

D. Critical Urban Freight Corridors

The FAST Act established the creation of a National Highway Freight Network (NHFN) to direct federal resources and policies towards improving the movement of freight. The NHFN is comprised of the Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS), other Interstates not on the PHFS, Critical Rural Freight Corridors (CRFCs), and Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFCs).

The FAST Act allows for a total of up to 167 centerline miles throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia to be designated as CRFCs, while up to 83 centerline miles can be designated as CUFCs. While the State is responsible for designating all CRFCs and those CUFCs that are located in small Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), MPOs with populations greater than 500,000 people are responsible for designating CUFCs within their Metropolitan Planning Area in coordination with the State.

The Virginia Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) allocated CUFC mileage to each MPO and prepared a draft CRFC and CUFC network using the constraints listed above. The primary goal OIPI aimed for as they prepared the draft network was to provide contiguous designation along interstates and other corridors of statewide significance not included in the PHFS.

Based on this goal, OIPI staff determined that Hampton Roads would be allocated a total of 24 centerline miles to designate as CUFCs out of the 83 miles available statewide. This is equal to the length of the portions of I-64 and I-664 in the region that are not part of the PHFS.

The Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) and Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) recommended approval to designate I-64 between Battlefield Boulevard and I-664/Bowers Hill and I-664 between I-64/Bowers Hill and Terminal Avenue as HRTPO's CUFCs. In addition, both committees recommended including 1) the Western Freeway from I-664 to Virginia International Gateway (VIG) and 2) Route 58 in the CRFC and CUFC networks if additional mileage becomes available.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve designating I-64 between Battlefield Boulevard and I-664/Bowers Hill and I-664 between I-64/Bowers Hill and Terminal Avenue as HRTPO's Critical Urban Freight Corridors, and recommend including the Western Freeway from I-664 to VIG and Route 58 in the Critical Rural Freight Corridors and Critical Urban Freight Corridors networks if additional mileage becomes available.