



January 20, 2023

Hampton Roads Caucus - Southside Members
Virginia General Assembly

Dear Senators/Delegates:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Alliance, Greater Norfolk Corporation, Portsmouth Partnership and Virginia Beach Vision, which represent the senior business and civic leaders in our respective communities who collaborate on regional issues, we ask that the 2023 General Assembly protect dedicated state funding for Hampton Roads Transit (HRT). This funding is essential for HRT to operate the core backbone network of transportation in a regional context.

We strongly recommend approval of HB 1400 to provide \$20,000,000 in year 1 and \$20,000,000 in year 2 to Hampton Roads Regional Transit Fund to supplement the continuation of the "757 Express" Regional Transit Program.

Public transit is a matter of survival for our region. A strong, reliable, regionally connected transit system is essential to entice large employers to relocate to our area; they demand access to public transportation for their employees.

Additionally, dedicated funding ensures that HRT can play an active role in reducing congestion, which ultimately leads to missed economic development opportunities.

To foster regional economic vitality and ensure workforce success, we must protect funding for our transit system.

We ask that you take steps to ensure the Commonwealth provides dedicated funding to Hampton Roads Transit and ensure its ability to play an essential role in our economic future.

Respectfully submitted,

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