



**Comments by President Craig Poppen to
Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission
July 2, 2014**

I am Craig Poppen and I am speaking today as president of Virginia Beach Vision, Inc., representing 120 executive leaders in Virginia Beach.

My congratulations to Mayor Krasnoff on your election as Chairman of HTAC and congratulations to each of our elected representatives who supported and advanced the passage of House Bill 2313.

With dedicated revenues now being placed in a regional transportation trust fund, Hampton Roads has the opportunity to steer its own course. Getting to this point took political leadership and courage and Virginia Beach Vision, along with numerous other business and community organizations throughout the region, stood solidly behind these efforts.

The tools are now in place to make significant progress. The By-Laws are drawn from a model that has worked well in Northern Virginia. Redundant and extraneous requirements that would further delay the region's ability to act should be rejected.

I wish you the wisdom of Solomon and the speed of lightening as you move forward in addressing the region's transportation needs.