

E. Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Application for Segment 1 of the Hampton Roads Express Lanes Network (HRELN)

The HRTPO Board endorsed HRELN as a consistent HOT-2 network (contiguous and in each traffic direction) beginning on I-64 at Jefferson Avenue in Newport News, proceeding along I-64 through Bowers Hill in Chesapeake, and continuing along I-664 to I-64 in the vicinity of the Hampton Coliseum at their October 17, 2019 meeting.

Subsequently, at their May 21, 2020 meeting, the HRTPO Board adopted the Regional Express Lanes Network as a component of the Regional Priority Projects to collectively provide the greatest impact on reducing congestion for the greatest number of citizens residing in Hampton Roads. The resolution also requested HRTAC to pursue the development of funding, development, and implementation plan for the Express Lanes Network to be advanced by HRTAC based on project readiness.

Following the HRTPO Board endorsement, the section of the HRELN from Jefferson Avenue to Bowers Hill was included in the Hampton Roads 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) list of fiscally constrained projects, adopted by the HRTPO board in June 2021. The entire HRELN is also included in the HRTAC 2045 Long Range Plan of Finance approved by the HRTAC Board at their June 17, 2021 meeting.

Since then, there have been increases in cost estimates on specific segments of the HRELN including Segment 1 which is planned from east of Patrol Road to east of I-264. The updated cost estimates have necessitated the need to identify alternative non-HRTAC funds to supplement the existing funds.

HRTPO staff is currently preparing a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG application) to pursue federal funding for Segment 1 of the HRELN, which if successful, could be used to supplement existing funding identified in the HRTAC 2045 Long Range Plan of Finance.

The entire HRELN, including Segment 1, is a regionally significant project and is consistent with the HRTPO Board resolutions and regional plans for developing and implementing a fully connected and consistent Express Lanes Network to address the future needs of the region.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direct the TPO staff to prepare and submit an MPDG grant application in pursuit of additional non-HRTAC funding for Segment 1 of the HRELN.