



**HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BOARD RESOLUTION 2010-12**

A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY STRATEGIES TO INFORM AND ENGAGE HAMPTON ROADS RESIDENTS IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the HRTPO is committed to involving interested parties of all walks of life and considering their ideas through professional initiatives and a transparent, accountable and accessible regional transportation planning and programming process;

WHEREAS, as prescribed in the HRTPO Public Participation Plan, the HRTPO public involvement and community outreach goals include informing Hampton Roads residents and other interested parties about the regional transportation planning and programming process and issues related to transportation, increasing awareness of the agency's purpose and function, and engaging Hampton Roads residents and interested parties in an open dialogue about their transportation priorities and regional planning;

WHEREAS, as part of the HRTPO's community outreach strategies to seek out and consider transportation interests and needs of Hampton Roads residents, the HRTPO entered into a six-month cooperative agreement with Christopher Newport University (CNU) in January 2010 to conduct focus groups in order to gauge public opinion and engage area residents in HRTPO plans, programs and activities;

WHEREAS, during the first week of March 2010, researchers from the Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy at CNU conducted six focus groups to learn more about perceptions held by area residents related to regional pride, future living conditions of Hampton Roads, and the transportation system in Hampton Roads in twenty years;

WHEREAS, the focus groups included demographic representation from:

- Group #1 – Southside West: Franklin, Isle of Wight County, Suffolk, Surry County
- Group #2 – Southside East: Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach
- Group #3 – Active duty military living on the Southside
- Group #4 – Upper Peninsula: Gloucester County, James City County, Mathews County, Williamsburg, York County
- Group #5 – Lower Peninsula – Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson
- Group #6 – Active duty military living on the Peninsula

WHEREAS, CNU recommends improving information sharing, providing more options for citizens to come together around transportation and thus learn more about transportation, and the HRTPO being as transparent and inclusive as possible about problem definitions and problem solving;

WHEREAS, CNU recommends developing *Community Choices Conversation on Transportation*, a 12-18 month program which include dozens of structured conversations on transportation of small groups of

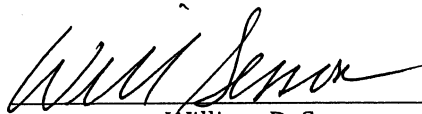
10-15 people from Hampton Roads including special efforts in traditionally underserved communities, led by trained volunteers;

WHEREAS, the main objectives of Community Choices Conversations are to engage citizens in dialogue about transportation policy and key transportation issues and educate citizens about transportation planning process in order for these groups to consider the merits of a range of alternatives and tradeoffs on transportation and recommend the best possible choices; and

WHEREAS, CNU recommends the development of a report which identifies the results of and assesses the Community Choice Conversations including feedback studies and to publish said report for distribution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization supports the Christopher Newport University strategies to inform and engage Hampton Roads residents in transportation planning and programming activities.

APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization Board at its meeting on the 15th day of December, 2010.



William D. Sessoms
Chairman
Hampton Roads Transportation
Planning Organization



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