

# HRTPO 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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*Presented By:*

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*and*

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# 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - STATE

## Pursuit of federal/state funding for Trains 2 & 3 to Norfolk.

- Currently, there is one daily round trip from Norfolk to Washington D.C. and the Northeast Corridor (Route 50).
- Train 2 from Norfolk to Washington D.C. is in the DRPT's FY 2016-2021 Six-Year Improvement Plan.
- The estimated cost for the addition of two more trains is \$82.3 million.

# 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - STATE

Pursuit of federal/state funding for TIER II EIS for higher-speed passenger rail between Hampton Roads and Richmond.

- Links Hampton Roads to the proposed Southeast High-Speed Rail Corridor.
- Tier I EIS Record of Decision issued in December 2012.
- A TIER II analysis would detail specifics of the selected alternative to allow permitting and construction to proceed.

# 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - STATE

Identification of a dedicated source of funding for public transportation for the Hampton Roads region.

- Statewide transit services are growing while funding continues to decline.
- The region's existing transit funding structure relies overwhelmingly on local general funds.
- The current transit funding mix in Hampton Roads is inadequate to meet regional transit needs.

# 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - STATE

Amendment of HRTAC enabling legislation to allow the use of HRTF monies for HRTAC staff and administration expenses.

- ❑ It is stated in the legislation that: *“Commission may employ a chief executive officer and such staff as it shall determine to be necessary to carry out its duties...”*
- ❑ Language would need to be modified in the HRTF enabling legislation to allow for HRTAC staff and administration expenses.

# 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - STATE

Amendment of HRTAC enabling legislation to allow the CEO of a locality to designate another member of the council or board of supervisors to cast votes for the CEO on behalf of the locality at HRTAC meetings in the event of an emergency that prevents the CEO of a locality from attending an HRTAC meeting.

- The current legislation has no provisions to address necessary or untimely absences by local CEOs.
- Commission decisions need to reflect the majority of the citizens served by HRTAC so an accommodation is needed to guarantee representation if a CEO is not able to attend.

# 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - STATE

Amendment of HB1402 (Highway maintenance: payments to City of Richmond for moving-lanes converted to bicycle lanes) to include any local government.

- The current enabling legislation only applies to 20 moving-lane to bicycle lane conversions in the City of Richmond.

# 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - FEDERAL

The HRTPO supports Congressional approval for a long-term surface transportation funding authorization act.

- ❑ Federal transportation funding is being maintained through a series of short-term extensions to MAP 21.
- ❑ A dependable, stable, and long-term source of funding is crucial for maintaining and building our national transportation infrastructure.
- ❑ Building/operating a safe and reliable intermodal transportation system in Hampton Roads is important as an economic engine for the region, state, and nation.



# 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - FEDERAL

The HRTPO supports Congressional approval of the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) and that the revenues from the passage of the act are allocated in accordance with HB2313.

- Failure to pass triggered an increase in Virginia's wholesale gas tax on January 1, 2015 (from 3.5 to 5.1 percent).
- Revenues would accrue to Transportation Trust Fund to be allocated by formula.
- Provides funding for local transportation, K-12 public education, and other local needs.

# 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - FEDERAL

The HRTPO requests that the U.S. Congress reward regions that have increased local taxes to begin bridging the gap between federal transportation funding and transportation infrastructure needs by providing bonus funding to these metropolitan regions.

- Revenues through HB2313 (HRTF).
- Funding for new highway, bridge, and tunnel construction projects in Planning District 23.
- Projects prioritized by greatest congestion relief for greatest number of citizens.

# ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - STATE

- Pursuit of federal/state funding for Trains 2 & 3 to Norfolk.
- Pursuit of federal funding for Tier II EIS for Higher –speed rail between Hampton Roads and Richmond.
- Identification of a dedicated source of funding for public transportation for the Hampton Roads region.
- Amendment of HRTAC enabling legislation to allow the use of HRTF monies for HRTAC staff and administration expenses.
- Amendment of HRTAC enabling legislation to allow the CEO of a locality to designate another member of the council or board of supervisors to cast votes for the CEO on behalf of the locality at HRTAC meetings in the event of an emergency that prevents the CEO from attending an HRTAC meeting.
- Amendment of HB1402 (Highway maintenance: payments to City of Richmond for moving-lanes converted to bicycle lanes) to include any local government.

# ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA - FEDERAL

- Support Congressional approval for a long-term surface transportation funding authorization act.
- Support Congressional approval for the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA).
- Support Congressional recognition of regions that increased local taxes to bridge the gap between federal transportation funding and regional transportation infrastructure needs by providing bonus funding to these metropolitan regions.

# RECOMMENDED ACTION

- Approve the resolution (2015-11) for submittal to local governments, the Hampton Roads Caucus of the General Assembly, and the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation.
- Action to be taken under Meeting Agenda Item #18-D.

Questions?