

**ITEM #14: HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL FREIGHT STUDY/CORRIDORS OF COMMERCE:
*Robert Crum and Keith Nichols, HRTPO***

SUMMARY:

For the past two decades, the HRTPO has engaged in numerous important freight planning activities, including the development of the Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study, which serves as a comprehensive resource document on the Hampton Roads multimodal transportation system.

Mr. Keith Nichols, HRTPO Principal Transportation Engineer, will brief the HRTPO Board on the Regional Freight Study. Mr. Robert Crum, HRTPO Executive Director, will provide a summary of next steps, including the Hampton Roads Corridors of Commerce study.

BACKGROUND:

The overall purpose of this study is to understand the impact of freight movement on regional and statewide employment, income, and economic growth in order to guide policy and investment decisions—particularly for prioritizing transportation projects—that will improve connectivity, efficiency, reliability, and safety of the Hampton Roads freight multimodal transportation system.

The Hampton Roads Regional Freight Study details the movement of goods across all freight facilities—highways, ports, railways, and airports. Special emphasis is placed in the report on freight moving by trucks across highways as they serve as the predominant mover of freight.

There are a number of efforts, including the upcoming Hampton Roads Corridors of Commerce study, that will build upon the Regional Freight Study. The Corridors of Commerce study will be conducted over the next year and will examine regional commerce connectivity to help support port-related growth and the associated freight industries.

HRTPO staff presented the draft report during the April 5, 2017 TTAC meeting and made the report available for public review and comment from May 8, 2017 through June 16, 2017. No public comments were received. Comments received from the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Port Authority, and the HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee have been addressed in the final report. The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee has recommended the HRTPO Board approve the final report.

Enclosure 14: *Regional Freight Study: Final Report*

RECOMMENDED ACTION (Action to be taken under Meeting Agenda Item #21-I):

Approve the final report for public distribution.