

**AGENDA ITEM #9: ANALYZING AND MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF TOLLS AT THE MIDTOWN AND DOWNTOWN TUNNELS: FINAL**

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 in a multi-year study comparing the “before” and “after” traffic conditions to discover the impact of tolling.

Part I of this study – presented at the January 2015 TTAC 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.

Part II of this study – presented at the February 2015 TTAC meeting – included a “before” and “after” analysis of traffic volumes at the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels and on alternate routes. Changes in weekday, weekend, peak period, and off-peak period traffic volumes were included in the analysis.

Part III of this study – presented at the April 2015 TTAC meeting – included a “before” and “after” analysis of INRIX segment travel time/speed data as well as study recommendations. The draft report was also made available for review after the April TTAC meeting. The review and comment period ran through April 22, 2015.

The final report is enclosed.

Enclosure 9: Analyzing and Mitigating the Impact of Tolls at the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels: Final Report

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Recommend HRTPO Board approval of the final report.