

AGENDA ITEM #8: MT-DT-MLK BEFORE AND AFTER STUDY

SUBJECT:

A briefing on the HRTPO MT-DT-MLK Before and After Study.

BACKGROUND:

The HRTPO staff is currently working on the MT-DT-MLK Before and After Study, which contains two parts:

Part A - HRTPO staff Before and After Traffic Analysis Study

The HRTPO staff plans on completing a before and after study in FY 2015 to determine traffic impacts resulting from tolling the Midtown Tunnel and Downtown Tunnel (expected to begin February 1, 2014). In preparation, HRTPO staff has collected numerous photos/videos as well as peak hour travel time runs (Fall 2012 and Fall 2013) to document “before” travel conditions for existing traffic queues and congestion at key locations – Midtown Tunnel, Downtown Tunnel and I-64/High Rise Bridge. Staff plans on collecting similar data to document “after” travel conditions at the same locations in FY 2015. In addition, staff plans on assisting local jurisdictions re-time traffic signals along key corridors that are anticipated to be impacted by the tolls.

Part B – Commuter Toll Pattern Before and After Survey

Tolling begins at both the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels, on February 1, 2014. The tolls for these tunnels will be collected using the E-ZPass system, without traditional toll booths.

HRTPO staff is currently working with Christopher Newport University (CNU) to develop a scope of work to conduct a two-part Commuter Toll Pattern Survey in order to assess motorists’ familiarity with the toll and their anticipated behavior in response to the initiation of tolls on February 1, 2014. This first part of the survey would be conducted prior to the initiation of tolls on February 1, 2014. The second part of the survey would focus on motorists’ actual commuting behaviors and response after the tolls have commenced.

The results of this survey will provide a baseline of commuter behavior in response to tolling in Hampton Roads. At the January 16, 2014 HRTPO Board meeting, HRTPO staff will recommend the HRTPO Board approve the Cooperative Service Agreement with CNU to conduct the Commuter Toll Pattern Survey.

Mr. Dwight Farmer, Executive Director, will brief CTAC on this item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.