

September 15, 2017

Robert A. Crum, Jr., Executive Director
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
The Regional Building
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

**RE: Freeman Avenue Overpass
FY2017 INFRA Grant Program**

Dear Mr. Crum:

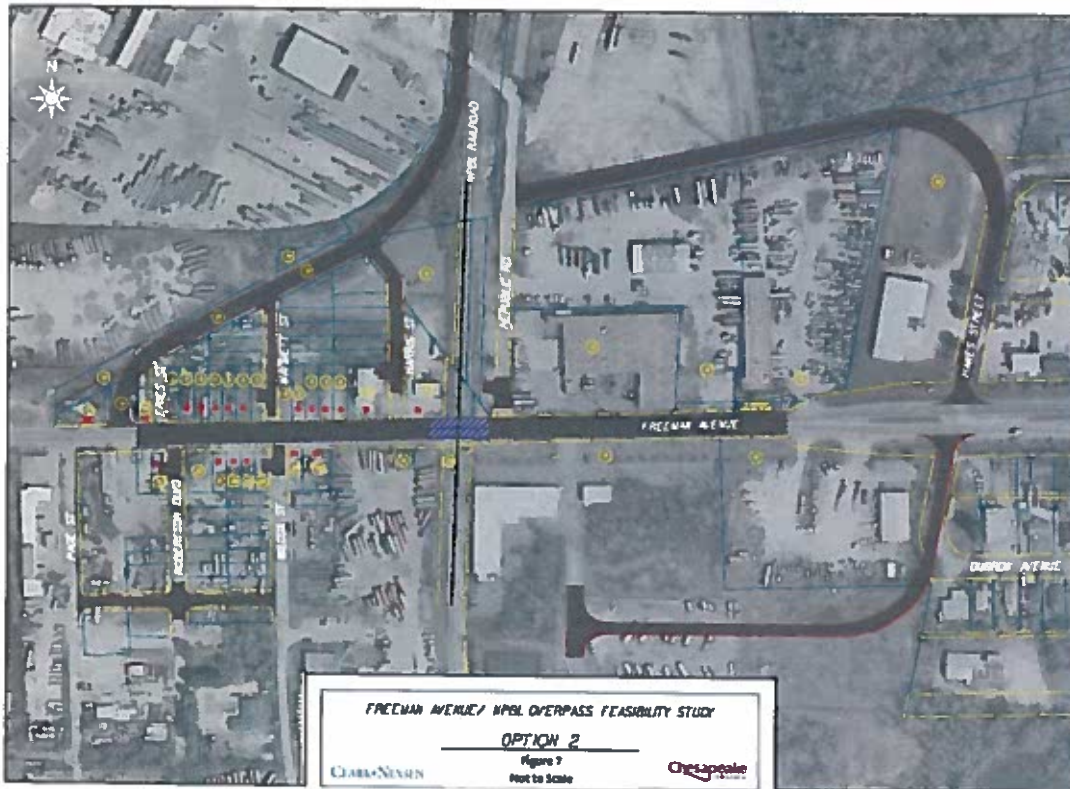
The City of Chesapeake intends to file an application with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program for the construction of the Freeman Avenue overpass and is requesting endorsement by the HRTPO.

The project will replace the existing at-grade railroad crossing at Freeman Avenue with an overpass to provide unimpeded vehicular access to and from the Money Point industrial area, thus eliminating conflicts between roadway and rail traffic. Freeman Avenue connects directly with I-464 and serves as the sole access to this industrial area. The referenced overpass will provide both safety and economic benefits.

From an economic standpoint, the Money Point area is home to a number of major businesses that rely on rail shipments to support their business models. Additionally, both Norfolk Southern Corporation and CSX Transportation have advised that they are moving to larger unit trains to achieve greater capacity. This will require significant infrastructure investments along the Norfolk-Portsmouth Beltline to accommodate the additional rail cars. Similarly, roadway improvements along Freeman Avenue are necessary to accommodate the longer trains.

The City of Chesapeake and the Norfolk-Portsmouth Beltline jointly engaged the consulting firm of Clark Nexsen to conduct a feasibility study and develop cost estimates for construction of the referenced overpass. A copy of one of the options under consideration is shown below. The total estimated cost for the project is \$25,425,000. The City's application will request \$15,255,000 or 60% of the anticipated project cost with the City funding the remaining 40% or \$10,170,000 in matching funds.

Freeman Avenue Overpass



Your favorable response to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 757-382-6002 or sfroncillo@cityofchesapeake.net.

Sincerely,

Steve Froncillo, P.E.
City Traffic Engineer

SJF/

- c: Robert N. Geis, Deputy City Manager
- Eric J. Martin, P.E., Public Works Director
- Earl Sorey, P.E., Assistant Director of Public Works