

AGENDA ITEM #17: RESULTS OF IN-SEASON REVIEW OF VIRGINIA HURRICANE EVACUATION PLANS

In May 2014, Governor McAuliffe appointed the Secretary of Public Safety and the Secretary of Transportation to oversee an in-season review of the adequacy of hurricane evacuation plans. During that review, the existing I-64 Peninsula lane reversal was criticized.

The I-64 Peninsula lane reversal was recommended by the HRTPO in 1996 to help improve evacuation. Since 2001, VDOT's hurricane evacuation traffic control plans have included this lane reversal.

In 2008, VDOT, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and the cities of Chesapeake and Suffolk, began to explore ways to alleviate evacuation traffic queues in the Bowers Hill area. In 2011, HRTPO allocated \$1 million in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for a proposed Southside reversal designed to improve evacuation through Bowers Hill.

In March 2014, the HRTPO published *Prioritizing Highway Projects for Improvement of Evacuation*, which recommended that the HRTPO Board and VDOT consider funding the Routes 168/64/58 Southside Reversal project.

In June 2014, Dr. Robert Case, Principal Transportation Engineer, presented information on the Southside Routes 168/64/58 Reversal project to the Hampton Roads Transportation Operations Subcommittee (HRTO) and the TTAC. In August 2014, after Dr. Case presented information to the HRTO concerning the State's in-season review of hurricane plans and criticism of the I-64 Peninsula lane reversal, the HRTO voted to request a presentation to TTAC on this topic once the results are released from the State's in-season review – expected in late August 2014.

Mr. Keith Nichols, Senior Transportation Engineer, will brief the TTAC on this item if the State's review is released prior to the September TTAC meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Per discussion.