

Special Report:

Growth In Regional Travel Outpaces Population and Roadway Capacity

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The growth in roadway travel in Hampton Roads has outpaced the growth in population and roadway capacity over the last decade.

The amount of roadway travel is measured in terms of vehicle-miles of travel, which is the total number of miles all vehicles in the region travel over a period of time. There were over 40 million vehicle-miles of travel on the average day in Hampton Roads in 2010. Over the course of the entire year, this adds up to 15 billion vehicle-miles of travel throughout the region.

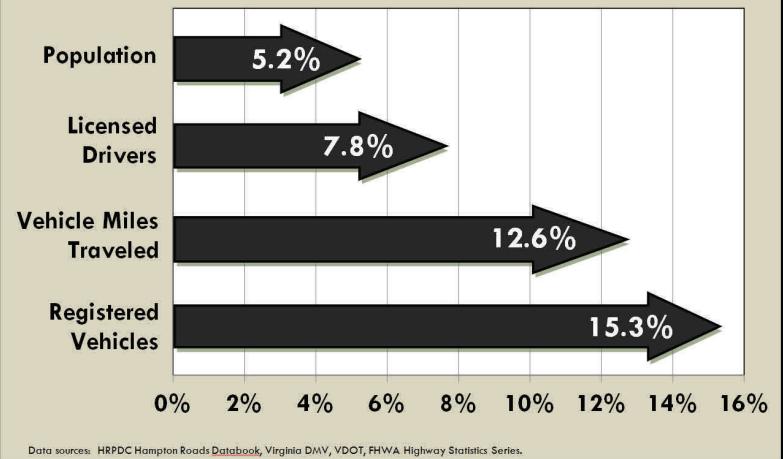
Between 2001 and 2010, roadway travel in Hampton Roads increased by over 4.5 million miles each day, or a total of 12.6%. This growth in roadway travel in Hampton Roads was higher than the growth rates seen throughout Virginia (+11.4%) and the United States (+7.4%), and was more than twice the growth in the population of Hampton Roads over the last decade (+5.2%).

The number of registered vehicles in Hampton Roads increased 15.3% between 2001 and 2010, far outpacing the growth in regional population and vehicle-miles of travel. The number of vehicles per resident in the region also increased, from one vehicle for every 1.24 residents in 2001 to one vehicle for every 1.13 residents in 2010. The growth in licensed drivers in Hampton Roads has also outpaced population growth, increasing 7.8% between 2001 and 2010.

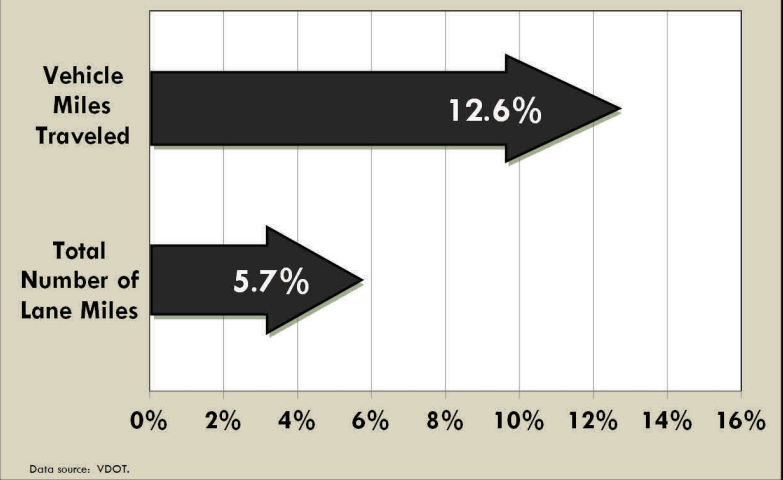
Roadway capacity improvements have not kept up with the growth in vehicular travel in Hampton Roads over the last decade. Between 2001 and 2010, the amount of roadway capacity* increased 5.7% in Hampton Roads, with more than half of this growth being local roadways such as cul-de-sacs. The growth in vehicle-miles of travel in Hampton Roads was more than twice the growth in the total roadway capacity during this time period.

*Roadway capacity in terms of total lane miles of roadway in the region. A lane mile is defined as the length of a roadway times the number of lanes. A one mile section of a roadway that is 6 lanes wide comprises 6 lane miles.

GROWTH IN POPULATION, LICENSED DRIVERS, VMT, AND REGISTERED VEHICLES IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2001 TO 2010



GROWTH IN VMT AND LANE MILEAGE IN HAMPTON ROADS, 2001 TO 2010



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Read the State of Transportation in Hampton Roads 2012 Report, please visit: http://hrtpo.org/TPO_Reports.asp

