alltransit.cnt.org>.

**Bike and Pedestrian Facilities** – A wide variety of information regarding bicycling and walking in Virginia is provided by VDOT at <http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/bikeped/default.asp>. The DMV also maintains bicyclist and pedestrian crash data at [https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/safety/#crash\\_data/index.asp](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/safety/#crash_data/index.asp).

**Transportation Financing** – Information regarding transportation financing in Virginia is available at <http://www.virginiadot.org> and <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov>. A list of fuel taxes and fees by state is available on the American Petroleum Institute website <http://www.api.org>.

**Fuel Prices** – National, statewide, and regional fuel prices are available via AAA at <http://gasprices.aaa.com>.

**Roadway Projects** – Information regarding transportation projects in Virginia's Six-Year Improvement Program is available at <http://syip.virginiadot.org>. HRTPO maintains the regional Transportation Improvement Program, which can be accessed at <http://www.hrtpotip.org>.

**Transportation Operations** – VDOT maintains ITS infrastructure and manages traffic on the regional freeway system. More information is available at <http://www.virginiadot.org>.

**Air Quality** – Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality maintains information regarding national air quality standards and regional air quality data. Their website is <https://www.deq.virginia.gov>. National air quality information is available from the Environmental Protection Agency's website at <http://www.epa.gov>.

For additional information regarding this report, Congestion Management Process studies, or other transportation questions or concerns, please contact:

Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization  
723 Woodlake Drive  
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320  
757.420.8300  
<http://www.hrtpo.org>

# PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

As part of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization's (HRTPO) efforts to provide opportunities for the public and stakeholders to review and comment on this draft report prior to the final product being published, a public review period was conducted from November 1, 2023, through December 1, 2023. The following public comment was received.

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**From:** Vic Nicholls  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 10:43 PM  
**To:** Keith Nichols <knichols@hrtpo.org>  
**Subject:** HR State of Transportation 2023

Good morning,

After reading the report a few items:

- 1) Uncontrolled growth from cities looking for tax dollars is why page 25 has 5.5% growth that is higher than the population growth at 2.5%.
- 2) Page 28's stats of losing 15 hours due to congestion in 2022 and we being the 26th highest, needs to be stressed to cities that refuse to stop overbuilding.
- 3) Page 30 and jobs that can be worked from home, helped the most of all items. 76% of commuters drove alone in 2022 because of work times, family commitments, no one else in the area close by to commute with, all issues that can't be solved by trying to force buses.
- 4) Stressing page 32 that only 1% or less of all jobs are reachable within 30 min by public transit, biking and walking, needs to be stressed to cities.

5) Page 38 with 22K trucks using the roads is a big problem. When it keeps increasing every year, until we put some restrictions on them, especially on highways, this is going to be an issue.

6) Page 39 should have a huge fine on these truckers that try to go thru the tunnel when they're too big and everything has to be stopped to get them to turn around.

7) It should be noted to govt. that public transit decreases because of the lack of service.

8) Page 47 shows all cities but Chesapeake appear to not have a committee of some sort for active transportation.

I did read thru to the end. It says that No public comments were received from 11/1/23 to 12/1/23. These are mine.

Vic Nicholls