

AGENDA ITEM #6: REGIONAL FIBER RING UPDATE

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr., HRPDC/HRTPO Executive Director

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) has endorsed a regionally interconnected fiber network that will interconnect with the subsea cables that have come ashore in Virginia Beach and spread this ultrafast fiber service across the region's 17 local governments. This effort has the potential to decrease internet service costs, create a foundation for "smart region" approaches and assist in the strengthening of the Hampton Roads economy,

Phase I of this Regional Fiber Network will be the construction of the southside fiber ring which will interconnect the five southside cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. Future phases will extend to the Peninsula and then move westward to interconnect the entire Hampton Roads region.

Mr. Robert Crum will provide the CAC additional background information on this initiative and provide a status report on the procurement, financing, and construction of the southside fiber ring.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For discussion and informational purposes.