

## **ITEM #16: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Members of the public are invited to address the HRTPO Board. Each speaker is limited to three minutes.

## **ITEM #17: SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no submitted public comments. Any written public comments received after the preparation of this agenda will be distributed as a handout at the meeting.

## **ITEM #18: TRANSCRIBED PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS HRTPO MEETING**

The transcribed public comments from the May 18, 2017 HRTPO Board meeting are attached.

Attachment 18

**Transcribed Public Comments from the  
May 18, 2017 HRTPO Board Meeting**

*The views and opinions expressed during the public comment period  
do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the HRTPO.*

One person requested to address the HRTPO Board at the May 18, 2017 Meeting. Chair Johnson asked them to limit their comments to three minutes.

*Ms. Donna Sayegh  
Portsmouth Citizen*

Good morning. My name is Donna Sayegh, and I live in Portsmouth. Looking at the agenda today, one will notice the enmeshment of the HRPDC and the HRTPO information. This information is not only confusing, but it's also inappropriate. The General Assembly started this mess by creating HJR756 in February 2009. The purpose was to improve transportation planning and programming in Virginia by the federal transportation legislation 23 CFR 450.300 series. In 1995, the General Assembly modified the 1968 Virginia Development Act by adopting the Regional Cooperation Act. The act made a law that the Virginia PDC provides a forum for state and local governments to address issues of a regional nature. The General Assembly forgot to stipulate that issues would be other than transportation. This act forces local governments to solve their problems by recognizing and analyzing regional opportunities and use regional influences in planning and implementing public policies and services. Localities must meet these goals by completing a regional strategic plan with businesses, citizen organizations and other interested parties. The intent of the plan was to force the orderly and efficient development of a physical, social, and economic elements for the planning districts. This is an example of a command system created on purpose to take away the voice and vote of the people to choose their own physical, social and economic elements. The HRPDC is not a trust agency for the HRTPO. Our constitution does not give authority to the federal government to dictate how our citizens wish to form alliances. Next, the budget. The background on the proposed budget states that the member contributions will remain at the reduced 0.80 per person. That means for Portsmouth every citizen is marked to pay 0.80 without their consent. Deduct my 0.80 I don't want this commission making my decisions without my consent. All decisions have been made in this agenda. I have not been consulted on anything, nor any other citizen. It seems that all members of this board, elected and appointed, believe they have power of attorney over our affairs because the federal government says so. The people's affairs are being taxed without representation. The reconstruction, takeover by the federal government has steadily expanded until today when our General Assembly threw the southern doors open wider to completely destroy our traditions and values. Our elected and appointed have become the federal government's sheep for the people's money and we the people are being fleeced. Thanks for listening.