

ITEM #12: RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE HAMPTON ROADS EXPRESS LANES NETWORK AS COMPONENT OF REGIONAL PRIORITY PROJECTS
[Action Requested]
Michael S. Kimbrel, HRTPO

During the HRTPO Board meeting on October 17, 2019, the Board adopted a resolution endorsing the Hampton Roads Regional Express Lanes Network as a consistent HOT-2 network beginning on I-64 at Jefferson Avenue in Newport News, proceeding along I-64 through Bowers Hill in Chesapeake and continuing along I-664 to I-64 in the vicinity of the Hampton Coliseum. The resolution stipulated that funding, operation, and use of toll revenues of the Express Lanes Network be managed by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) through the Master Tolling Agreement.

Analyses presented by HRTPO staff demonstrated that a consistent Express Lanes Network would provide a perpetual option for a dependable and reliable trip – helping to ensure the congestion relief benefits of the Regional Priority Projects over the long term. Accordingly, HRTPO staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution that:

- Identifies and adopts the Regional Express Lanes Network as a component of the Regional Priority Projects to collectively provide the greatest impact on reducing congestion for the greatest number of citizens residing in Hampton Roads, and
- Requests that HRTAC pursue development of a funding, development, and implementation plan for the Express Lanes Network to be advanced by HRTAC based on project readiness.
- Directs HRTPO staff to amend the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to incorporate the Express Lanes Network as part of the Regional Priority Projects and address fiscal constraint, as necessary.

Mr. Michael Kimbrel, HRTPO Deputy Executive Director, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item.

Attachment 12: HRTPO Board Resolution 2020-04

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Resolution.



**HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD RESOLUTION 2020-04**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
ENDORING I-64 REGIONAL EXPRESS LANES AS A COMPONENT OF THE REGIONAL
PRIORITY PROJECTS.**

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) identified a suite of Regional Priority Projects from the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and submitted those projects to the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) for funding from, among other sources, moneys associated with the Hampton Roads Transportation Fund (HRTF); and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the HRTPO and HRTAC, in accordance with Code of Virginia Title 33.2, Chapter 26, § 33.2-2600, that HRTF moneys be used to fund projects that are expected to provide the greatest impact on reducing congestion for the greatest number of citizens residing in Hampton Roads; and

WHEREAS, the HRTPO and HRTAC recognize that the Regional Priority Projects are part of an integrated network and desire, where practicable, to optimize the delivery of congestion relief throughout the network; and

WHEREAS, the HRTPO staff conducted a travel demand modeling analysis with a baseline scenario that assumed all of the additional roadway capacity resulting from the I-64 Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Expansion project and the I-64 Southside Widening and High Rise Bridge project would be operated as general purpose (free, unrestricted) lanes, and that existing managed (High Occupancy Vehicle and High Occupancy/Toll) lanes would continue to operate in their current, inconsistent configuration; and

WHEREAS, the HRTPO staff analysis indicated that under the baseline scenario users of the Interstate system in Hampton Roads would experience significant congestion at a number of locations along the I-64 corridor, including at the improved Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel and the improved High Rise Bridge, by the year 2040; and

WHEREAS, the HRTPO staff and Virginia Department of Transportation staff have provided analyses demonstrating that (a) a consistent Express Lanes Network (contiguous and in each traffic direction), comprised of High Occupancy/Toll (HOT) lanes along I-64 from Jefferson Avenue in Newport News to Bowers Hill in Chesapeake would provide an option for a dependable and reliable trip for High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV), public transit vehicles, and non-HOV users willing to pay a toll, and (b) motorists opting to use the Express Lanes would help ease congestion in the general purpose lanes and, thus, optimize the congestion relief delivered through that network; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2019, the HRTPO adopted a resolution endorsing, subject to certain policy guidelines as to the basis of design and operation of the network, the Hampton Roads Regional Express Lanes Network as a consistent HOT-2 network (contiguous and in each traffic direction) on I-64 from Jefferson Avenue in Newport News, proceeding along I-64 through Bowers Hill in Chesapeake and continuing along I-664 to I-64 in the vicinity of the Hampton Coliseum; and

WHEREAS, the HRTPO believes that the development and implementation of a consistent Express Lanes Network along I-64 between Jefferson Avenue in Newport News and Bowers Hill in Chesapeake, which would be contiguous and in each traffic direction, should be advanced by HRTAC based on project readiness and would maximize the congestion relief benefits of the Regional Priority Projects being constructed in that segment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization hereby identifies and adopts the Regional Express Lanes Network as a component of the Regional Priority Projects (current version dated January 2020) identified by the HRTPO in its 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan to collectively provide the greatest impact on reducing congestion for the greatest number of citizens residing in Hampton Roads and requests that HRTAC pursue development of a funding, development, and implementation plan for the Express Lanes Network to be advanced by HRTAC based on project readiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization staff is directed to amend the 2040 LRTP to incorporate the Express Lanes Network as part of the Regional Priority Projects and address fiscal constraint, as necessary.

APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization Board at its meeting on the 19th day of March, 2020.

John L Rowe, Jr.
Chair
Hampton Roads
Transportation
Planning Organization

Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director/Secretary
Hampton Roads
Transportation
Planning Organization