

**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 February 15, 2018 HRTPO Board meeting are attached.

Attachment 16

**Transcribed Public Comments from the  
February 15, 2018 HRTPO Board Meeting**

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

One person requested to address the HRTPO Board at the February 15, 2018 Meeting. Chair Shepperd asked them to limit their comments to three minutes.

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

Good afternoon, my name is Donna Sayegh and I live in Portsmouth. One of the major needs in Portsmouth is a line of communication with the government, elected, appointed, and staff members. Our local organizational chart demonstrates this communication disconnect. Therefore, there's a disconnect of communication from the participants on the regional boards and commission meetings. Let's remember, Portsmouth is a divided city with eight annexations over the course of its history. The end result of these annexations has created three distinct areas: Downtown, Midtown, and Churchland. The favorite area is downtown because that area has a couple of strong civic leagues that play on the heritage of downtown Portsmouth. That means if an individual lives in the other two areas, shame on him or her for not living downtown. Then the individual will not be part of their clique. This type of thinking then affects the kind of local governments we have. This kind of mentality travels up to the regional government meetings as well. The communication line does not include all of the people having an opportunity to know what's going on happen at these regional meetings until we get the agenda today. We have a port and industrial commission meeting monthly. Many times the meeting is canceled for not having any information to talk about. We have a port that is a major business in Portsmouth. We have a shipyard with no representation at the table locally or regionally. The representatives give a report here about the port, but this report needs to come to Portsmouth people before it gets here. The people have HRT running buses in our city. We also need a representative sitting on our port commission to keep the people informed on the number of people riding the buses and the details regarding that. After all, we the people have a representative that sits on this board. There were some legitimate bills that could have been brought to our port commission at the time of planning. There are many opportunities for communication that are being overlooked because of lack of structure to allow for it. I don't want this regional government to take over the people's right to know or their right and duty to self-govern. Let's remember principles of Liberty 10. The God given right to govern is vested in the sovereign authority of the whole people and 21 strong local self-government is the keystone to preserving human freedom. Many people's rights and duties are being denied so we, the people, are no longer free. Thanks for listening.