

ITEM #13: COMMONWEALTH CONNECTOR (ROUTE 460): ISLE OF WIGHT REQUEST FOR HRTPO BOARD SUPPORT

At its regular meeting on February 20, 2014, the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion authorizing a letter (attached) be sent from its Chairman to the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) requesting its adoption of a Resolution of Support for the Commonwealth Connector (Route 460).

The Resolution, composed by Isle of Wight County, is attached.

Attachment 13



COUNTY of ISLE OF WIGHT

THE COURTHOUSE

March 6, 2014

Dwight L. Farmer, PE
Executive Director/Secretary
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
The Regional Building
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia 23219

Dear Dwight:

At its regular meeting on February 20, 2014, the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors adopted a motion authorizing that a letter to be sent from its Chairman to the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) requesting its adoption of a resolution of support for the Commonwealth Connector.

In this regard, please accept this as a formal request to include the attached resolution in next regular meeting agenda for the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization.

We believe that construction of the Commonwealth Connector project is of significant importance to Isle of Wight County, the Hampton Roads region, and the Commonwealth relative to economic development, congestion relief, transportation safety, and emergency evacuation.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,

Byron B. Bailey,
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Board of Supervisors
Anne F. Seward, County Administrator
Mark C. Popovich, County Attorney



**HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD RESOLUTION 2014-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
ENDORING CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH CONNECTOR PROJECT.**

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has made significant progress on the proposed project to upgrade Route 460 from Suffolk to Petersburg to a limited access highway (Commonwealth Connector) to address congestion relief, safety, and economic development;

WHEREAS, traffic congestion is a growing problem in Hampton Roads and Interstate 64 is the primary highway used by east-west travelers headed to and from the region, and the Commonwealth Connector would draw a significant number of motorists from Interstate 64, particularly during the peak tourist season thereby providing relief to some of the congestion;

WHEREAS, currently motorists travelling eastward and westward on Route 460 are separated only by the yellow striping on the highway creating a scenario wherein there is no physical separation for east-west travelers. The Commonwealth Connector will provide physical separation for east-west travelers, limit the number of access points onto the highway, and provide a much safer traveling experience for motorists than the current Route 460;

WHEREAS, Route 460 has major importance as a hurricane evacuation route and it has experienced significant flooding that has negated its ability to provide safe passage for travelers even during heavy seasonal rains experienced in the spring and summer months. The Commonwealth Connector is being designed and will be constructed to avoid flooding during a 100-year flood event; and

WHEREAS, for the Port of Virginia and many companies, including Smithfield Foods, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Safco, Tractor Supply, Massimo Zanetti, Sumitomo, Caspari, Art Fx, and Cost Plus World Market, Route 460 serves as a primary route for transporting their goods regionally and internationally. The Commonwealth Connector will strengthen those existing businesses along the Suffolk to Petersburg corridor and provide an additional incentive for economic development in the Commonwealth.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization endorses construction of the Commonwealth Connector project and urges the Governor and the Commonwealth Transportation Board to proceed expeditiously with completion of the Commonwealth Connector.

APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization at its meeting on the 20th day of March, 2014.

McKinley Price
Chair
Hampton Roads Transportation
Planning Organization

Linda T. Johnson
Vice-Chair
Hampton Roads Transportation
Planning Organization