

**ITEM #10: I-64 HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE (HOV) TO HIGH OCCUPANCY TOLL (HOT)
SOUTHSIDE CONVERSION STUDY: *Secretary Aubrey Layne***

SUMMARY:

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIP), is seeking to include staff from the HRTPO to conduct a feasibility study concerning the potential conversion of HOV to HOT lanes along two sections of I-64 on the Southside.

Aubrey L. Layne, Jr., Secretary of Transportation, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item.

BACKGROUND:

Hampton Roads commuters and visitors are faced with significant congestion at the region's water crossings and along I-64. While HRTAC is diligently working to develop financing plans for these regional priority projects, other low-cost solutions should be considered concurrently.

One such solution to the congestion is the potential conversion of HOV to HOT lanes to better utilize the existing capacity of the corridor. In Northern Virginia, the Commonwealth has converted the existing I-95 HOV lanes to HOT lanes and analysis has shown that the average morning weekday northbound travel times have decreased by approximately 20%.

This study would be funded by the OIP and is divided into two separate inter-related studies. The studies would include:

- Analysis of the 7 miles of two-lane reversible HOV lanes from I-564 to I-264.
- Analysis of the 6.5 miles of dual direction one-lane HOV lanes from I-264 to Battlefield Boulevard.
- Feasibility of converting HOV to HOT lanes.
- Potential benefits of the HOV to HOT conversion.
- Planning level cost estimates of the conversion.
- Planning level construction schedule for the HOV to HOT conversion.
- Anticipated time to complete the two studies is between six and nine months.

A letter to The Honorable Linda T. Johnson, Chair HRTPO Board, from Secretary Aubrey L. Layne Jr., outlining the I-64 HOV to HOT Southside Conversion Study is attached.

Attachment 10

RECOMMENDED ACTION (Action to be taken under Meeting Agenda Item 17):

Endorse the I-64 HOV to HOT Southside Conversion Study and designate HRTPO staff to work on the study.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.
Secretary of Transportation

December 14, 2015

The Honorable Linda T. Johnson
Chair
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Dear Chair Johnson:

As you know, transportation is a critical issue facing Hampton Roads. Commuters and visitors face significant congestion at the region's water crossings and along Interstate 64.

Much of the discussion in the region about addressing transportation issues is focused on major projects that cost hundreds of millions to billions of dollars and take years to plan, design and build. While I believe the focus on identifying the next water crossing that will be improved is appropriate, there are other solutions that should be considered concurrently.

The Hampton Roads region has 32 miles of high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes both on the Peninsula and on Southside. These lanes are under-utilized and offer an opportunity to provide new travel choices to commuters, improve reliability and reduce congestion in all lanes. As you may know, in Northern Virginia the Commonwealth has converted the existing I-95 HOV lanes to high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes. The I-95 Express Lanes opened one year ago and analysis shows that they have reduced the average morning weekday northbound travel times in the general-purpose lanes by approximately 20%.

As the region is currently considering enhancements to the High Rise Bridge that may include HOT lanes, now is the time to study whether the existing HOV lanes that connect with the High Rise Bridge should be converted to HOT lanes. These conversions have the potential to provide low-cost solutions that can quickly provide benefits to the region.

I am writing to ask that you designate staff from the Transportation Planning Organization to coordinate with the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment on two separate but inter-related studies – (i) analysis of the 7 miles of two-lane reversible HOV lanes from I-564 to I-264, and (ii) analysis of the 6.5 miles of dual direction one-lane HOV lanes from I-264 to Battlefield Boulevard.

Each of the two studies would be funded by the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, and would examine the following:

- Feasibility of converting the existing HOV lanes to HOT lanes;
- Potential benefits of the HOV to HOT conversion;
- Planning level cost estimates of such conversions; and,
- Planning level construction schedule for the HOV to HOT conversion.

I anticipate that these two studies will take between 6 to 9 months to complete.

If you would like to discuss these studies in more detail please contact Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation and Director of the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, at (804) 786-8032 or nick.donohue@governor.virginia.gov.

Thank you for your interest in improving transportation in Hampton Roads.

Sincerely,



Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.

COPY:

Members, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
Members, Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission
Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation
Bob Crum, Executive Director, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
Kevin Page, Executive Director, Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission
Jim Utterback, Hampton Roads District Administrator, VDOT