

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #11-H: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUSTAINABILITY

SUBJECT:

Emergency management stakeholders recommend to reorganize emergency management/homeland security committees within the region and sustain regional emergency management capabilities.

BACKGROUND:

Hampton Roads was designated a high risk urban area eligible to receive UASI funding in FY 2007. In FY 2012, the region was removed from the UASI eligibility list and remained ineligible to apply for UASI grants thru FY 2011. The region has been reinstated and was allocated \$1 million for FY 2014. While these funds will greatly assist preparedness efforts in the Hampton Roads region, the funding is still insufficient to meet regional preparedness needs.

In addition to the UASI funds, the Hampton Roads region has benefited from Homeland Security Grants and Sub-Grants, including Regional Catastrophic Planning Grants (RCPG), Port Security Grants and Communications and Interoperability Program Grants. These programs have been successful in fostering communication and greater coordination among local, state and federal representatives to improve the region's capacity to plan, coordinate, equip, and ultimately respond and recover from natural and manmade threats and disasters.

Many of these grants have been reduced, eliminated or will be closed within the next twelve months. They have resulted in the acquisition of millions of dollars of assets that have depreciated service life and need to be maintained and replaced over time. In addition, multiple regional emergency planning organizations, created for various programs have resulted in duplication of effort, requiring many hours of staff time and creating unintended program inefficiencies.

Consolidating and sustaining these highly effective grant program capabilities and assets will improve efficiencies and produce many tangible benefits for member jurisdictions and the region.

The Chair of the Hampton Roads Urban Areas Working Group obtained approval from the HRPDC Executive Committee in June 2014 to bring a recommendation to the Commission.

This item and attachment were presented under Workshop Agenda item #4.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

HRPDC Staff supports the consolidation of regional programs and sustainment of regional capabilities to maintain and enhance our region's preparedness for all hazards.