



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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION ENDORSING 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization requests that the funding currently identified for construction/completion of the Commonwealth Connector remain committed to the project.

**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