

Regional Legislative Agenda 2021

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Hampton Roads Planning District Commission



Request creation of the Virginia Commonwealth Flooding Board

Would play a role similar to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, but for statewide flooding issues

Ensure collaboration and alignment among State agencies and coordinate planning and adaptation efforts

Board would direct and prioritize state and federal funding for flood mitigation



Request that resilience considerations be included in SMART SCALE transportation funding decisions

SMART SCALE is the Commonwealth's method for prioritizing transportation projects for state funding

Under current system, a project without resiliency features would score higher since it would have a lower cost

A project's approach to resiliency should be considered in SMART SCALE scoring system

Request State and Federal assistance to update precipitation predictions

Design of stormwater infrastructure currently based on historical rainfall events

Atlas 14 report prepared by National Weather Service not updated for our region since 2006

Rainfall trends are changing – VA Beach has adopted a local standard of Atlas 14 plus 20%

Update Precipitation Predictions

Local

Hampton Roads localities should consider adopting the Virginia Beach design approach of Atlas 14 plus 20%

State

Virginia should invest in the research to analyze recent rainfall patterns across the entire State to determine future rainfall predictions

Federal

Congress should fund the National Weather Service to update its methodology for analyzing rainfall



Request Virginia's property disclosure requirements be amended to require the seller to disclose information about a property's past flooding history

Currently no requirement for disclosure regarding a property's past flooding history

Buyers not aware of issues until they are required to purchase flood insurance as part of mortgage agreements

Offshore Wind

Continue to support State efforts to promote the offshore wind industry and make the Hampton Roads region a hub for supply chain jobs to support this emerging industry



Broadband/Fiber

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

The Hampton Roads region is planning a fiber network that will connect to the subsea cables in Virginia Beach and spread this ultrafast broadband throughout the 757

First phase is the South Side Fiber ring – to be expanded to a second interconnected ring on the Peninsula – then move westward

State funding to construct this fiber ring will assist in the timely delivery of this transformational project



Economic Development/Site Readiness

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



Water Quality

DEQ should evaluate options and propose priority ranking criteria that include nitrogen reductions for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF)

For Chesapeake Bay TMDL, Virginia is over-achieving on phosphorus reduction goals and under-achieving nitrogen reduction goals

Current SLAF criteria focus on phosphorous reduction not nitrogen or other pollutants

SLAF funding criteria should reflect needed reductions to achieve Bay TMDL goals in Virginia



Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

Sustain UASI funding levels for the Hampton Roads region



K-12 Public Education

Support continuation of efforts to provide increased state funding for K-12 public education



Housing

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

