

AGENDA ITEM #7: HAMPTON ROADS RAIL CROSSING STUDY KICKOFF

The Port of Virginia is one of the most important drivers of the Hampton Roads economy. However, the waterways and railroads that support the Port of Virginia also create a number of intermodal conflict points, which are locations in the transportation system where one mode crosses – and impedes – the flow of another mode.

The most common intermodal conflict point is where roadways and railroads intersect. These highway-rail crossings – where they occur at the same level or grade – can cause not only extensive delays for roadway travelers but also contribute to a number of collisions between trains and vehicles each year. There are nearly 300 of these at-grade crossings throughout Hampton Roads.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) includes a number of new funding programs. One new discretionary program – the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program – will provide \$3 billion in funding over five years to eliminate or separate at-grade rail crossings. This is in addition to providing additional funding for the existing Railway-Highway Crossings Program (RHCP), which was created to enhance safety at rail crossings.

Based on this new funding and the importance of freight movement to the Hampton Roads economy, the HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) recommended that HRTPO staff prepare a regional Rail Crossing Study to prepare and better position the region for the new federal funding sources.

Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO, will make a presentation on this item.

Recommended Action: For discussion and information purposes at this time.