

I. Who and What is the Partnership?

HRP is the only organization in the region convening leaders from government with those from business (for profit and nonprofit), education and military to focus on key regional issues directly related to enhancing our competitiveness in the global economy with resulting income and job growth for our citizens.

II. Building Valuable Relationships with the Partnership

Priority: *improve cooperation impacting economic competitiveness which works to draw investment and other resources from outside the region*

- Brought Hampton Roads Caucus together
- Grew attendance four-fold at weekly caucus meetings in Richmond
- Convened first-ever combined meeting of Hampton Roads/NOVA Legislative Caucuses, strengthening our position as we work together toward transportation solutions
- Produced ***www.BeatTheGridlock.com*** website, video and viral campaign

III. Branding Hampton Roads and Regional Citizenship

Priority: *improve global recognition of region, reinforcing local pride and civic responsibility*

- Added momentum to and placement of “America’s First Region” (AFR) by working with LEAD Hampton Roads on AFR vanity-license plates
- Collected data for first “State of Regional Cooperation Report” for planned “doing things jointly” communications, including video and speakers bureau, sharing of success stories in Hampton Roads
- Promoted regional cooperation by supporting our partners:
 - Continued economies of scale in close working relationship with Hampton Roads Film Office (HRFO), Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA), MOVE Hampton Roads and the Hampton Roads Research Partnership (HRRP) by providing administrative assistance, bookkeeping and financial reporting, record maintenance, grant administration and shared office space to keep overhead costs low
 - Continued support of Hampton Roads Technology Council (HRTC) to transform the region and our technology companies into world-recognized technology leaders, including spin-off Hampton Roads Technology Incubator System (HRTIS)
 - Continued support of Opportunity, Inc. (OppInc) to help employers and job seekers connect with a wide range of employment resources, including obtaining WIRED Grant to help mitigate economic loss of region’s Ford plant (\$0.6B GRP and 6,380 jobs for a total 0.8% GRP loss)

- Facilitated HREDA into a fully regional organization from a merger of the Peninsula Alliance for Economic Development and HREDA-Southside
- Participated in organizational planning for Smart Beginnings South Hampton Roads, addressing issue of school readiness
- Convened organizations with common interests, including advocacy groups, area Chambers of Commerce, HR Economic Development Alliance (HREDA), OppInc, Peninsula Council for Workforce Development (PCFWD), and HR Planning District Commission (HRPDC)
- Kept board members (regional leaders) engaged in the Partnership's activities, especially in issue discussion, and added new members from under-represented areas, segments of region
- Provided support, facilitation and special presentations for Regional and State Leadership Groups (LEAD Hampton Roads, LEAD Virginia)

IV. Strategic Goals of the Hampton Roads Partnership

A. Transportation

Priority: *improve mobility, impacting economic competitiveness and quality of life*

- Facilitated key transportation legislation development and support, giving Hampton Roads a mechanism to address critical infrastructure needs
- Worked to inform all parties to help reach a compromise
- Supported legislation to fund a transportation network modeling study using local Modeling, Analysis, & Simulation expertise (due at end of 2008)
- Continuing to work on stopping the raid on the current construction budget and exploring other creative solutions

B. Economy

1. Modeling & Simulation

Priority: *improve technology business clusters which impact economic competitiveness and quality of life, especially standard of living*

- Lobbied VA governor and legislature successfully for financial support of ODU's VMASC and other M&S organizations in the region and continued support of the M&S industry, generating \$639.5 million annually (2007) for the Hampton Roads economy
- Continued support of "mod-sim" research facility next to USJFCOM in Suffolk
- Saved fifteen ODU instructor positions, despite 2007 tough budget year
- Facilitated ModSim World conferences since 2007, attracting 700+ world-wide participants annually
- Facilitated development of first regional M&S Strategic Plan

- Established three (3) clusters in M&S –medical, transportation, and game-based learning, dedicated to bringing research and industry together for economic gain, despite reductions in grant funding
- Facilitated ODU’s VMASC Librarian Game Survey, results of which will be used at a 2009 conference to promote game-based learning in K-12

2. **Port and Maritime Logistics**

Priority: *improve supporting multi-modal infrastructure to maximize container capacity, impacting economic competitiveness and stature in the world economy*

- Traveled to Alliance, TX to visit a “model” logistics park with key state, regional, and local players
- Worked on proposed Global Logistics Park, convening all regional players
- Introduced “influencers” to the economic potential of a park in Hampton Roads, providing ready-to-build sites critical to the port’s continued growth

3. **Military**

Priority: *continue supporting Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA) to preserve and grow Federal capabilities within the Hampton Roads region.*

- Work with HRMFFA to mitigate economic loss as a result of BRAC closures (\$0.9B GRP and 9,099 jobs for a total 1.2% GRP loss)
- Work with HRMFFA to mitigate looming potential economic loss of another aircraft carrier from the region (\$1B and 5,000 jobs estimated)

C. **Education**

Priority: *focus early childhood indicators as establishment of good education foundation*

- Formed Early Childhood Data Group with representatives of United Way South Hampton Roads, The Planning Council, and The Norfolk Foundation
- Held focus group meetings with representatives of early childhood funders, elected officials and business leaders plus early childhood providers from schools, other municipal departments, faith-based services, and neighborhood organizations
- Provided model for a similar statewide process by VA Dept. of Education
- Identified indicators that will convince investors or sponsors to provide sustainable funding for early care and education programs over time
- Defined “school readiness” as the capabilities of children, families, schools, and communities that best promote student success in kindergarten and beyond

V. Hampton Roads Performance Indicators: “The Way Forward”

Priority: *improve Hampton Roads community by identifying generally-accepted quality of life indicators and offering these in a public forum as an assessment tool and basis for work by government, organizations and citizens, especially via civic engagement*

- Carried over work of the “Indicators Project” for official website launch in January 2009
- Utilized as model for other regions of the Commonwealth
- Partnered with data-tracking organizations, agencies in the region (HRPDC, HREDA, localities, The Norfolk Foundation, The Planning Council, TCC, ODU, etc.)
- Collected and organized data, working jointly with the Council on Virginia’s Future (CoVF), to be used as:
 - Comprehensive, easy-to-track data on 35+ economic and quality of life indicators
 - useful, consistent, and relevant data under categories such as economy, education, health and family, government and citizens, natural resources, public safety and transportation
 - links to more specific information and a “scorecard” to measure how the region is performing in comparison to other regions, the state, the nation
 - leadership tool, used by decision-makers and legislators
- Effecting positive change in the region by:
 - demonstrating regional interconnectedness
 - building alignment among organizations and agencies to address issues
 - measuring progress on the region’s overall performance
 - measuring Hampton Roads Partnership-specific strategic issues, determining performance gaps and better defining goals to reduce the gaps
 - involving the general public by providing education on current state of the region and transparency to progress being made on important issues
 - engaging the general public in meaningful discussion on the region’s needs and work together on a common set of goals
- Working with regional groups (TBD) on follow-up citizen-engagement project
- Working with Regional Leadership Groups (CIVIC, LEAD Hampton Roads and Peninsula Leadership) on an inter-related Online Discussion Forum

