



IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HAMPTON ROADS

The Hampton Roads Regional Structure Project

Recommendations for the

H.R. Partnership: Legislative Agenda

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SG2D

HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL STRUCTURE PROJECT

REPORT OF STUDY GROUP 2D

HAMPTON ROADS PARTNERSHIP
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL STRUCTURE PROJECT

STUDY GROUP 2D

HAMPTON ROADS PARTNERSHIP – LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

A. Background

Unlike legislators in other regions of Virginia, the Hampton Roads Legislative Caucus seldom prepares an agreed list of legislative initiatives before each session. This is a difficult process, given the varying interests of the different sections of the region, even when a single paramount issue, such as transportation funding, is the sole focus. A credible and thorough process that assists the Caucus to determine the most important goals that require legislation should enable the legislators more easily to find common grounds for combined action in time to decide on measures for getting the proposals sponsored, drafted, and passed.

This function can be best performed by the Hampton Roads Partnership. Furthermore, the Partnership's annual legislative process will properly attract media attention, which the Partnership should welcome as a means to be promote citizen understanding of the issues and proposed legislation.

B. Recommendations

1. The Hampton Roads Partnership should coordinate the preparation of an annual legislative agenda to present to the Legislative Caucus prior to each session.
2. The process should include (a) timely canvassing of local governments and other regional organizations for their legislative proposals, (b) screening the proposals to determine which are truly regional in nature, (c) a process for determining the individual priorities of items on the list, and (d) some process for measuring citizen support for each item.
3. While there is no reason why the Partnership, after due study, should not endorse particular legislative requests of other organizations, these should not be included in the list of regional legislative priorities unless they are truly of regional significance.

Annex A-1

Members of the Study Group

David White, Hampton Roads Maritime Association

James Babcock, Future of Hampton Roads