

Hampton Roads Mayors and Chairs Caucus



April 11, 2012

The Honorable Nadar Baroukh
Mayor
City of Falls Church
243 Gundry Drive
Falls Church, VA 22046

The following letter was individually addressed and mailed to those on the attached distribution list.

RE: Transportation Funding in Virginia

Dear Mayor Baroukh:

The Commonwealth of Virginia is unable to meet its transportation needs. The state has projected that by 2017, VDOT will not be able to fully fund its highway maintenance program nor fully match federal funding. In addition, it is projected that there will be no state transportation revenue for new highway construction. We all recognize the crisis Virginia faces as it relates to transportation, therefore, we strongly believe it is time for the Golden Crescent Region of Virginia to organize ourselves. We must encourage the General Assembly to address the Commonwealth's well-documented transportation needs. We need not tell you how important transportation is to the health, welfare, safety, and economic vitality of the Commonwealth.

In the Hampton Roads region, we are faced with the dilemma of trying to meet the transportation demands of a large military presence and the ever-expanding ports of Virginia. Moreover, the presence of large bodies of water requires very costly transportation infrastructure funding and maintenance support. The Richmond area faces the increasing demands put upon it by the bustling intersection of the state's two major interstates – I-95 and I-64. Northern Virginia's roadways are some of the most congested in America due to the presence of the national capital. As evidence of these points, we know that the following interstates are currently operating consistently at a service level F: I-95, I-495, I-395, and I-66. Finally, there are Northern Virginia's mass transit needs. All of these issues should unite those of us who represent the area from North Carolina to Richmond to the nation's capital.

A number of years ago, there was an attempt made to have the Golden Crescent Region coalesce on a number of issues. At that time, the focus was on transportation and education. Considering the transportation crisis we now face, we strongly feel it is time again for us to join together, perhaps with the assistance of the business community. We believe our regions working together can effectively influence the General Assembly to address the transportation crisis. Specifically, there may be an opportunity if a special session is called later this year on tax reform and, possibly, to address the outcome of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

We propose convening a meeting, or quite possibly a summit, of the Mayors and the Chairs of the Boards of Supervisors from the Golden Crescent localities to discuss our mutually shared transportation concerns. The meeting would be conducted soon after the reconvened session in Richmond scheduled for April 18. The purpose of this gathering would be to coalesce around some general ideas relating to transportation funding, developing a strategy, and discuss outreach to the business community. More specifically, we

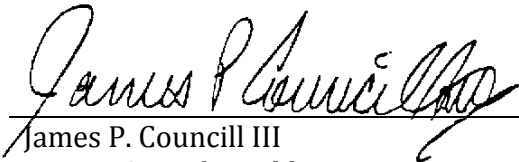
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would agree to harness our respective political influence and initiate a campaign to influence our General Assembly to address our significant transportation challenges. We also suggest that we invite staff of our respective Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Transportation Planning Organizations (TPOs) to assist us.

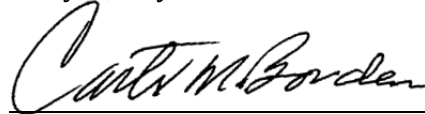
We would be happy to organize a conference call to further discuss this proposal and are anxious to hear from you about whether or not you believe this is a worthwhile endeavor. We are looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Hampton Roads Mayors & Chairs Caucus



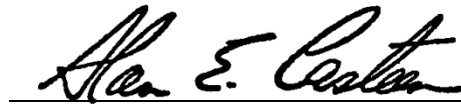
James P. Councill III
Mayor, City of Franklin



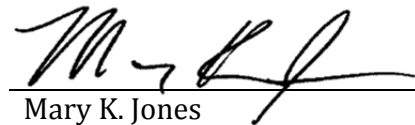
Carter Borden
Chairman, Gloucester County



Molly Joseph Ward
Mayor, City of Hampton



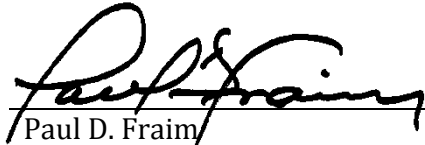
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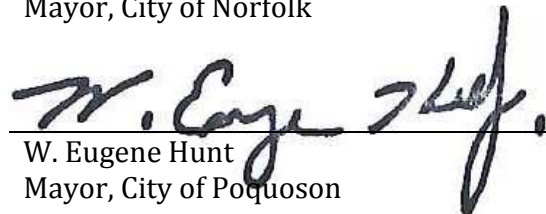
Mary K. Jones
Chair, James City County



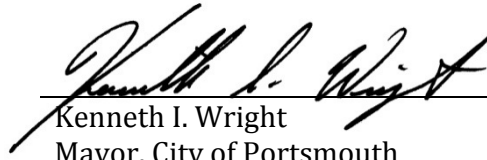
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Mayor, City of Norfolk



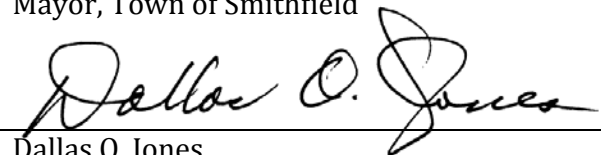
W. Eugene Hunt
Mayor, City of Poquoson



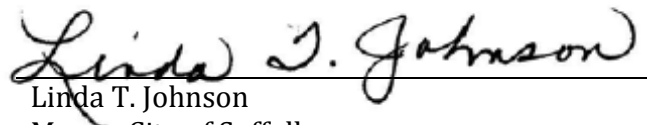
Kenneth I. Wright
Mayor, City of Portsmouth



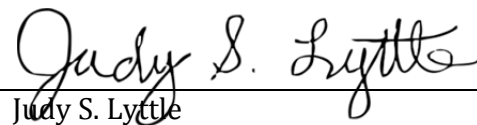
David M. Hare
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Dallas O. Jones
Chairman, Southampton County



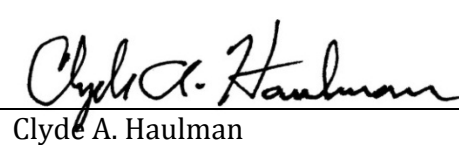
Linda T. Johnson
Mayor, City of Suffolk



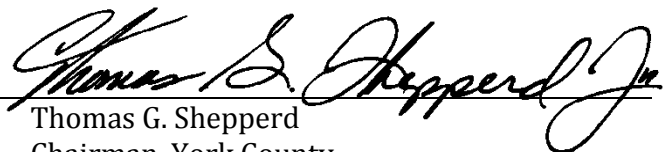
Judy S. Lyttle
Chair, Surry County



William D. Sessoms
Mayor, City of Virginia Beach



Clyde A. Haulman
Mayor, City of Williamsburg



Thomas G. Shepperd
Chairman, York County

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