

H. HAMPTON ROADS HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER RAIL VISION PLAN: FINAL

In 2009, in the interest of improving the region's potential for passenger rail service, the HRTPO passed resolution #2009-05 which designated a "High-Speed Rail" corridor along the NS/Route 460 corridor, supported enhancement of existing intercity passenger rail service along the CSXT/I-64 corridor, and established a regional Passenger Rail Task Force. It was further resolved that the HRTPO strongly pursue hiring a long term consultant to guide the HRTPO Board through the development of a strategic high speed and intercity passenger rail plan.

As a result, the HRTPO retained the services of Transportation Economics & Management Systems, Inc. (TEMS). The work of TEMS has resulted in the completion of the following studies:

- Preliminary Vision Plan (Phase 1)
- Blueprint Study (Phase 1B)
- Data Collection (Phase 2A)
- Hampton Roads High-Speed Passenger Rail Vision Plan (Phase 2B).

The focus of the Phase 2B study was to develop the financial and business plan evaluation of the Norfolk-Richmond high speed rail corridor. The report was approved by the HRTPO Board on March 20, 2014. At that time, the HRTPO Board also approved a scope of work for a Phase 2B supplemental study for a Newport News – Richmond Passenger Rail Route Analysis and authorized the HRTPO Executive Director to execute a contract with TEMS to complete the supplemental analysis.

The supplemental work has since been completed by TEMS. A revised draft of Phase 2B, including the supplemental Peninsula route analysis, was presented to the Passenger Rail Task Force on September 25, 2014 and was made available for public review from September 23, 2014 through October 14, 2014. Comments received are included in the appendix of the final report. The Passenger Rail Task Force has recommended approval of the final report (enclosed). In addition, the Task Force has recommended that the HRTPO Board request that DRPT pursue funding for the Tier II Environmental Impact Statement for the Richmond to Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Project.

This item was presented during the Workshop Agenda under Item #9.

Recommended Action:

Approve the *Hampton Roads High-Speed Passenger Rail Vision Plan*.