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TO: HRPDC/HRTPO Board Members
FROM: Robert Crum, Executive Director
RE: Executive Director's April 2017 Report

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

The first GO Virginia Regional Council meeting for Hampton Roads was held on April 4th at the Virginia Port Authority offices. Local government representation on the Go Virginia Regional Council includes Norfolk Mayor Kenneth Alexander, Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms, Newport News Mayor McKinley Price, and HRPDC Executive Director Bob Crum.

HRPDC staff is coordinating efforts with the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) and Reinvent Hampton Roads to develop a site inventory for the Hampton Roads region to identify major economic development sites that are shovel ready. This inventory will identify those sites which have access to the necessary utilities and have appropriate zoning to support economic development activities. As part of this effort, HRPDC, HREDA and Reinvent staff met with major utility providers on March 22nd to discuss this project and request the assistance of these entities.

The Executive Director has provided assistance to Gloucester County in their efforts to obtain information regarding the Coleman Bridge and the associated financing plan and tolls related to this facility. The Executive Director arranged a meeting with Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne, VDOT Commissioner Charlie Kilpatrick and Gloucester County representatives. In addition, a subsequent meeting was scheduled between County representatives and Commonwealth Transportation Board members to discuss this topic.

The HRPDC staff is providing assistance to the City of Hampton and the Regional Chief Administrative Officer Committee regarding FEMA's position on requirements to permit minor developments within flood hazard areas that are exempt from the statewide building code. On March 16th the HRPDC Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director organized a meeting with Congressman Wittman and Congressman Taylor's district staffs and the City of Hampton to review this item. In addition, HRPDC staff has organized a meeting for April 27th at the HRPDC offices between the Hampton Roads CAO Committee and FEMA representatives to discuss this issue.

The HRPDC Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director met with the Isle of Wight County Administrator on February 6th to discuss ongoing regional planning initiatives.

The HRPDC Executive Director and Chief Economist met with Brad Van Dommelen, Director of the Virginia Beach Convention Center, on February 8th to review the HRPDC's available data resources.

The Executive Director provided a presentation to the Board of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce on February 8th reviewing ongoing initiatives of the HRTPO and HRPDC.

The Executive Director provided a presentation on February 9th in Suffolk to a Real Estate Continuing Education Class providing background information on the HRTPO's transportation priority projects.

On February 17th, the HRPDC co-hosted a roundtable meeting with the United Way and regional stakeholders to discuss the United Way's regional data dashboard project.

The Executive Director met with Senator Warner's regional office staff on February 22nd to discuss the need for the Hampton Roads region to be reinstated as an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region. Staff also met with the regional staff for Congressman Wittman and Congressman Taylor in York County on March 16th to discuss this topic.

On April 5th, the Executive Director sent correspondence to Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly requesting assistance to redesignate Hampton Roads as a UASI region. Included in this communication was correspondence dated January 25, 2017 to the region's congressional delegation signed by the chief elected officials of the region's 17 jurisdictions and informational one-pagers prepared by HRPDC staff providing background information on the UASI program and its importance to the Hampton Roads region.

The HRTPO Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director met with representatives of the City of Franklin on February 22nd to provide background information on the work of the HRTPO and its related committees.

The Executive Director continues to attend monthly meetings of the Regional Roundtable to promote the exchange of information among regional stakeholders.

The Norfolk/Virginia Beach Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) was officially initiated in February. The HRPDC is the host/project manager for this JLUS, which will include the military installations within these neighboring jurisdictions. Included in this analysis will be a review of steps the community can take to ensure that recurrent flooding does not adversely impact the mission of these military installations. The Technical Committee for this JLUS met on February 23rd, while the Policy Committee for this project held its first meeting on March 23rd.

The Executive Director met with the Portsmouth City Manager on February 27th to provide input regarding the City's proposed poverty reduction strategy.

The HRTPO hosted the Route 58 Corridor kickoff meeting on February 28th with the participating jurisdictions, VDOT and its on-call consultants. This study will include the cities of Franklin and Suffolk and counties of Southampton and Isle of Wight, and will evaluate needed improvements in the Route 58 Corridor to Interstate 95.

The Regional CAO Committee held its regular monthly meetings on March 1st in Smithfield and on April 5th in Norfolk. Attendance at these meeting continues to be excellent. Agenda items at these meetings included the following:

March 1st

- Presentation from Andrew Block, Director of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/City of Hampton Floodplain Program Review
- Public Safety Discussion Follow Up from CAO Retreat

April 5th

- GO Virginia Update from Jim Spore, Reinvent Hampton Roads
- Regional Coastal Resiliency Accelerator Update from Paul Robinson of RISE
- FEMA Update
- Regional Broadband
- Roanoke River Basin Association

The Personnel and Budget Committee met on March 2nd to discuss the proposal to provide funding to the Roanoke River Basin Association (RRBA) to assist the RRBA with the expenses associated with hiring an Executive Director. The RRBA provides advocacy efforts within the area that is tributary to Lake Gaston, which is an important water supply to Southside localities in Hampton Roads. The Personnel and Budget Committee has developed a recommendation which will be presented to the HRPDC at its April 20th meeting.

The Executive Director met with representatives of Virginia Energy Sense on March 2nd to discuss educational materials related to energy conservation for homeowners. This information will be distributed at events attended by HRPDC staff related to the askHRgreen.org program.

The Executive Director met with representatives of the Albemarle Regional Commission on March 3rd to discuss common interests and collaborative opportunities between the two regions.

On Saturday, March 4th the Executive Director provided a presentation to the Virginia Beach Libertarian Party on the work of the HRTPO and the status of the region's regional priority transportation projects.

The HRTPO's Passenger Rail Working Group met on March 7th to discuss approaches to increase marketing for the region's Amtrak passenger rail trains.

The Executive Director and HRTPO Deputy Executive Director met with Southampton County representatives on March 8th to discuss the work of the HRTPO and its various committees.

The Executive Director provided a presentation to the Lefcoe Leadership Class in Portsmouth on March 8th on the work of the HRPDC and HRTPO.

The Executive Director sits on the Board of Reinvent Hampton Roads, which held its regularly scheduled board meeting on March 9th.

The Executive Director attended a meeting of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions on March 10th.

HRTPO staff participated in an interview to provide input into the Virginia State Rail Plan.

The Executive Director met with representatives of the local American Heart Association to discuss possible collaboration efforts around active transportation initiatives.

HRTPO staff met with representatives of Chesapeake City Schools to discuss potential public outreach programs in the school system for the Fall Semester.

The Executive Director and Deputy Executive Directors attended the March board meetings of the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission.

The Executive Director participated in the joint Hampton Roads/Richmond Collaborative Roundtable meeting held at William and Mary on March 20th.

On March 27th the Executive Director provided a presentation to the Hampton Roads Chamber Regional Alliance providing an update on the status of passenger rail service in Hampton Roads and requesting the assistance of the region's Chambers in promoting the use of train service by the region's business community.

HRTPO staff attended the March 29th VDOT Public Meeting on the proposed Smart Scale funding proposal. HRTPO Chair Linda Johnson provided testimony on behalf of the HRTPO at this meeting.

On April 6th, the HRTPO and HRTAC Executive Director provided a presentation to the Lead Peninsula Class on the status of the region's transportation priority projects.

On April 7th, the Executive Director and HRTPO Deputy Executive Director attended a meeting in Richmond with Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) staff to discuss the need for a Tier II Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for passenger rail to Hampton Roads, and to review the costs of this work and potential funding sources. In response to a budget amendment submitted during this past General Assembly session, the DRPT will submit a report on this item to the chairs of the Senate and House Transportation Committees by July 1st.

The HRPDC/HRTPO staff continues to advance work on a number of administrative work items including the following:

- FY 2018 Budget Preparation
- Payroll management for the HRPDC, HRTPO, HRTAC and HRMFFA
- Evaluation of building maintenance/repair issues, including the regional building's HVAC system, front door replacement and electrical system upgrade needs.
- Recruitment for various HRPDC/HRTPO positions
- Monitoring of the Agency's IT system and managing next steps