



January 17, 2023

Dear Hampton Roads Caucus, Southside Members:

We represent four pro-business groups in the Southside Hampton Roads Region: Chesapeake Alliance, Greater Norfolk Corporation, Portsmouth Partnership and Virginia Beach Vision. On behalf of these four collaborating groups, comprised of senior business and civic leaders in the community, **we are seeking General Assembly funding support of \$155 million to complete the final phase of the expansion of Interstate 64 from Exit 234, west of Williamsburg, to Richmond.** This remaining 29-mile segment is projected to cost an estimated \$750 million.

Funding sources have been identified to finance \$595 million of these costs, leaving a funding gap of \$155 million. Item #485 in the budget bill (HB 1400) provides \$150 million to the project. With this budget allocation, we can bridge the funding gap, and bring this significant road improvement project to completion benefiting the entire Richmond/757 corridor.

The Hampton Roads region stepped up in supporting the previous phases of expansion from the Virginia Peninsula to west of Williamsburg, allocating \$311 million through the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission. Funds that were generated through a regional sales and gas tax. The Central Virginia Transportation Authority will finance \$100 million, and New Kent County, through its Rural Program, will provide \$25 million, toward the final expansion to Richmond. Supplemental funding from a previous General Assembly allocation of \$470 million and a federal grant request for \$150 million, will bring us within \$155 million for project completion.

At a time when the Commonwealth has realized a revenue surplus, the timing is right to make this final investment in our interstate system. **Please support HB 1400, Item #485,** to ensure this interstate expansion is completed.

We thank you for your consideration of this funding request.

Respectfully,

*David Ropp*

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