

AGENDA ITEM #18: PRIORITIZING HIGHWAY PROJECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF EVACUATION: DRAFT

SUBJECT:

Preparing a prioritized list of highway projects with the goal of reducing the time required to evacuate Hampton Roads.

BACKGROUND:

Under current conditions, in the event of a hurricane it is possible that only a portion of the people living in homes in low-lying areas of Hampton Roads will be able to evacuate. Due to the number of households in low-lying areas, and given the current capacity of evacuation highways (including the planned reversal of I-64), it may take 36 hours to clear evacuation highways for a Category 3 storm. However, due to the uncertainty associated with the final path of an approaching storm, local citizens and governments may not begin evacuation 36 hours before the arrival of tropical storm force winds.

Therefore, to increase the likelihood of evacuation success, it is desirable to increase the capacity of evacuation highways. Given that no prioritized list of highway projects for improving evacuation exists for Hampton Roads, the purpose of this study (draft enclosed) is to prepare a prioritized list of highway projects that improve evacuation.

Dr. Robert Case, Principal Transportation Engineer, will brief the TTAC on this study.

Enclosure 18 – Prioritizing Highway Projects for Improvement of Hurricane Evacuation: Draft

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review the attached draft and submit comments to Rob Case, rcase@hrtpo.org, by COB Wednesday, January 22, 2014.