

ITEM #15: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

ITEM #16: SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no submitted public comments. Any written public comments received after the preparation of this agenda will be distributed as a handout at the meeting.

ITEM #17: TRANSCRIBED PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS HRTPO MEETING

The transcribed public comments from the March 17, 2016 HRTPO Board meeting are attached.

Attachment 17

**Transcribed Public Comments from the
March 17, 2016 HRTPO Board Meeting**

Two people requested to address the HRTPO Board at the March 17, 2016 Meeting. Chair Johnson asked them to limit their comments to three minutes.

***Mr. Ellis James
Norfolk Citizen***

Thank you, Madam Chair, and top of the morning to all of you on the TPO. My name is Ellis W. James. I'm a resident of Norfolk, Virginia, and have been for many years. You've seen and we've learned a lot this morning from big picture, big ticket items. I'd like to bring you back to the harsh reality of what drivers in Hampton Roads are confronted with, and for my friends in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake and Norfolk, I'm not picking on you all, I'm just trying to paint a picture very quickly. Monday morning, I zoomed out to Chesapeake City Hall, picked up some information, very excellent information on the coming push for the permit to develop more in Stumpy Lake. I had a very successful meeting and then began to maneuver to go through the Stumpy Lake area, and especially Elbow Road and where all the projects are being developed and where the straightening of the road is taking place. There were so many projects and so many workers alongside the road trying to do a good job, but they didn't have even simple communications with the eastbound lane and the westbound lane and quite often those of us caught in that traffic delay were waved on when in fact there was traffic coming at us. Now, quite frankly, I had never seen that much development and activity along that corridor, but it was enlightening. I then was going to zoom into Norfolk and go to a meeting, and I made the mistake of going all the way across from east to west Norfolk to the ODU area. And what I discovered was that traffic was backed up from Larchmont Library all the way to the 26th Street area. It took me, which normally is a trip of about 10 to 15 minutes, I was there 15 minutes late for the meeting I was going to, and that shows very clearly once again there was no local police, ODU, or any other communications to try to help direct the traffic and protect the citizens at ODU and in Norfolk and so on. I hope that the other communities are not going to be impacted in this fashion, but we've got lots of tourism coming, it's summertime, and we have traffic control issues that are very localized as opposed to the big picture items that we're dealing with today. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

Good morning, my name is Donna Sayegh and I'm going to continue to the conversation about communication. My number one issue with not only our local government but our regional government, our state government, and our federal government. We got – we received a lot of information this morning, I don't learn like everybody else. I don't hear it, remember it, and then feed it back. I have to have conversations to learn and to understand the big picture. All this information – could it be brought to our local planning work session in Portsmouth? We don't even have a transportation person any longer where I can go in and have a conversation with somebody to explain to me what's going on. Another thing I learned as the federal government has really taken over our local area and making this regional body, it's federally controlled by money, everything is being controlled by money these days, and it really offends me when I see that everything is about money. I think that's all I have to say today. But I really want more communication, one on one to explain to me about what's going on. Portsmouth is being used by the Port to have their benefit for a worldwide commerce, and so as a citizen, as a taxpayer, one of the 32%, I want to know what's going to be spend with my money. Thanks.