

AGENDA ITEM #5: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP (PTWG)
[Action Requested]
Michael Kimbrel, HRTPO

During its 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1038 (identical to House Bill 1726) which, upon approval by the Governor, created the **Hampton Roads Regional Transit Program** to develop, maintain, and improve a core regional network of transit routes and related infrastructure, rolling stock, and support facilities that have the greatest positive impacts on economic development potential, employment opportunities, mobility, environmental sustainability, and quality of life. The Program forms the basis for the regional transit planning process coordinated by the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization and shall be funded by the following taxes imposed in the six localities served by Hampton Roads Transit (HRT):

- An additional grantor's tax of \$0.06 per \$100 of value real estate conveyed
- A regional transient occupancy tax of 1% of the charge for the occupancy

The legislation also dedicated \$20 million from existing statewide recordation taxes to fund the Program and created the **Hampton Roads Regional Transit Fund (HRRTF)**, into which moneys generated from these sources will be deposited. The HRRTF will be managed by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC). The moneys in the HRRTF shall be used solely for the core and connected regional network of transit routes and related infrastructure, rolling stock, and support facilities, to include the operation of a regional system of inter-jurisdictional, high-frequency bus service, in the six localities served by HRT; and for specified administrative and operating expenses of HRTAC.

Planning, coordination, development, financing, and delivery of projects related to the Hampton Roads Regional Transit Program and Fund will be carried out via a cooperative effort involving the HRTPO, HRTAC, and HRT. To assist with the HRTPO portion of this effort, HRTPO staff recommends establishing a **Public Transit Working Group (PTWG)** comprised of one voting TTAC member from each of the six localities served by HRT (Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach). In addition to the six voting members, the Working Group may benefit from the inclusion of additional stakeholders. HRTPO staff will administer the Working Group.

Mr. Michael Kimbrel, HRTPO Deputy Executive Director, will brief the TTAC on this item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Establish the Public Transit Working Group.