

#### **D. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT – SOUTHAMPTON HB2 PROJECT**

House Bill 2 (HB2), signed into law in 2014, directed the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop and use a prioritization process to select transportation projects. The legislation is intended to improve the transparency and accountability of project selection, as well as improve stability in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). The process is to score projects based on an objective analysis and provide guidance to the CTB for project selection and funding. The deadline for project submissions under the HB2 prioritization process was September 30, 2015.

In October 2013, Enviva Pellets Southampton opened a \$91 million biomass facility one mile west of the City of Franklin. This new facility generates 180 heavy truck trips daily, with the vast majority traveling through the interchange at U.S. Route 58 and Armory Drive/General Thomas Highway.

On October 1, 2015, Southampton County transmitted a letter to Mr. Robert Crum, HRPDC/HRTPO Executive Director, requesting a Resolution of Support for the General Thomas Highway Signalization Project. The proposed project will improve the overall safety and operations of the intersection.

Attachment 22-D1

Attachment 22-D2

# SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY

26022 Administration Center Drive  
P. O. Box 400  
Courtland, Virginia 23837



757-653-3015  
Fax: 757-653-0227

October 1, 2015

Robert A. Crum Jr.  
Executive Director  
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission  
723 Woodlake Drive  
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

RE: Request for Resolution of Support - HB 2  
General Thomas Highway Signalization Project

Dear Mr. Crum:

Attached herewith please find a copy of our application for HB 2 funding for the General Thomas Highway Signalization Project. As you know, because the project is located on a Corridor of Statewide Significance, it is eligible for submission subject to a resolution of support from the HRPDC, a copy of which must be provided prior to December 1. Accordingly, with this letter, I am seeking the Commission's favorable consideration.

In October 2013, Enviva Pellets Southampton, LLC opened a \$91 million biomass processing facility one mile west of the City of Franklin with a production capacity of 510,000 metric tons of wood pellets per year. The facility generates 180 heavy truck trips daily, with the vast majority traveling through the interchange at U.S. Route 58 and Armory Drive/General Thomas Highway.

This project proposes to install signalization on the east and west bound off ramps of the interchange. A signal study and capacity analysis was conducted by VDOT in August 2014 indicating that the signals are warranted and installation will improve the overall safety and operations of the intersection. The project is specifically referenced in Southampton County's 2015 Comprehensive Plan, the Rural Long Range Transportation Plan and the Hampton Roads Regional Economic Development Strategy.

Thank you in advance for preparing a resolution of support for the Commission's consideration on October 15, 2015.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Johnson".

Michael W. Johnson  
County Administrator

attachments

Attachment 22-D1



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION 2015-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION FOR THE SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY GENERAL THOMAS HIGHWAY/SIGNALIZATION PROJECT HB2 APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 2 (HB2), signed into law in 2014, directed the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to develop and use a prioritization process to select transportation projects;

**WHEREAS**, following a year of development, which included multiple stakeholder sessions across the state, the CTB approved the HB2 prioritization process on June 17, 2015;

**WHEREAS**, the HB2 process specifies eligible applicants for three project types – Corridors of Statewide Significance, Regional Networks, and Urban Development Area;

**WHEREAS**, Local Governments submitting projects under the Corridors of Statewide Significance category and Transit Agencies submitting projects under the Corridors of Statewide Significance and Regional Networks categories require a resolution of support from the relevant regional entity;

**WHEREAS**, Southampton County has requested a HRPDC resolution of support in accordance with HB2 requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the *HRTPO Guidance on House Bill 2*, approved by the HRTPO Board on July 16, 2015, staff has reviewed the proposed project and found that it is consistent with the Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the HRPDC hereby supports the following project to be submitted for evaluation under the HB2 Prioritization Process:

- General Thomas Highway Signalization Project

**APPROVED and ADOPTED** by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission at its meeting on the 15th day of October, 2015.

---

Clyde A. Haulman  
Chair  
Hampton Roads Planning  
District Commission

---

Robert A. Crum  
Executive Director  
Hampton Roads Planning  
District Commission