

## **ITEM #16: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Members of the public are invited to address the HRTPO Board. Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

## **ITEM #17: SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were two submitted public comments. Any written public comments received after the preparation of this agenda will be distributed as a handout at the meeting.

Attachment 17

## **ITEM #18: TRANSCRIBED PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS HRTPO MEETING**

The transcribed public comments from the February 16, 2017 HRTPO Board meeting are attached.

Attachment 18

**Transcribed Public Comments from the  
February 16, 2017 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 16, 2017 Meeting. Chair Johnson asked them to limit their comments to three minutes.

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

*Good morning. My name is Donna Sayegh and I live in Portsmouth. First I want to address the definition of workshop. The definition of workshop is "a meeting at which a group of people engage in intensive discussion and activity on a particular subject or project." There is no intensive discussion and activity on a particular subject or project in the workshop that held by this body. The decisions are already made by the presenters of the project. The people are not engaged in any discussion by this regional body that was created by the federal government. Next, item 11 was the report regarding the status of the Port of Virginia. Portsmouth has a board called the Portsmouth Port and Industrial Commission. The Board serves to foster industrial development within the city. Its efforts are directed at the stimulation of waterfront development along with closely related industrial and commercial activities. The report given earlier reported that there were several projects that moved forward simultaneously at the Port of Virginia. All of these projects affect Portsmouth. That means all these projects affect people. We need to be engaged with work that is going on and to the decision-making process. How can the Port people send the PPIC information where the people can know and have a conversation about what will be affecting them? People in Portsmouth work hard for their money and they need to know how they are affected by the federal government. Lastly, there are two resolutions, 2017-02 and 2017-03. 2017-02 is a resolution for the HRTPO to file an application with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for grants of federal funds under the Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 program and state matching funds. 2017-03 is a resolution of the HRTPO to direct staff to assist VDOT and transportation-related matters as necessary to comply with the provisions of 23 USC 135. The federal government is taxing the people without our consent to have the HRTPO dictate to the people on behalf of the federal government. We the people are tired of being slaves to this body. So use our PPIC and our local government so we can have a voice and a vote. Thanks for listening.*