

**ITEM #14: I-264/INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD INTERCHANGE: *Camelia Ravanbakht,*  
*HRTPO***

**SUMMARY:**

HRTPO staff is in receipt of the attached letter from the City of Virginia Beach requesting guidance from the HRTPO Board with regards to advancing the I-264/Independence Boulevard interchange as a regional priority transportation project.

Dr. Camelia Ravanbakht, HRTPO Deputy Executive Director will brief the HRTPO Board on this item

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the City of Virginia Beach, the I-264/Independence Boulevard Interchange is one of the heaviest congested areas in the City with a high number of accidents. This congestion will continue to worsen as the City improves economic development opportunities in the Town Center area. It is currently in the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) as a study.

HRTPO staff has identified several other potential projects in the region that merit review for future possible funding.

Attachment 14

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Direct HRTPO staff to work with TTAC to review and identify projects in the 2040 LRTP that could be considered as Round 2 Hampton Roads Regional Priority Projects.



WILLIAM D. SESSOMS, JR.  
MAYOR

# City of Virginia Beach

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April 14, 2017

Mr. Kevin B. Page  
Executive Director, HRTAC  
723 Woodlake Drive  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr.  
Executive Director, HRTPO  
723 Woodlake Drive  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Dear Executive Director's Page & Crum:

The City of Virginia Beach needs your assistance in moving a priority transportation project forward. The Independence Blvd. Interchange with I-264 is one of the heaviest congested areas in the City, and indeed the Region. We have an exceptionally high number of accidents there due to the congestion caused by the backup onto the main travel lanes. This congestion will only get worse as we continue to improve the Economic Development opportunities, including new jobs in the Town Center area. As you know, AECOM did a study for the needs of the entire I-264 corridor recently. This was an update of a report done in the early 2000's. The most recent AECOM report proposed design improvements to this interchange costing over a half billion dollars. They also included in their traffic modeling a flyover west of this interchange, which will reduce throughput on Independence Blvd.

I respectfully request that effort be undertaken to move the Independence Blvd. / I-264 Interchange project forward, possibly as a Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Committee funded project. As you know, Virginia Beach generates approximately 27% of the revenues for HRTAC, but yet there is only a portion of one project located within the City. I am aware that HRTAC funds are allocated many years into the future. However, I think now is the time to communicate our efforts to get this project in line for funding. The City, for its part, is working with Virginia Department of Transportation to pay for an Interchange Modification Report (IMR). We expect to accomplish this within the next year. That will obviously be an

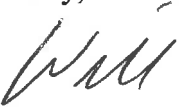
Mr. Kevin B. Page & Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr.  
Executive Directors  
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obviously be an important step for moving this project forward. The adopted regional LRTP includes this project as a "study" phase project which is essential to moving the process along.

I believe the IMR will address some of the questions raised by FHWA in the past, such as the sequencing of interchange improvements on I-264 and whether main line widening suggested through the AECOM study will be necessary for the Independence Blvd. Interchange to move forward.

Virginia Beach staff stands ready to work with you on this request. I know that you two gentleman can find a way for this project to progress. Thank you for your attention to this issue. I and the City staff look forward to working with you on this very important project

Sincerely,



William D. Sessoms, Jr.

Mayor

cc: David L. Hansen, City Manager  
Ronald Williams, Deputy City Manager  
Warren Harris, Economic Development  
Robert M. Matthias, Assistant to the City Manager  
Phil Davenport, Public Works  
Phil Pullen, Public Works