

ITEM #14: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

ITEM #15: 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 #16: TRANSCRIBED PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS HRTPO MEETING

The transcribed public comments from the November 19, 2015 HRTPO Board meeting are attached.

Attachment 16

Transcribed Public Comments from the
November 19, 2015 HRTPO Board Meeting

One person requested to address the HRTPO Board at the November 19, 2015 Meeting. Chair Johnson asked him to limit his comments to three minutes.

Mr. Ellis W. James
Norfolk Citizen

Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the TPO. About these lanes -- oh, now that I have your attention. No disrespect to my friend. My name is Ellis W. James. I'm a lifelong resident of Norfolk, and I have been driving on the roads of the Commonwealth, especially in the Hampton Roads area, for 63 years, and because I have that experience and also being a graduate of the University of Common Sense, I want to bring something to your attention. There's a nice little letter from the City of Poquoson that went to Director Crum, and I want to read you one brief paragraph. "Dear Mr. Crum, this is to notify you that the Poquoson City Council at its November 6, 2015 meeting, unanimously voted to endorse the City of Hampton's 2016 Legislative request that the State Code be amended to add a section entitled Flood Prevention in No Wake Zones." Now, having sat here this morning since 9:35, we've covered a lot of territory, but I'm here to suggest to you this is an extremely important item. I will give you one brief eyewitness testimony to back it up. In the City of Norfolk, we have a lot of flooding. For those of you who have not found out about it, sea rise is beginning to impact us all over the place, especially in Hampton Roads. But there are cities and counties where when flooding does occur, the big trucks, the SUVs, and the people who don't know what slow down -- there's high water ahead means, are creating serious problems. In my City, Norfolk, they come flying down off of the Hampton Boulevard bridge and they completely block the safe driving view of residents trying to get through the flooded area. Somebody's going to get killed out there. I've been out there and watched it. It is not funny, and I have asked my city to please address the issue temporarily by putting up signs, slow down, speed limit whatever, high water ahead and so on. But in the meantime, we need this change to the State Regs, and each one of the communities have been asked by Randall Wheeler, I believe. Is that correct, Mr. Crum? I hope.

MR. CRUM: Yes, it is.

MR. JAMES: Each of the communities has been asked to get on board to try to get this amendment added to the Code of Virginia, and I would urge you personally to do it. There are people hurting; there are older drivers who hit the panic button when they can't see. They're younger drivers who do the same thing.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. James, your time is up.

MR. JAMES: I would urge you to support this effort and make the effort with your legislators. Thank you, Madam Chair.