

**HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FTAC RESOLUTION 2015-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDING POLICY DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE TOLL ASSESMENTS ON THE FREIGHT INDUSTRY FOR REGIONAL AND NON REGIONAL FREIGHT MOVEMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, as prescribed in the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Bylaws, the HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) advises the HRTPO Board on regional freight transportation requirements, conducts public outreach activities that help HRTPO efforts to help raise awareness of the importance of freight transportation to the region, and collects region-wide public input on these matters;

**WHEREAS**, the HRTPO and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) have identified a program of improvements to maintain and enhance the performance and integrity of the region's highway network over the coming decades to include more traditional projects included in the 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan along with major regional projects associated being implemented by Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission;

**WHEREAS**, in response to the issue of how these improvements may be funded, the FTAC led an initiative to conduct an economic impact assessment on the effect of future and proposed tolls rates on retaining and attracting freight related businesses to Hampton Roads;

**WHEREAS**, funded with HRTPO Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds, the contract for the study was awarded to Cambridge Systematics, Inc. in April 2014;

**WHEREAS**, completed in September 2015, the *Economic Assessment of Tolls on Freight Transportation in the Hampton Roads Region* analyzes the economic trade-offs of the benefits of transportation infrastructure investments and tolls as a way to pay for the investments, and addresses the following two questions:

- What are the impacts on freight traffic and the economy if the improvements are not made?
- What are the impacts on freight traffic and the economy if tolls are used to pay for the improvements?

**WHEREAS**, based on stakeholder interviews, a benchmarking analysis of competing port regions, and an analysis of future truck travel using the regional travel demand model, the study finds:

- Without the proposed major regional capacity projects, there will be an additional 4 million hours of truck delay in 2040.

- The cost of doing nothing is significant and equates to \$1.0 billion increase in trucking costs in 2040.
- The freight industry will have less costs if new capacity is constructed on key truck routes with tolls than the cost arising from doing nothing.
- Both tolls and congestion costs impact local trips more than trips originating or terminating outside the region.

**WHEREAS**, the study recommends:

- The region should consider the impact on the freight industry as they evaluate and prioritize capacity expansion projects. Evaluation of individual projects is required to better understand the trade-offs between congestion relief benefits and toll costs on the freight industry.
- The analysis indicates that a significant amount of the toll burden will fall on local truck trips. This has the potential to impact if and where businesses locate in the region. As plans move forward and toll rates are examined for each facility, the region should consider mitigation strategies. Strategies may include variable toll prices by user type, frequency of trip, and other local incentives that create equitable toll structure between local and non-local user.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that if tolls are considered as a funding source in Hampton Roads and policies are developed by the region, that FTAC participate in the process to ensure any tolls on the regional freight industry are equitable.

**APPROVED and ADOPTED** by the HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory Committee at its meeting on the 1st day of October, 2015.



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Delegate Christopher P. Stolle  
Co-Chairperson  
HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory  
Committee



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Arthur W. Moyer, Jr.  
Co-Chairperson  
HRTPO Freight Transportation Advisory  
Committee