

Regional Connectors Study

Frequently Asked Questions

The Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) values our regional partners and is committed to collaboration with community members. We want to help create an efficient, equitable Hampton Roads transportation system. If you have questions, would like to leave input or seek more information, please visit connectorstudy.org. Information is updated as it becomes available. You can also contact us at **(757) 776-0362** or via e-mail at connectorstudy@prrbiz.com.

What is the purpose of the study?

The study will investigate connectivity between the Peninsula and Southside through the lenses of economic vitality, resiliency, accessibility and quality of life.

Who is conducting the study?

The HRTPO will lead the study with collaboration from two regional stakeholder groups. The Working Group is comprised of technical staff from seven local jurisdictions (Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and Suffolk) and other key regional stakeholders (US Navy, US Coast Guard, Virginia Port Authority, Federal Highway Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Department of Transportation, and HRTAC). The Steering (Policy) Committee is comprised of elected officials from each of the seven local jurisdictions.

How is the study being funded?

The study is funded through the Hampton Road Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC).

What is the HRTPO?

The Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Hampton Roads area. As such, it is a federally mandated transportation policy board comprised of representatives from local, state, and federal governments, transit agencies, and other stakeholders and is responsible for transportation planning and programming for the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA).

Why is the HRTPO completing the Regional Connectors Study?

To complete the appropriate studies, designs, funding analyses, and documentation necessary to determine feasibility, permitability, and transportation benefits necessary to advance corridor improvements alternatives.

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What geographic areas does the study focus on?

- The “Southside” including Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Franklin, Southampton County, and Isle of Wight County.
- The “Peninsula” including Newport News, Hampton, Poquoson, and Williamsburg, as well as James City County and York County.

Will tolls be increased?

No tolls other than existing toll facilities and future express lanes were considered for any of the alternatives.

How are projects being recommended?

The study will result in recommendations for projects as segments. Segments will be grouped into two tiers. In Tier 1, segments are ready to move forward and appear the most cost effective. These will be evaluated for available funding. Tier 2 segments require further refinement and have hurdles to advancing in the near term. These will be eligible for future consideration.

What happens after the study is complete?

The HRTPO board will vote on the tiered segments. Once approved, Tier 1 segments will be recommended for consideration in the fiscally constrained 2050 HRTPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Tier 2 segments will be recommended for inclusion in the 2050 Regional Transportation Vision Plan. Because the LRTP must include projects with available funding identified, not all recommendations are guaranteed inclusion in the final 2050 LRTP.

After the study is complete and projects are selected, when will construction start?

Construction of the recommended segments are subject to the availability of funding and will be determined by HRTAC in conjunction with VDOT.

How can I get involved?



- View study documents, meeting minutes, and leave a comment on our website: connectorstudy.org
- Attend an upcoming open house (a list is available on our website).
- Share this information with your social network and fellow Hampton Roads friends and colleagues.
- Find us on social media:
 facebook.com/HRTPORegionalConnectorsStudy
- Contact us at connectorstudy@prrbiz.com or **(757) 776-0362**.