

ITEM #15: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public are invited to address the HRTPO Board. Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

ITEM #16: SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no submitted public comments. Any written public comments received after the preparation of this agenda will be distributed as a handout at the meeting.

ITEM #17: TRANSCRIBED PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS HRTPO MEETING

The transcribed public comments from the November 16, 2017 HRTPO Board meeting are attached.

Attachment 17

**Transcribed Public Comments from the
November 16, 2017 HRTPO Board Meeting**

*The views and opinions expressed during the public comment period
do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the HRTPO.*

Two people requested to address the HRTPO Board at the November 16, 2017 Meeting. Chair Shepperd asked them to limit their comments to three minutes.

***Ms. Donna Sayegh
Portsmouth Citizen***

Good morning. My name is Donna Sayegh, and I live in Portsmouth. On the agenda item number fifteen, Mr. Case just gave a report on moving the economy. How well the transportation system of Hampton Roads serves three key economic sectors, the port, the military and hospitality. I was trying to find the report of this information on the website so I could talk about it, but I couldn't find any information. The information in the agenda states that the study was to determine how well the transportation system of Hampton Roads helps support the military and the ability to receive guests. The transportation for the Port's economy is the trucking industry. The Virginia Port Authority pushed Portsmouth to have our city burdened with tunnel tolls from the thirty percent that are paying taxes and overpasses so trucks can get onto the interstate directly from the port with the failure of the state to place a traffic signal on High Street at the off ramp of the MLK road. The Port is also pushing for the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel to be expanded to allow the trucks to keep moving too. Our transportation system expansion is motivated by the state and federal governments to get more money in its banks to control the people to do its bidding. The state and the federal government is dictating to have all these transportation projects yet this board has made no effort to obtain state and federal money to support the building of these transportation projects. The military had their own transportation methods. Portsmouth doesn't have any hospitality sectors in our city. Virginia Beach has the hospitality sector so the recommendations they made created a change in the report. Your accounting must have had a hospitality sector, because they requested a change to the report. So what did VDOT and the Port of Virginia need to change? Anything regarding the Port and VDOT and the transportation system needs to have a representative come to our monthly Portsmouth Port and Industrial committee meeting on a monthly schedule to give our city's representative knowledge about the decisions being considered at this table. They meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 8 a.m. at the City Hall building. In fact, the representative of the CTAC committee needs to come to the meeting and give a report on the decisions made by their members. Please remember, we the people are the government. You need to come to us, not we come to you. Thanks for listening. I'm tired of being left out of the communication line. We have our local government that we need to have representatives at our table.

***John Gergley
Newport News Citizen***

I'll be real short. Mayors, HOT lanes are going to hurt your most vulnerable constituents. Your couple bucks a day to a commuter, to a McDonald's, or Walmart employee to have a few more minutes home with the kids is a lot harder for them to come by than any of you. For the Military, the same thing goes for your young enlisted people and your junior officers. A couple of bucks a day is a lot more for them than it is to you guys. So I think you really need to look at how you're hurting your most vulnerable, your younger, your less employees that don't make as much money, how you're going to hurt them with these HOT lanes. Thank you.