

AGENDA ITEM #7: HAMPTON ROADS PASSENGER RAIL VISION PLAN- DRAFT REPORT

SUBJECT:

The Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Vision Plan Draft Report is now complete and ready for public review and comment.

BACKGROUND:

During FY 2011, in the interest of improving the region's potential for passenger rail service, the HRTPO retained the services of Transportation Economics & Management Systems, Inc. (TEMS). The work of TEMS has resulted in the completion of the following: Preliminary Vision Plan (Phase 1), Blueprint Study (Phase 1B), Data Collection (Phase 2A), and Vision Plan Alternatives Analysis (Phase 2B). The focus of the Phase 2B study was to develop the financial and business plan evaluation of the Norfolk-Richmond High-Speed Corridor, in line with the program set out in the Blueprint Study (Phase 1B).

The Draft Phase 2B report was completed by TEMS and presented to the HRTPO Passenger Rail Task Force on February 13, 2014. The Passenger Rail Task Force determined that the Phase 2B Norfolk-Richmond option that included a link to the Newport News-Richmond Corridor was most viable and that a supplement to the Phase 2B report with additional analysis of Peninsula high speed route options should be pursued.

The original Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Vision Plan final report (Phase 2B) was approved by the HRTPO Board on March 20, 2014. The HRTPO Board also approved the Scope of Work for a *Newport News – Richmond Passenger Rail Route Analysis (Phase 2B Supplement)* and authorized the HRTPO Executive Director to execute a contract with TEMS to complete the analysis.

This work has since been completed by TEMS. Preliminary results were presented to the Task Force on May 8, 2014. At this meeting, the Task Force recommended that a representative from DRPT brief the HRTPO Board on the Richmond-Washington Tier II EIS and the future of high-speed rail in Virginia prior to reconvening the Task Force to consider the revised *Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Vision Plan Draft Report*.

Chris Wichman, Transportation Planner, will brief the Passenger Rail Task Force on the revised *Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Vision Plan Draft Report*, which includes the supplemental analysis of Newport News to Richmond routes.

Enclosure 7-A: High Speed Rail Vision Plan Executive Summary Draft
Enclosure 7-B: High Speed Rail Vision Plan Draft Report
Enclosure 7-C: High Speed Rail Vision Plan Technical Appendices Draft

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review the revised Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Vision Plan Draft Report and provide comments to HRTPO staff (cwichman@hrtpo.org) by Friday, October 10, 2014.