

**GOAL: *Vision Hampton Roads***

With proper foresight, continuous planning and dynamic economic development, Hampton Roads will be recognized internationally as a region fueled by Innovation, Intellectual and Human Capital, Infrastructure and a Sense of Place.



**Update from *Vision Hampton Roads* Task Forces  
Reported September 24, 2010**

**Infrastructure: Transportation** - The Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) is aggressively moving forward with the implementation of its newly created "Prioritization" process. This process includes a comprehensive scoring process for all major regional transportation projects. Projects will be given 3 independent scores on: 1.) project utility, 2.) project viability, and 3.) economic vitality. Projects will compete based on type of project and funding sources. The HRTPO's Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) is expected to complete its review and update of the models by October. The HRTPO's Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) and Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC) are anticipated to be briefed in November. The HRTPO Board will then be briefed during its December 15th Board meeting. The HRTPO's prioritization process should be completed in early 2011.

**Infrastructure: Water/Sea Level** - The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), during its annual retreat in February 2010, agreed that Climate Change/Sea Level Rise would be one of the board's focal points during FY-2011. The Board has authorized the Executive Director to work with Dr. Jim Koch and the Regional Studies Institute (RSI) at ODU to evaluate the economic impact of rising water levels and storm surges on: 1.) the value of property, structures and assets located in selected areas of Hampton Roads; and, 2.) the volume and value of economic activity in these selected areas of Hampton Roads. The project is expected to be completed in early to mid-2011. The next step of the process will be to secure LIDAR elevation data to assist localities, the region and the state to perform detailed comprehensive analyses to determine precisely what geographic areas will be impacted by sea level rise as well as analyze the full economic impacts.

**Port & Maritime** – The U.S. D. O. T. has designated the James River Barge Expansion as one of eight projects eligible for federal funding. This project includes starting an intra-harbor barge service in Hampton Roads. Discussions with labor continue involving the handling of barge shipments and break bulk cargo opportunities. Port related legislation proposed for the 2011 session of the General Assembly includes:

- Creation of a business tax credit for companies utilizing cargo container barge or rail services for movement within Virginia.
- Provide exemption for state permit requirement to fumigate international cargo.
- Provide tax credit for employees hired because of increased international cargo
- Provide incentives to companies participating in the VPA's Green Operator Truck Program.

Educating our political leaders about port issues, including the port's Priority Navigation Projects and transportation infrastructure will be discussed at the next meeting of the Port & Maritime Task Force scheduled for 2:00 on October 20<sup>th</sup> in the VPA Board Room.

**Opportunities: Alternative Energy** -- Continuing with our strategy of leveraging the existing efforts and organizations in Hampton Roads, the Alternative Energy Task Force is engaged on 2 specific economic development projects: 1) coordinating political and industrial support for offshore wind in Virginia and, 2) accelerating the adoption of alternative fuel vehicles in Hampton Roads. We are working with the Virginia Offshore Wind Coalition and the Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium to advance a legislative agenda to support the development of the offshore wind industry in Hampton Roads, centering on the Portsmouth Marine Terminal as a manufacturing and distribution hub for the entire east coast market. Similarly, we are coordinating between the Department of Energy's Project Get Ready, the State government, the Navy, and local municipalities and businesses to create a coherent regional alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure in Hampton Roads.

**Opportunities: Environment** – Due to overlap with the alternative energy sub-committee, a joint meeting with the two groups will be scheduled within the next quarter to eliminate any redundancies and clarify focus. Following that clarification, a meeting of those expressing interest in serving on the Environment sub-group will be convened.

**Sense of Place** – The Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement (HRCCE) is currently developing *Engage Hampton Roads*, a multi-year, regional conversation among thousands of Hampton Roads citizens to create a new “commons”--a place where public conversations can take place, where things can get done, and where citizens of the region can find a sense of belonging. These conversations and subsequent actions will strengthen our connections as people and our ability to work together, identify and articulate the values and characteristics that constitute our Hampton Roads "sense of place" and, in doing so, establish regional priorities, strengthen our economic vitality and competitiveness and create a region we are all proud to call home. HRCCE will soon move into the funding development stage of this initiative.

**Tourism, Arts & Culture (TAC)** – The TAC Task Force will focus on region-wide impacts and needs. They will rely on leading regional organizations already in place rather than creating new ones to implement *Vision Hampton Roads*, according to TAC Chair (Rob Cross) and Vice Chair (Tony DiFilippo). The Southeastern Virginia Tourism Alliance (SEVTA) will lead components of the plan that (1) focus on building public awareness, and (2) analyze the impact our transportation system has on cross visitation in the region and visitor intent to return. The Cultural Alliance of Greater Hampton Roads serves more than 350 arts and cultural organizations across the region and will be an active partner.