



**HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
BOARD RESOLUTION 2013-08**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION REQUESTING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ENSURE THE LONG-TERM SOLVENCY OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.**

**WHEREAS**, the federal government's surface transportation programs are financed mostly through the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), an accounting mechanism in the federal budget that comprises two separate accounts, one for highways and one for mass transit.

**WHEREAS**, the HTF is a transportation fund which receives money from a federal fuel tax of 18.3 cents per gallon on gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon of diesel fuel and related excise taxes;

**WHEREAS**, under its current structure, the HTF is not sustainable due to improved fuel efficiency and declining growth in Vehicles Miles Traveled, and has necessitated transfers from general funds;

**WHEREAS**, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates starting in FY 2015, the HTF will have insufficient amounts to meet all of its obligations, resulting in steadily accumulating shortfalls;

**WHEREAS**, since 2008, the U.S. Congress has avoided such shortfalls by transferring \$41 billion from the general fund of the Treasury to the HTF, and an additional transfer of \$12.6 billion is authorized for FY 2014;

**WHEREAS**, the CBO estimates an additional \$14 billion would have to be transferred to prevent a projected shortfall in 2015;

**WHEREAS**, the CBO recommends the U.S. Congress could address the shortfall by substantially reducing spending for surface transportation programs, by boosting revenues, or by adopting some combination of the two;

**WHEREAS**, the CBO recommends bringing the HTF into balance in FY 2015 would require cutting the authority to obligate funds in that year from about \$51 billion projected under current law to about \$4 billion, raising the taxes on motor fuels by about 10 cents per gallon, or undertaking some combination of those options; and

**WHEREAS**, upon approval, this resolution will be submitted to the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Hampton Roads Transportation Organization requests the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that would ensure the long-term solvency of the national highway trust fund.

**APPROVED and ADOPTED** by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization Board at its meeting on the 21st day of November 2013.



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McKinley L. Price  
Chair  
Hampton Roads Transportation  
Planning Organization



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Dwight L. Farmer  
Executive Director/Secretary  
Hampton Roads Transportation  
Planning Organization