

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

2020 Regional Legislative Agenda

Coastal Resiliency

- Request State funding that can be used by local governments as a local match to participate in Federal funding programs
 - Saves the State money by bringing more Federal dollars to Virginia for resiliency projects
 - Helps localities with debt capacity limits participate in federal programs
 - Creates Local/State/Federal partnerships
- Request that the Commonwealth create a State Resiliency Assistance Fund
 - Modeled on Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF)
 - Funds projects based on established criteria and addresses equity gap
 - Supports planning and mitigation in areas with limited resources
- Request State or Federal funding to create regional planning capacity around resiliency issues
 - Modeled on Transportation PL funds used to support regional planning efforts
 - Administer through the NOAA Coastal Zone Management Program
- Request that the State provide resources to support the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan
- Support Federal/State funding for recurrent flooding/sea level rise projects in Hampton Roads
 - Projects that protect our region's military bases
 - Priority to communities with adopted JLUS
 - Support for Defense Access Roads Program
 - Defense Community Infrastructure Program
- Advocate for policy changes to federal resiliency programs that assist localities in their local efforts to address resiliency issues
 - Some existing policies hinder locality efforts to advance local programs and projects
- Consider a special assessment to support a professional advocate to represent the region on federal coastal resiliency policy issues. (Estimated Year 1 Costs: \$50,000)
 - Need for ongoing and consistent advocacy at Federal level to deliver success
 - Advocate for federal policy changes
 - Ability for USACE Studies to include military facilities as one example of a policy change that is needed
 - NOAA Atlas 14 Update
 - FEMA Disclosure Issues

Offshore Wind

- Request State support to attract companies to Hampton Roads that support the emerging offshore wind industry and create jobs for Virginia

Economic Development Site Readiness

- Support funding programs and policies that assist local governments with preparing shovel ready sites for economic development and job creation

Broadband/Fiber

- Support funding programs and policies that advance regional efforts to develop modern fiber networks

Chesapeake Bay

- Support increased State funding to support localities work in addressing Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction requirements
- Support State policies that allow localities to promote the conservation, planting and replacement of trees
- Support legislation and funding for DEQ to study options for establishing a point system through the SLAF program that includes nitrogen

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

- Sustain UASI funding levels for the Hampton Roads region

K-12 Public Education

- Support the continuation of efforts to provide increased state funding for K-12 public education, with a goal of returning to pre-recession levels
 - Support adjustments to Standards of Learning
 - Support school security
 - Support programs that expand Arts programs

Housing

- Support legislation that continues to appropriate funding of the Virginia Housing Trust Fund for housing programs and projects