

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC ANNUAL RETREAT

ITEM #13: HOUSING STUDIES

SUBJECT:

Considerable research has been completed around the country addressing the linkage between housing, economic conditions and transportation. The HRPDC staff proposes to begin a study to quantify housing and transportation costs and determine an index of housing and transportation affordability.

BACKGROUND:

A number of other metropolitan regions and research organizations have and are exploring the linkage between housing, economic conditions and transportation. In some cases, these efforts have led to the creation of indices of housing and transportation affordability. Such indices could provide an additional measure for benchmarking and comparing Hampton Roads to competitor regions. In conjunction with the gap analysis being undertaken as one element of the Housing Portal project, this type of affordability index could assist the region and the member localities in ongoing housing and transportation planning. The gap analysis examines the needs for housing services in terms of the resources available to meet those needs.

The proposed study would result in identification of best practices followed in other metropolitan regions for analyzing the housing, transportation, economic conditions linkage. These best practices would serve as additional tools for the region's localities to use in addressing potential deficiencies in provision of housing and employment opportunities in Hampton Roads. Concurrently, a preliminary index of housing and transportation affordability in Hampton Roads would be prepared.

In addition to the research noted above, a Regional Steering Committee would be convened to guide the study efforts and to determine the applicability of results to Hampton Roads. Steering Committee members could include representatives of local planning and housing departments/authorities; HRT and WATA; state agencies, such as DHCD, VDOT and DRPT; private sector representatives, such as non-profit organizations, Chamber of Commerce, TBA; and the HRPDC and HRTPO staffs.

Ms. Shernita Bethea, Housing and Human Services Administrator, will brief the Commission on this initiative and related HRPDC staff resources.