



Passenger Rail Service to Hampton Roads

Item 449.3 - Allocates \$10,000,000 in the first year and \$10,000,000 in the second year from the Rail Enhancement Fund (REF) to the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) to conduct the Richmond/Hampton Roads Tier II Passenger Rail Environmental Impact Study. Such funds shall be administered as Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital Funds (IPROC).

- Conventional (up to 79 mph) passenger rail service to Norfolk began in 2012.
- Richmond to Hampton Roads Tier I study to increase speed on this route is complete.
- Currently, the Commonwealth is engaged in a Tier II study for higher speed service from Richmond to D.C.
- Tier II study from Richmond to Raleigh, NC is complete.
- It is important that service to Norfolk achieve Tier II status in conjunction with these two other areas.
- Federal funding for construction requires that Richmond to Hampton Roads Tier II study be complete.
- Without this completed study in place, when the Federal funds are available for the Southeast High Speed Rail Project, Norfolk would not be included in the upgraded, faster, and more efficient service that Raleigh, Richmond, and D.C. will enjoy.



Item 449.4 - Requires that the Commonwealth's investment in new and increased service to Norfolk and Roanoke be completed prior to the investment of Commonwealth funds to expand rail service to new markets in North Carolina. Completion of Commonwealth projects shall take priority over other rail expansions to other markets. Any REF utilized for this purpose shall be administered as IPROC funds.

Both budget items are legislative priorities for the HRTPO and have been for many years.