

## **ITEM #9: HAMPTON ROADS HIGH SPEED PASSENGER RAIL VISION PLAN: FINAL**

The *Hampton Roads High Speed Passenger Rail Vision Plan* is now complete and ready for approval.

### **BACKGROUND:**

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: Preliminary Vision Plan (Phase 1), Blueprint Study (Phase 1B), Data Collection (Phase 2A), and 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 Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Vision Plan final report (Phase 2B Norfolk-Richmond) was approved by the HRTPO Board on March 20, 2014. At this time, the HRTPO Board also approved a scope of work for a *Newport News – Richmond Passenger Rail Route Analysis (Phase 2B Supplement)* 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. At this meeting, the Task Force recommended the following as priority next steps:

1. HRTPO Board approval of the *Hampton Roads High Speed Passenger Rail Vision Plan* upon a two-week public review and comment period.
2. Request DRPT to pursue funding for the Tier II Environmental Impact Statement of the Richmond to Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Project.

The draft Vision Plan underwent public comment (September 23rd to October 14th) and the comments received were added as an appendix in the final Vision Plan.

Mr. Chris Wichman, Transportation Planner, will brief the HRTPO Board on this item.

Enclosure 9-A: Hampton Roads High Speed Passenger Rail Vision Plan: Executive Summary

Enclosure 9-B: Hampton Roads High Speed Passenger Rail Vision Plan

Enclosure 9-C: Hampton Roads High Speed Passenger Rail Vision Plan: Technical Appendices

**This item is for approval; see Meeting Agenda Item #14-H.**