

ITEM #15: STATUS OF HAMPTON ROADS PASSENGER RAIL: *Jennifer Mitchell, DRPT*

SUMMARY:

At the July 20, 2017 HRTPO Board Meeting, an HRTPO Voting member requested a briefing on the status of higher-speed passenger rail service between Richmond and Hampton Roads and also the reconfiguration of the ACCA rail yard in Richmond, Virginia.

Ms. Jennifer Mitchell, Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item.

BACKGROUND:

A. Higher-Speed Passenger Rail Service

During the 2017 Session, the Virginia General Assembly directed the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to work with the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization and the stakeholders to evaluate the costs of, and identify potential funding sources for a Tier II Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for higher-speed rail service between Richmond and Hampton Roads. The review, which was due in August, is enclosed.

Enclosure 15-A: *Review of Potential Richmond to Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study*

B. ACCA Rail Yard

According to DRPT, Richmond's ACCA rail yard has long been considered one of the biggest rail bottlenecks on the East Coast. However, since November 2016, a \$132 million reconfiguration of the yard is underway with a scheduled completion date of Spring 2018.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.