



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1401 EAST BROAD STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 2000

Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E.  
Commissioner

August 20, 2014

The Honorable Alan P. Krasnoff  
Chairman, Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission  
723 Woodlake Dr.  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Subject: VDOT Support to Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission

Dear Alan:

As the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) moves forward with the delivery of important highway improvements I want to make clear the Virginia Department of Transportation's support and cooperation. As outlined in the legislation, the Commissioner of Highways is a non-voting ex-officio member of HRTAC. I feel our role will be critical and it is my intent to be directly involved and to not delegate my role to staff. I look forward to getting down to the business of assisting the Commission as it develops and determines priorities through a thorough scoping, financial plan and delivery schedule. There will be much to do and some difficult decisions to be made but VDOT will support you.

I believe a critical first step for HRTAC is to make fundamental policy decisions on how these projects will be funded; through current and planned allocations, through bond support, tolling of certain elements or some combination. This will drive the scope and schedule for the delivery of the highway improvements. For VDOT to effectively support HRTAC and deliver the projects, we must know where to direct our resources based on the HRTAC's priorities and schedules.

Based on the projects currently being contemplated, all of them will require either new or updated environmental studies and in most cases extensive permitting from federal and State agencies. On some of the projects, such as the Phase 1 of I-64 widening on the peninsula or the I-64 High Rise Bridge, the environmental studies are underway or completed. On others the

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studies have either not started or will need additional work depending on the final scope, as well as the currency of the original documents. As you are aware the environmental process can be very detailed depending on the project scope and will require intense local and federal consultation. It is important to plan the environmental process to be completed so as not to interfere with the project construction but also not to be undertaken without a complete funding and delivery schedule. The Federal agencies have been clear that their decisions must be based on current data and a full review of project impacts.

As I stated before, we will support HRTAC. We will take the lead in project delivery if requested or will serve in a supporting role. That is your decision. In the end the Commission and VDOT are expected to deliver highway improvements to the region. I look forward to the opportunity.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E.  
Commissioner of Highways