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**TO: HRPDC/HRTPO Board Members**

**FROM: Robert Crum, Executive Director**

**RE: Executive Director's January 2018 Report**

To ensure regional coordination during the recent winter storm event, the region's Chief Administrative Officer's (CAOs) and Emergency Management Coordinators held conference calls on Thursday, January 4th and Sunday, January 7th. These calls were used to share information and promote coordination on issues such as road conditions, government operating status, school closures, sheltering and other items. The CAO Committee identified the need for these coordination conference calls during discussions at their regularly scheduled monthly meetings. In accordance with the protocol established by the CAOs and Emergency Management Coordinators, the calls are co-chaired by the chairs of the HRPDC All Hazards Advisory Committee (currently Hui-Shan Walker, City of Hampton Emergency Management Coordinator) and the CAO Committee (currently Jim Baker, Chesapeake City Manager).

The HRTPO Chair, Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director attended the I-64 Peninsula Segment 1 Groundbreaking on December 1, 2017.



On December 12th, the State GO Virginia Board met in Richmond to review applications that were endorsed by the regional GO Virginia Councils. The State GO Virginia Board took the following actions on the two applications which were endorsed by the HRPDC and the region's 17 local jurisdictions:

**Regional Broadband Initiative**

The State Board indicated that consideration of grants to support any broadband projects should be suspended until certain policy issues are addressed during the 2018 General Assembly session. In light of this action, the HRPDC will facilitate discussions with local jurisdictions to discuss other potential approaches for advancing the regional broadband initiative.

**Unmanned Systems Development Facility**

The Board encouraged the applicant to re-apply after the completion of a feasibility study and clarification related to several state and federal approvals. The Peninsula CAOs and HRPDC staff have compiled information to address these questions and Reinvent Hampton Roads intends to resubmit this application for consideration at the February GO Virginia State Board meeting.

The HRPDC/HRTPO staff has analyzed gasoline sales data provided for the Hampton Roads region by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Based upon this review, staff has identified some significant questions/discrepancies in this data and has coordinated with HRTAC staff to raise these concerns with the Secretary of Transportation and DMV. Staff will continue to monitor this issue and provide updates to the HRTPO Board.

On Thursday, November 9th, representatives of the HRPDC/HRTPO hosted a Title VI/Civil Rights Training program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). In addition to HRPDC/HRTPO staff, representatives from the region's localities attended this full day training session.

The HRTPO/HRPDC has published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Regional Connectors Study. This study will evaluate transportation improvements that were not included in the selected alternative from the Hampton Roads Crossing Study Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), and recommend transportation options for addressing the region's long term needs. This effort will be managed by the HRTPO/HRPDC staff and is being funded by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC).

On November 14th, the Executive Director provided a presentation on the region's legislative priorities to the Hampton Roads Association of Commercial Realtors (HRACRE).

HRPDC Chief Economist Greg Grootendorst provided a presentation to the Virginia Beach City Council and School Board on November 21st on economic trends and forecasts for the Hampton Roads region.

The Executive Director and Human Resource Administrator have completed the first round of interviews for the HRTPO Deputy Executive Director position. A final round of interviews for this position will be completed in mid-January.

The Executive Director and Chief Economist attended the Hampton Roads Chamber Inter-Regional Visit to Nashville from November 28 – November 30. Approximately 35 community leaders attended this visit to learn about best practices pertaining to areas such as economic development, workforce development, infrastructure, place making and “civic furniture.” The trip included presentations from the following officials:

- Nashville and Davidson County Mayor Megan Berry
- Phillip Bredesen, Former Governor of Tennessee and former Nashville Mayor
- Sean Henry, President and CEO of the Nashville Predators
- Ralph Schulz, President and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Representatives of the Metropolitan Nashville Planning Department, Nashville Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Metropolitan Planning Organization.

HRPDC staff attended the Economic Summit hosted by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce in Williamsburg on December 1st.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Committee held their regularly scheduled monthly meetings on December 6th and January 3rd. Agenda items for these meetings were as follows:

December 6 – held at Fort Monroe in City of Hampton

- Roundtable discussion among CAO Committee members to provide input on items of interest that should be discussed by the Committee over the next six months.
- Emergency Management Conference Call Protocol/Procedures
- Potential for CAO Committee participation in the Atlantic Fury Training Exercise in May
- Coastal Resiliency Discussion follow-up from November HRPDC meeting
- GO Virginia Update
- Sea Wall Coalition

January 3 – held at Fountain Plaza II, Town Center Drive in Newport News

- Coordination regarding upcoming Winter Storm event
- HRPDC Coastal Resiliency Committee – future direction
- General Assembly session
- Regional Interest Items

The HRPDC staff continues to advance work on the regional economic development sites inventory project. A series of meetings have been held between HRPDC staff and the region's economic development directors to review the status of this project and request input. An informational presentation will be provided on this project to the HRPDC at the Commission's January meeting.

The Executive Director attended a meeting of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commission's (VAPDC) Executive Directors in Charlottesville on December 8th.

The Executive Director and VDOT District Administrator Jim Utterback held their regular quarterly meeting on December 14th. These meetings are scheduled to facilitate the exchange of information between VDOT and the HRTPO.

The Executive Director met with the Michael Giardino, the New Peninsula Airport Commission Executive Director on December 19th.

The Executive Director attended the December 21st meetings of the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA) and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) Boards.

A meeting of the region's Legislative Liaisons was hosted at the HRPDC offices on January 3rd in preparation for the upcoming General Assembly session.

The Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director attended a meeting in Virginia Beach on January 9th to discuss potential options for advancing the regional broadband initiative.

On January 10th, the Executive Director and HRPDC staff met with Drew Lumpkin of Senator Mark Warner's office to discuss options for advancing the Regional Geographic Information System (GIS) project.

The HRPDC/HRTPO Management Team continues to advance work on the following items:

- Recruitment for vacant positions
- Continued coordination of upgrades to the Regional Building's HVAC system
- Personnel Management
- Provision of financial and human resource management services to the HRTAC and HRMFFA
- Deployment of updated/new computer IT management efforts
- Employee evaluation systems
- FY 2019 Budget