



**HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION
RESOLUTION 2010-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION ENDORSING THE DESIGNATION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS HARBOR AS A MARINE HIGHWAY CORRIDOR.

WHEREAS, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 required the US Secretary of Transportation to establish a short sea transportation program to mitigate landside congestion;

WHEREAS, the US Maritime Administration's *America's Marine Highway Program* is designed to integrate our coastal and inland waterways into the nation's surface transportation system, and to reduce congestion, improve air quality and provide other public benefits by supporting increased use of these waterways;

WHEREAS, the US Department of Transportation published an interim final rule on October 9, 2008, establishing a framework to provide federal support to expand the use of America's Marine Highway. One of the four primary components of the framework includes the designation of Marine Highway Corridors;

WHEREAS, a Marine Highway Corridor consists of one or more navigable inland or intracoastal waterways (including lakes, rivers, bays, and sounds), coastal waters, or portions thereof that can provide an alternative to specific road or rail corridors for freight and/or passenger transportation;

WHEREAS, designated Marine Highway Corridors will integrate the Marine Highway into the surface transportation system and encourage the development of multi-jurisdictional coalitions to focus public and private efforts and investments on using the waterways to relieve landside congestion along coastal corridors as extensions of the surface transportation system;

WHEREAS, a proposed Marine Highway Project must be a new, expanded or enhanced water transportation service along one or more designated Marine Highway Corridors that serves as an intermodal extension of the surface transportation system; and