

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE

Dear Friend,

The Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) would like to invite you to the first gathering of the Environmental Justice Roundtable to discuss the role that transportation plays in the diverse communities that make up our Hampton Roads.

How do current transportation options affect your community's employment opportunities? What additional transportation services would most benefit elderly members of your community? By bringing together a wide-range of citizens -- community leaders, stakeholders, special interest groups and community organizations we hope to benefit from the intimate knowledge you have of your community's needs. The HRTPO recognizes that historically, not all communities and its members have enjoyed the same level of access or representation in the transportation planning process. Therefore, this series of roundtable discussions will be based upon candid conversations and the free flow of thoughts, ideas, and opinions that help us make the best possible decisions about transportation planning, the way in which we communicate with and gain feedback from the public, and how to best create a transparent, inclusive process, here in Hampton Roads.

The first meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on March 12, 2012, at the Regional Building Board Room, 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, and will include light refreshments and a brief overview of the HRTPO and its activities.

We kindly ask that you RSVP by March 05, 2012 to Kendall Miller at (757) 420-8300 or kmiller@hrpdcva.gov. If you are unable to attend, feel free to invite a member of your community to the event.

Sincerely,



Kendall Miller

Public Involvement and Community Outreach Administrator
Title VI Coordinator/Environmental Justice Coordinator

Let's Begin the Dialogue...



COMPROMISING LEARNING SHARING TALKING VISIONING INFLUENCING COMMUNICATING MEETING

AGENDA

HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE

March 12, 2012

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Regional Building Board Room

723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. WHAT IS THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION?**
- 3. UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM(UPWP): REGIONAL PLANNING PRIORITIES**
- 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 5. 2012 FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW PROCESS**



Environmental Justice (EJ) is *“the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of federal laws, regulations, and policies. In the words of Bunyan Bryant, “Environmental justice is served when people can realize their highest potential.”*

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

The **EJ Executive Order** signed by President William Jefferson Clinton in 1994, supplements the existing requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Each Federal agency is required to ensure that no person on grounds of race, color, or national origin is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or in any other way subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal assistance. Accordingly, Title VI prohibits recipients of Federal funds from actions that reflect “intentional discrimination” or that exhibit “adverse disparate impact discrimination” on the basis of race, ethnicity or national origin. Supplemental legislation provides these same protections from discrimination based on sex, age, disability or religion.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND TRANSPORTATION DECISION MAKING

Environmental Justice is more than a set of legal and regulatory obligations. Properly implemented, environmental justice principles and procedures improve all levels of transportation decision making. This approach will:

- Make better transportation decisions that meet the needs of all people.
- Enhance the public involvement process, strengthen community-based partnerships, and provide minority and low-income populations with opportunities to learn about and improve the quality and usefulness of transportation in their lives.
- Improve data collection, monitoring, and analysis tools that assess the needs of, and analyze the potential impacts on minority and low-income populations.
- Partner with other public and private programs to leverage transportation-agency resources to achieve a common vision for communities.
- Avoid disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority and low-income populations.
- Minimize and/or mitigate unavoidable impacts by identifying concerns early in the planning phase and providing offsetting initiatives and enhancement measures to benefit affected communities and neighborhoods.



en-vi-ron-ment (noun): *where we live, work, play, pray and learn.*

Questionnaire

To help us conduct a meaningful community dialogue -- reaching out to your community in the best way possible and hearing back from you on important transportation issues, please assist us by completing the following questionnaire.

1. Please provide the following contact information

Name _____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Title _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website _____

Preferred method of contact

Email U.S. Postal Service

2. Would you be interested in having the HRTPO come to your community or organization/affiliation to have a community conversation about transportation in Hampton Roads and your community's needs?

Yes No

3. Would you be willing to share HRTPO materials and/or public notices for public comment with members of your community or organization/affiliation?

Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to complete our questionnaire. Please send completed questionnaires by mail to 723 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320 or fax (757) 523-4881. Questionnaires may also be completed by visiting our website: http://www.hrtpo.org/TPO_GetInvolved.asp

