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*Michael J. Hipple, Vice-Chair*



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

**TO:** HRPDC/HRTPO Board Members

**BY:** Robert Crum, Executive Director

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

On April 12, the Executive Director and HRPDC Deputy Executive Director participated in a meeting with Secretary of Technology Karen Jackson to discuss regional opportunities for the Hampton Roads region related to broadband. Of particular interest was a discussion of how the transatlantic broadband cables landing in Virginia Beach could serve as a regional economic development tool for the region. Based on this discussion, Secretary Jackson and the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) have helped arrange a meeting at the HRPDC on June 1 with representatives of the Gramercy District in Loudoun, Virginia to discuss the Smart Cities initiative and potential opportunities for Hampton Roads. Representatives from the region's 17 jurisdictions have been invited to attend and participate in this session.

During Earth Day week, the HRPDC and askHRgreen unveiled a "Write as Rain" environmental education program across the Hampton Roads region. Using custom made stencils and ecologically friendly rain resistant spray, over 60 sidewalk messages were placed around the Hampton Roads region to promote environmental stewardship. The campaign's "green" messages will appear on local sidewalks and streetscapes when it rains. To promote this campaign, HRPDC Chair Dr. Ella Ward and Vice Chair Michael Hipple, participated in a press conference between the HRTPO and HRPDC Board meetings on April 20, which was covered by several local media outlets. In addition, this program was featured on the Hampton Roads Show. Media coverage of the sidewalk campaign can be viewed at <http://www.hrpdcva.gov/news/article/may/04/2017/the-word%27s-out-about-askhrgreen.org%27s-write-as-rain-campaign>.



HRTPO Senior Transportation Engineer, Sam Belfield, was included in a story completed by WVEC regarding the 100th anniversary of Naval Station Norfolk. Mr. Belfield's portion of this story related to transportation for military employees. The interview aired the first week of May and can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.13newsnow.com/news/military/a-century-of-service-naval-station-norfolk-then-and-now/434290631>

The HRTPO staff continues to coordinate the Route 58 Corridor Study on behalf of the cities of Franklin and Suffolk and Southampton and Isle of Wight Counties. Staff recently held a meeting with VDOT representatives and the consultant team on this effort and has scheduled the next steering committee meeting for this study on June 14.

Following action by the HRTPO Board at its April meeting approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the analysis of segments not included in the Hampton Roads Crossing Study preferred alternative, HRTPO staff is developing a strategy for initiating these supplemental studies.

The Executive Director and HRPDC staff continue to work with the region's Federal delegation to stress the importance of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) designation to the Hampton Roads region. This effort has included targeted outreach to the region's federal delegation and the distribution of background information on this topic.

The HRPDC is serving as the sponsor and project manager for two Joint Land Use Studies (JLUS) involving the region's military installations and localities. The first is the Norfolk/Virginia Beach JLUS which kicked off earlier this spring with both a Technical Committee and Policy Committee meeting. A second JLUS involving the cities of Chesapeake and Portsmouth and their military installations will be launched early summer. A JLUS is a community-driven, cooperative, strategic planning process among localities, states, and military installations. The goal of each JLUS is to encourage local governments to work closely with the military installations to implement measures that prevent the introduction of incompatible civilian development that may impair the continued operational utility of the military installation, and to preserve and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of those living near an active military facility. These JLUS efforts will also address the issue of recurrent flooding on the operations of the military and the community.

The HRTPO staff continues to work with a steering committee to identify alternatives for extending the Virginia Capital Trail into the Hampton Roads region. Alternatives are being identified for extending the trail from James City County to Fort Monroe on the Peninsula, and using the Surry Ferry for connecting the trail to the Southside. A recommended alternative will be presented by the HRTPO staff to the TPO Board at its July meeting.

The HRPDC has participated in meetings with representatives of Old Dominion University and the Hampton Roads Chamber regarding planning for the first annual State of Coastal Resiliency Forum for Hampton Roads. The goal of this event will be to promote progress that is occurring within the region's government, business, education and nonprofit communities on coastal resiliency issues.

The Executive Director and HRPDC Deputy Executive Director attended a session with Governor Terry McAuliffe and his cabinet on April 13 at the Chesapeake Convention Center.

On the afternoon of April 13, the Governor's emergency management cabinet held a meeting at the HRPDC offices with over 40 regional emergency management professionals to discuss a debrief on Hurricane Matthew and promote the exchange of information on other emergency management topics. HRPDC staff attended and participated in this session.

On April 18, the Executive Director attending the Hampton Roads Sanitation District's 2016 Pretreatment Awards Ceremony located at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton.

On April 19, the Executive Director attended the Portsmouth State of the City Address at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel and Conference Center.

The HRPDC Personnel and Budget Committee met on April 20 prior to the HRTPO and HRPDC Board meetings. At this meeting, the P&B Committee reviewed the following items:

- The proposed FY 2018 HRPDC/HRTPO Budget. The P&B Committee took action recommending approval of the Budget by the HRPDC and HRTPO. This budget proposal will be presented to the HRPDC and HRTPO Board with a request for action on May 18.
- The proposal to provide funding to the Roanoke River Basin Association (RRBA) to support a full-time Executive Director. The HRPDC took action at its April 20 meeting to approve the P&B Committee's recommendation on this item.
- The annual evaluation of the HRPDC/HRTPO Executive Director.

On April 24, the Executive Director attended a retreat of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions (VAPDC) in Charlottesville to discuss approaches for VAPDC to support and advance the work of PDCs. This retreat was attended by the Executive Directors of the State's 21 PDCs.

The Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions will hold its summer meeting from July 19 – 21 at the Waterside Marriot in Norfolk. HRPDC members who are interested in attending this meeting should contact the Executive Director.

On April 26, the Executive Director provided a presentation to the Williamsburg Area Partnership on the work of the HRPDC and HRTPO.

On April 27, the HRPDC hosted a meeting between representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the region's CAOs and staffs, and the representatives of the region's federal delegation to discuss concerns regarding requirements for permitting minor development within flood hazard areas. This issue evolved from FEMA's Community Assistance Visit to the City of Hampton and a subsequent finding that the city would need to develop a system for addressing minor development within flood hazard areas. As a result of this meeting, FEMA agreed to withdraw the publication of national guidance to address this issue and also agreed to collaborate with a working committee consisting of local CAOs, HRPDC staff and federal delegation representatives to address this issue. On May 5, HRPDC staff coordinated a conference call between this working committee and FEMA representatives to continue discussion of this topic. In addition, FEMA staff has agreed to attend the June 7 meeting of the region's Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) Committee to discuss this item and respond to questions and concerns.

On April 27, HRPDC staff attended the Chesapeake State of the City Address at the Chesapeake Conference Center.

On April 28, the Executive Director hosted the monthly regional roundtable meeting. This group consists of Executive Directors/CEOs from the following organizations that meet on a monthly basis to promote the exchange of information and collaboration on regional issues:

- Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce
- Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance
- Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission
- Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
- Opportunity, Inc.
- Peninsula Council for Workforce Development
- Reinvent Hampton Roads
- Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
- Virginia Shipbuilders Association

On May 2, the Executive Director participated in a phone call with the Executive Director of the Albemarle Regional Commission to continue the discussion of potential collaboration opportunities between the two regions.

The Executive Director attended the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) Board meeting held at the National Institute of Aerospace in Hampton on May 11.

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

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

On May 8, HRPDC and HRTPO staff attended the Virginia Port Authority Tour of the COSCO ship that was docked at the VPA facility.

