

AGENDA ITEM #7: HAMPTON ROADS PASSENGER RAIL STUDY – PHASE 2B DRAFT REPORT

SUBJECT:

The Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Vision Plan Alternatives Analysis Draft Report is now completed and is ready for public review and comment.

BACKGROUND:

During FY 2011, in the interest of improving the region's potential for passenger rail service, the HRTPO retained the services of Transportation Economics & Management Systems, Inc. (TEMS). The work of TEMS has resulted in the completion of the following: Preliminary Vision Plan (Phase 1), Blueprint Study (Phase 1B), and Data Collection (Phase 2A).

With the completion of the Data Collection report, work began in March 2013 on the Passenger Rail Alternatives Analysis (Phase 2B). The focus of this study is to develop the financial and business plan evaluation of the Norfolk-Richmond-Washington, DC High-Speed Corridor, in line with the program set out in the Blueprint Study (Phase 1B).

The Draft Phase 2B report has been completed by TEMS, and Task Force comments are requested in advance of HRTPO Board review in March 2014. The report will be made available to the public on the HRTPO website and transmitted directly to Task Force members in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Alexander E. Metcalf of TEMS will brief the Passenger Rail Task force on the Phase 2B Draft Report.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review the Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Vision Plan Alternative Analysis Draft Report and provide comments to HRTPO staff (cwichman@hrtpo.org) by Thursday, February 27, 2014.