

HRTPO Board
Agenda Item #8B



HRTPO 2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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DEVELOPING THE HRTPO LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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September 2013

- HRTPO Legislative Ad-hoc Committee developed a set of **eight (8)** legislative priorities to aid in the development of the HRTPO 2014 Legislative Agenda.
- HRTPO Legislative Ad-hoc Committee discussed, but did not make a formal recommendation to seek legislation to create a regional finance authority for the Hampton Roads region.



November 2013

- HRTPO Board reviews Draft Legislative Priorities.
- HRTPO Board considers whether to make a recommendation within the HRTPO 2014 Legislative Agenda to the General Assembly regarding the establishment of a regional finance authority.
- HRTPO Board approves a set of legislative priorities in the form of an HRTPO Board Resolution.
- Final Legislative Agenda is distributed to local governments and the General Assembly Hampton Roads Delegation.

HRTPO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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1. The HRTPO urges the Commonwealth of Virginia pursue federal funding for preparation of a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement for the continuation and expansion of intercity and high-speed passenger rail service from Richmond to Hampton Roads.
2. The HRTPO supports reconstitution of the representation on the Commonwealth Transportation Board based on congressional districts so that representation on the CTB would be aligned with the population of the Commonwealth. Specifically, to have one CTB member appointed for each Congressional district, while retaining the current number of At-Large members.

HRTPO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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3. The HRTPO supports modifying PPTA regulations and guidelines within the Virginia Code to improve transparency by:
 - ▣ Placing more decision-making authority into the hands of policymakers instead of agency management staff; and
 - ▣ Mandating a robust and comprehensive public comment period on PPTA proposals and provide contract terms and the concessions contemplated into the Comprehensive Agreement prior to final selection.

4. The HRTPO supports prohibiting the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) from requiring that toll revenue be used to pay for maintenance on public/private partnership projects going forward. In addition, the HRTPO supports encouraging VDOT to reexamine existing contracts and to have Highway Maintenance and Operations Funds (HMOF) replace toll dollars for the funding of maintenance.

HRTPO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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5. The HRTPO supports the identification of a dedicated source of funds to support public transportation for the Hampton Roads region.

6. The HRTPO supports a Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) Review of the Equity of Transportation Funding similar, to the 1984 JLARC Study #64.
 - ▣ Background: The 1984 report reviewed equity of construction allocations in terms of highway construction needs as well as system allocations, county maintenance spending, urban street payments, public transportation assistance, and county funding.

HRTPO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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7. The HRTPO supports the full implementation of the recommendations of the 2010 HB42/SB201 Transportation Programs Performance Audit.
 - Background: JLARC was directed by the Virginia General Assembly, in its 2010 session (HB 42 and SB 201), to assess Virginia's approach to transportation planning and programming. This assessment was an attempt to "*address the alignment of Virginia's processes with federal requirements, collaboration between the State and Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and staffing issues.*"

8. The HRTPO supports continued funding of the Virginia Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital Fund (IPROC) at the level set forth in the Virginia Transportation Act of 2013.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITY TO CONSIDER

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- **Seeking legislation to create a regional finance authority for the Hampton Roads region**
 - Background: The HRTPO is the body that will determine project selection for HB2313/HRTF revenues. Currently, the HRTPO is pursuing a package of projects that may require 20+ years to complete using HRTF revenues as it becomes available. It may be possible to advance the projects through the issuance of bonds backed by future HRTF revenues. The HRTPO should therefore consider recommending that the General Assembly create a regional finance authority as an “entity of convenience” for the Hampton Roads region.

NEXT STEPS

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- Consider whether to make a recommendation within the HRTPO 2014 Legislative Agenda to the General Assembly regarding the establishment of a regional finance authority.
- Finalize and approve the HRTPO 2014 Legislative Agenda Resolution; see Item 14.
- Upon approval, this resolution will be transmitted to local governments and the Hampton Roads Delegation of the General Assembly.