



January 25, 2010

Public Information Office  
Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT)  
600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102  
Richmond, VA 23219

**Subject: Richmond to Hampton Roads Passenger Rail Study Tier 1 EIS**

The Hampton Roads Partnership endorses the resolution of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) made October 30, 2009 and encourages DRPT to adopt an enhanced alternative #1.

**The Regional Position:** *Endorse the extension of high-speed rail service from Washington, D.C. to Richmond/Petersburg and the Hampton Roads region, designating the Norfolk Southern/Route 460 corridor as the Regional High-Speed Rail corridor (110mph and 90 percent reliability) designated ultimately at speeds of more than 110 mph. And, enhance the intercity passenger rail service (89mph and 90 percent reliability) along the CSX/I-64 corridor. The HRTPO position is best reflected in a strengthened alternative #1, which we strongly endorse.*

Both can be done simultaneously and incrementally with the first steps being the extension of passenger rail to Norfolk and improving the on-time performance and reliability of the current passenger rail service to Williamsburg and Newport News.

This study is the first step in the federal process, and we express these concerns about it:

- Single seat service is needed from Hampton Roads/Richmond to destinations on the Northeast Corridor; and
- Richmond/Hampton Roads needs to be the Southern-most terminus for the Northeast Corridor.

The Hampton Roads Partnership's 115-plus members, including the chief elected official of all seventeen regional communities, leaders from private business, higher and secondary education, military, and labor from both South Hampton Roads and the Virginia Peninsula, represent approximately 25% of the region's workforce and all of its more than 1.6 million citizens.

Sincerely,

David L. Bernd, President and CEO, Sentara Healthcare  
Hampton Roads Partnership Board Chair

*Hampton Roads, America's First Region*

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