



*Ella P. Ward, Chair*  
*Michael J. Hipple, Vice-Chair*



*Linda T. Johnson, Chair*  
*Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr., Vice-Chair*

**TO: HRPDC/HRTPO Board Members**

**FROM: Robert Crum, Executive Director**

**RE: Executive Director's January 2017 Report**

A brief summary of ongoing work activities is presented below for review by HRPDC/HRTPO Board members.

On November 21, the HRPDC hosted a regional poverty forum at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. Approximately 100 Hampton Roads elected officials, chief administrative officers and community stakeholders convened to hear how other regions across the country are addressing poverty and learn how the City of Norfolk is planning and acting to reduce poverty. The forum evolved from a roundtable discussion between the region's chief administrative officers and police chiefs, which highlighted the importance of addressing poverty in a regionally coordinated manner and the need to bring all community stakeholders to the table to discuss this issue.

To help frame the discussion, the HRPDC invited Purpose Built Communities, a Georgia-based non-profit organization that is working with cities across the country to break the cycle of poverty. Purpose Built Communities' President Carol Naughton, a leader in comprehensive community revitalization for more than 20 years, provided the keynote address. Purpose Built Communities uses a model of assisting communities with pinpointing a defined targeted area to provide assistance. This presentation highlighted the documented increases in school scores, property values, and median income of East Lake Village, a community in Atlanta that was once a high poverty, high crime community. The forum concluded with input from forum attendees on how the region could move forward to address poverty. A debrief and discussion of the regional poverty forum is scheduled for the January 19 HRPDC meeting.

The HRPDC staff is coordinating efforts with the United Way of South Hampton Roads on a regional dashboard/indicators project. With the recent approval of the HRPDC's first strategic plan by the Commission (Envision Hampton Roads), the Commission has established a set of seven important priorities for the Hampton Roads region. The United Way dashboard/indicators project will help establish baseline conditions around these priority areas, and allow the region to track progress over time.

To share information on the United Way indicators/dashboard project and promote the exchange of information among regional partners, the HRPDC staff is in the process of convening a meeting of regional organizations to share information on current initiatives and plans/goals for the upcoming year.

The HRTPO staff continues to work with locality staffs to discuss opportunities for extending the Virginia Capital Trail into the Hampton Roads region. A survey has been released requesting input on various alternatives for this path to connect to the Peninsula and Southside. Staff continues to brief the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee on the status of this work.

HRTPO staff is working to develop an Intercity Passenger Rail and Operating Capital (IPROC) program application requesting funding to complete a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement for improved passenger rail service between Hampton Roads and Richmond.

The Executive Director continues to participate in joint meetings between the business roundtables from Hampton Roads and Richmond to provide information on areas where the two regions can collaborate. Areas of mutual interest include improvements to I-64 between Hampton Roads and Richmond, enhanced passenger rail service between the two regions, deepening and widening of the channel to support the Port of Virginia and expansion of the Virginia Capital Trail into the Hampton Roads region.

The Executive Director attended the Virginia Municipal League Regional Supper on November 30 in Hampton.

The HRPDC/HRTPO attended the November Hampton State of the City Address.

The Executive Director and HRTPO Deputy Executive Director attended the December 1 Hampton Roads Navigational Summit in Norfolk.

HRPDC staff attended the Virginia Economic Summit which was held on December 2 in Williamsburg.

The Executive Director continues to provide assistance to Gloucester County in their efforts to explore alternatives to the current toll arrangement for the Coleman Bridge. These efforts have included coordinating a meeting between county representatives and Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne and VDOT Commissioner Charles Kilpatrick on December 16.

The Executive Director attended the Hampton Roads Caucus meeting on December 6 at the Virginia Port Authority to present the regional legislative priorities of the HRPDC and HRTPO.

The Executive Director continues to work with the Personnel and Budget Committee to develop a path forward regarding the City of Virginia Beach request that the HRPDC provide an annual contribution to the Roanoke River Basin Association (RRBA) to support an Executive Director. A report has been prepared providing responses to questions raised by the HRPDC and P&B Committee members. Staff will work to schedule a meeting of the P&B Committee to review this information and develop a strategy for proceeding.

The Hampton Roads Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) continue to meet on a monthly basis. Attendance at these meetings continues to be excellent. The December 7 meeting was held at the Paul D. Camp Community College Regional Workforce Development Center in Franklin. Agenda topics for this meeting included:

- Storm Sense Project
- Regional Diversity Leadership Program Proposal
- Update on HRPDC/Regional Items
  - HRPDC/HRTPO Legislative Agendas
  - Poverty Forum Debrief/Next Steps
  - Hampton Roads Crossing Study and CTB Action
  - Roanoke River Basin Commission Funding Request
  - Envision Hampton Roads
- CAO Retreat
- Regional Interest Items

The January 4 CAO Committee meeting was hosted by the City of Hampton in Phoebus. Agenda items at this meeting included:

- Hampton Roads Sanitation District Groundwater Injection Project
- Planning for the CAO Committee Retreat
- Regional Interest Items
- General Assembly Update
- January 19 HRPDC Agenda Items

On December 7, the HRTPO staff met with representatives of DRPT, Amtrak and local stakeholders to discuss the need for increased marketing efforts for existing passenger rail service in Hampton Roads.

The Executive Director attended the Hampton Roads Chamber's annual meeting on December 8 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center

The Executive Director attended a Virginia Association of Planning District Commission (VAPDC) Executive Director's meeting on December 9 at the Thomas Jefferson PDC offices in Charlottesville.

On December 12, the Executive Director attended an information meeting with Congressman-elect Donald McEachin, hosted by the Hampton Roads Chamber. At this meeting, the Executive Director highlighted important regional issues for the Congressman.

On December 12, the Executive Director participated in a tour of Craney Island with Craig Quigley from Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance and HRTAC Executive Director Kevin Page.

The Executive Director provided a presentation to the Lead Hampton Roads Class on December 15 highlighting the work of the HRPDC and HRTPO.

The Executive Director provided a presentation on the region's progress in prioritizing and advancing regional transportation priority projects at the Economic Call to Action Meeting hosted by Reinvent Hampton Roads on December 13. The morning session was held at Ted Constant Center on the campus of Old Dominion University and the presentation was repeated in the afternoon at Christopher Newport University. Over 500 people attended these sessions to receive a status report on economic and regional issues.

The HRPDC staff continues to advance efforts for two joint land use studies (JLUS) focusing on sea level rise. The first study, involving the cities of Norfolk and Virginia Beach and the military bases in these jurisdictions, is advancing on schedule. A consultant has been selected for this effort with the HRPDC serving as project manager. A second JLUS focusing on similar issues for the cities of Chesapeake and Portsmouth will also be managed by the HRPDC.

The HRPDC staff has coordinated efforts with HRMFFA staff and state partners to raise awareness about the need for Hampton Roads to be re-designated as an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region. Contacts have been made with the region's congressional delegation, and HRPDC information sheets have been used to inform important stakeholders about this issue.

The Executive Director coordinated a meeting of the Hampton Roads Legislative Liaisons on January 5 in preparation for the upcoming General Assembly session.

The Executive Director will attend the January 12 meeting of the Hampton Roads Caucus to present the regional legislative agendas of the HRPDC and HRTPO.

The HRTPO/HRPDC continues to assist HRTAC with financial management, website support and human resource activities.