

ITEM #10: ANALYZING AND MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF TOLLS AT THE MIDTOWN AND DOWNTOWN TUNNELS: DRAFT REPORT

On December 5, 2011, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) signed a comprehensive agreement with Elizabeth River Crossings (ERC) for construction of an additional two-lane tube at the Midtown Tunnel (MTT), rehabilitation of the Downtown Tunnel (DTT), and extension of the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Freeway to I-264 – including the tolling of the MTT, DTT, and MLK Freeway extension. Tolling began at the DTT and MTT on February 1, 2014. In FY 2013, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) staff began a multi-year study comparing the “before” and “after” traffic conditions to assess the impact of tolling.

Part I of this study – presented at the January 2015 HRTPO Board meeting – included an analysis of traffic queues and queue clearance times during peak hours along the Midtown and Downtown Tunnel approaches and alternate routes “before” and “after” toll implementation using photos and videos collected by HRTPO staff. It also included an analysis of HRT bus and ferry ridership for selected routes “before” and “after” toll implementation.

This presentation will include:

- A “before” and “after” analysis of traffic volumes at the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels and on alternate routes, including changes in weekday, weekend, peak period, and off-peak period traffic volumes
- A “before” and “after” analysis of INRIX segment travel time/speed data
- Study recommendations

The draft report (enclosed) is currently undergoing public review.

Mr. Keith Nichols, Principal Transportation Engineer, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item.

Enclosure 10: Analyzing and Mitigating the Impacts of Tolls at the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels: Draft Report