

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2015 (PC Mtg. 2/11/15)

TO: York County Planning Commission

FROM: Timothy C. Cross, AICP, Principal Planner

SUBJECT: Envision Hampton Roads – Regional Vision Statement

At its January 14 work session, the Commission conducted a visioning session for the purpose of providing input into the Hampton Roads region's first community-based regional strategic plan, entitled *Envision Hampton Roads*. This plan is being coordinated by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). In support of this effort, the HRPDC requested each planning department in the region to conduct a visioning session with its planning commission. Each planning commission was asked to imagine the region as "the best it can be in 2035" and draft a regional vision statement based on its answers to the question: *What does Hampton Roads look like in twenty to thirty years?* The HRPDC staff and the EHR Steering Committee will use the localities' input to develop a single vision statement for the region.

A summary of the results of the Commission's visioning session is attached. To assist the Commission in crafting these results into a vision statement for the region, staff has provided a few examples of how the highest ranked items might be combined to form a relatively concise vision statement. These statements are offered below as a starting point for the Commission's discussion:

- *Hampton Roads is an historic [or historically significant], economically diverse region with a world-class network of highways, railroads, airports, and transit facilities; excellent schools and universities; and abundant public access to the water and other natural and recreational amenities.*
- *Hampton Roads is an historic [or historically significant], economically diverse region with a world-class transportation network – including highways, rail, airport, and transit facilities – facilitating the efficient movement of both people and freight; excellent schools and universities; and abundant public access to the water and other natural and recreational amenities.*
- *Hampton Roads is an historic [or historically significant], economically diverse region with a world-class multi-modal transportation network facilitating the efficient movement of both people and freight; excellent schools and universities; and abundant public access to the water and other natural and recreational amenities.*

The HRPDC has also asked each planning commission to identify three to five regional accomplishments it would like to see realized in the next thirty years. A number of

specific accomplishments were identified by the Commission at the visioning session that might be considered, or Commissioners might have additional items to suggest.

The HRPDC has set a deadline of February 28 for the localities to submit their input, so this item has been scheduled for Commission discussion and action at the February 11 meeting.

Attachment:

- Summary of visioning session results

**York County Planning Commission Work Session – January 14, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Envision Hampton Roads – Visioning Exercise Results**

Weight	Item
23	World-class transportation hub/infrastructure for movement of people and freight (roads, rail, transit, etc.)
14	Economic diversification
9	Excellent public and private school infrastructure
8	Expand public access to the water
5	Recognize and promote the historical significance of the entire region and not just the Historic Triangle
4	Maintain the region's robust military presence
3	Become a magnet for international scientific research
3	Improve regional community identity
3	A third bridge-tunnel between the Peninsula and south Hampton Roads
3	Increase facilities, amenities, and services for seniors
2	Focus on redevelopment as opposed to sprawl
2	More entertainment opportunities and facilities
2	Mass transportation systems
2	Attract Fortune 500 companies
2	Increased racial and cultural diversity resulting in greater pluralism in the public policymaking process
1	Respect historic character
1	A national venue for the arts
1	Uncongested access to all parts of the region at all times
0	Multi-jurisdictional investment opportunities
0	Regional connections for bikeways and greenways
0	Maintain green space and recreation opportunities
0	More tourism, cruise ships, etc.
0	Expand "workforce housing" opportunities, both generally and in proximity to retail/service job centers
0	Address environmental hazards
0	Less economic dependence on the federal government
0	Regional chambers of commerce
0	Regional public school and college systems
0	Commercial development along the I-64 corridor
0	Strengthen the economic base from the bottom up
0	Events to attract people from outside the region
0	Improve alternative transportation systems
0	Expand and promote existing assets
0	Improve "core" roads
0	More telecommuting in both the public and private sectors