

ITEM #12: REGIONAL PROCLAMATION: *Bob Crum, HRTPO*

SUMMARY:

The Hampton Roads region, through a Proclamation of Regional Consensus, is requesting the assistance of the State and Federal Governments to secure funding for the completion of critical infrastructure to support the Hampton Roads economy.

Mr. Bob Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item.

BACKGROUND:

Attached for the Board's review is a Proclamation of Regional Consensus from the Hampton Roads region, the goal of which is to promote regional collaboration among partner organizations in support of important regional initiatives. The proclamation requests the assistance from the region's State and Federal delegations for the following projects:

- Completion of improvements to Interstate 64 from Hampton Roads to Richmond
- Improving passenger rail service from Hampton Roads to Richmond, and the emerging northeast passenger rail corridor
- Completion of dredging to deepen and widen the region's harbor channel to support post-Panamax container ships, while maintaining safe and secure mobility of Navy and Coast Guard assets.

Several regional organizations have approved or plan to approve the attached proclamation including the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance, Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, Hampton Roads Chamber, Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Shipbuilders Association, Reinvent Hampton Roads, Opportunity, Inc., and the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development.

The projects included in the proclamation are consistent with the HRPDC and HRTPO legislative agendas and represent projects critical to the health of the regional economy. The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission voted to approve the Regional Proclamation at its January 19, 2017 meeting.

Attachment 12

RECOMMENDED ACTION (Action to be taken under Meeting Agenda Item #19-D):

Approve the Proclamation of Regional Consensus.

**A Proclamation of Regional Consensus
From the Hampton Roads Region
Requesting the Assistance of the State and Federal Governments
to Secure Funding for the Completion of Critical Infrastructure
to Support the Hampton Roads Economy**

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Region plays a critical role in support of the east coast and national economy through the location of the Port of Virginia, with nearly 23 international shipping lines offering direct, dedicated service with connections to 100 plus countries, and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Region plays a key national security role and is home to 24 military installations, including the largest naval base in the world, and approximately 145,000 highly trained uniformed and civil service Department of Defense personnel, and

WHEREAS, almost 20 percent of all shipbuilding and repair in the United States occurs in Hampton Roads, with the federal government responsible for the vast majority of this work, and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Region's coastal setting and nationally significant historic sites provide unparalleled tourism opportunities that fuel the Commonwealth of Virginia's hospitality industry and offer tourism destinations for national and international visitors, and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Region is an important part of the emerging Urban Crescent and requires transportation connections to this emerging economic corridor to support its national defense and economic assets, and develop a diverse and prosperous economy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Region stands united in requesting assistance from its State and Federal delegations to complete the following projects that are critical to the future of the Region and the nation's economy and national security:

- Completion of improvements to Interstate 64 from Hampton Roads to Richmond, connecting the aforementioned regional assets to the Interstate 95 corridor.
- Improved passenger rail service from Hampton Roads to Richmond, and the emerging northeast passenger rail corridor.
- Completion of dredging to deepen and widen the Region's harbor channel to support post-Panamax container ships, while maintaining safe and secure mobility of Navy and Coast Guard assets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the undersigned parties stand ready to develop regional consensus and support around other measures that will strengthen the quality of life and regional economy of Hampton Roads.

Agreed to by the following government, business and nonprofit leaders of the Hampton Roads Region: