

ITEM #14: REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: *Robert Crum, HRTPO*

SUMMARY:

Each year the HRTPO develops a legislative agenda for submission to the Hampton Roads Caucus of the General Assembly and the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation.

Mr. Robert Crum, Executive Director, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item.

BACKGROUND:

The HRPDC/HRTPO adopts a regional legislative agenda to convey to the General Assembly and Federal delegation issues of regional significance that should be addressed on behalf of the Hampton Roads region. Over the past three years, the HRPDC/HRTPO staff has worked with the region's legislative liaisons to increase the Agency's visibility and participation during the General Assembly session. Examples of success resulting from regional advocacy efforts over the past two years have included:

- Establishment of a floor on the regional gas tax to increase funding to the Hampton Roads Transportation Fund and Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission to support the construction of regional priority projects.
- Pursuit of federal/state funding for the widening of I-64 between Hampton Roads and Richmond. The Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board has awarded Smart Scale Funding to fund a five mile segment from the Interstate 295 Interchange eastward to the Bottoms Bridge/Quinton Interchange.
- Collaborating with member jurisdictions to secure funding for Trains 2 and 3 to Norfolk
- Coordination of an effort among all Urban Crescent localities and school divisions resulting in increased State funding for K-12 public education purposes.
- Re-designation of the Hampton Roads region as an Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) community and securing \$1.5 million of UASI funding on an annual basis to support homeland security efforts in our region.
- Inclusion of \$500,000 in the State budget to be used as a local match for Army Corps of Engineers 3X3X3 studies.
- Working through the Chief Administrative Officers Committee to represent the region's interests and influence national guidance related to permitting within flood hazard areas.

In preparing the draft Legislative Agenda for the upcoming General Assembly session, staff recommends that the HRTPO continue to use the following guiding principles:

- Develop a short and targeted list of regional legislative priorities
- Include items of regional significance that benefit all jurisdictions

The HRTPO will be asked to officially approve a regional legislative agenda at its October or November meeting. In addition, staff is exploring the possibility of a work session between the HRPDC/HRTPO and the Hampton Roads Caucus to discuss potential topic areas.

To begin the process of developing the Regional Legislative Agenda, the Executive Director will provide an overview of potential topic areas for consideration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion purposes.