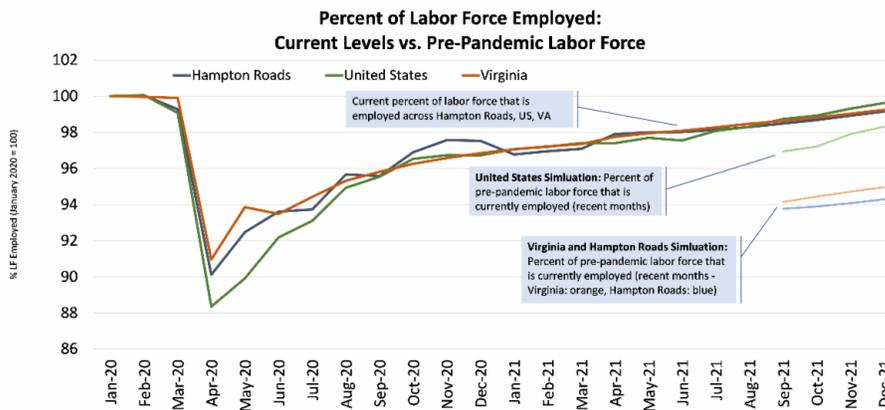




Hampton Roads Economic Monthly **What isn't the unemployment rate telling us?**

Currently across the United States economy, unemployment rates are low – sometimes an indicator of a healthy economy where people who want jobs are employed and employers are equally all staffed up. But a quick glance at the headlines tells a different story, as many major employers are struggling to find workers to fill positions. With low unemployment rates and monthly jobs reports in the hundreds of thousands, what isn't this indicator telling us?

[READ MORE](#)



First Hampton Roads Transit Advocacy Day at the General Assembly

Transit stakeholders, officials, and advocates for a regional transit network in Hampton Roads met in Richmond on February 3, 2022, for the first Hampton Roads Transit Advocacy Day at the General Assembly. The Advocacy Day event was one of the first initiatives of the Regional Transit Advisory Panel (RTAP).



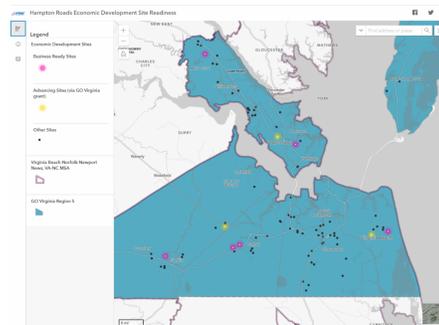
HRTPO Establishes 2022 Regional Roadway Safety and Transit Performance Targets

Federal legislation requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to prepare and use a set of federally-established performance measures and set targets. Each MPO needs to approve regional performance targets in a number of areas including roadway safety, transit, bridge condition, pavement condition, roadway performance, and freight. The HRTPO must approve one-year regional performance targets for 2022 in three of these areas – roadway safety, transit asset management and transit safety.

2022 HRTPO Safety Performance Targets	
Fatalities	125
Fatality Rate (per 100M VMT)	0.85
Serious Injuries	1,498
Serious Injury Rate (per 100M VMT)	10.19
Bike/Ped Fatalities and Serious Injuries Combined	179

February Map of the Month – Economic Development Site Readiness in Hampton Roads

A key economic development strategy is having a portfolio of available sites ready for business expansion. Companies that intend on making new investments and expanding market opportunities prioritize sites that offer low development risk and fast speed to market. Known as “Business Ready,” these sites have land use and zoning approval, due diligence completed, and infrastructure in place.



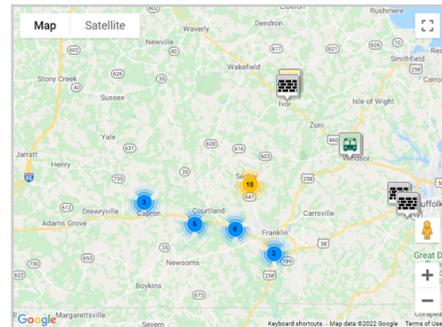
Project of the Month: Westhaven Bicycle Improvements- Portsmouth

Each month, HRTPO staff will highlight a project that is currently being implemented within the Hampton Roads region. This month, staff is highlighting the Westhaven Bicycle Improvements project located in the City of Portsmouth.



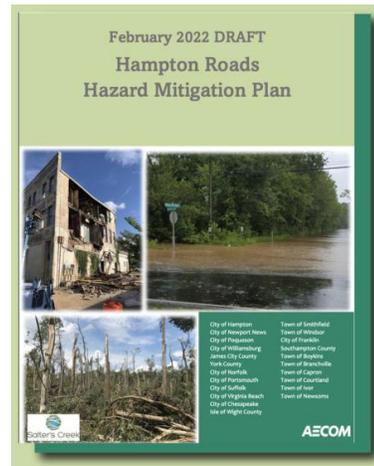
2045 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan Public Survey Summary

Last summer, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) staff, in collaboration with rural area stakeholders, began work on the 2045 Rural Long-Range Transportation Plan (RLRTP), a transportation vision plan for the City of Franklin and Southampton County. The RLRTP is part of an ongoing statewide effort to create and maintain regional transportation plans in rural areas that complement those in Virginia's metropolitan and small urban areas.



Draft Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Out for Review; Virtual Meeting Scheduled

Hampton Roads is vulnerable to a wide range of hazards that pose threats to human safety, public and private property, the local economy, and the overall quality of life. Recognizing these vulnerabilities, regional stakeholders are in the process of updating the Hampton Roads Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2022. This week the HRPDC released a draft of the updated plan for public review.



HRTPO Staff Efforts Highlighted at the Annual Transportation Research Board Meeting in Washington DC

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners. TRB’s Annual Meeting, held every year in Washington DC, is a premier national conference for transportation professionals to exchange ideas, promote technical excellence, and provide expert advice on transportation policy and programs. At this year’s 101st TRB Annual Meeting, HRTPO staff was invited to showcase its project prioritization process as well as ridesharing analysis.



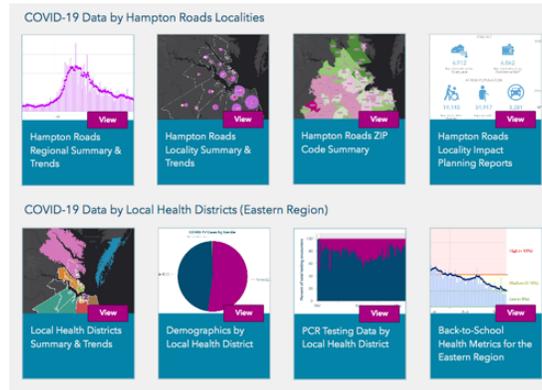
Save the Date for the Great American Cleanup, March 25-26

As the COVID-19 pandemic moves into its second year, the [*Hampton Roads COVID-19 Impact Planning Hub*](#) continues to provide data and information for the region.



[Hampton Roads COVID-19 Impact Planning Hub](#)

Visit the COVID-19 Impact Planning Hub to get the latest information on COVID-19 in Hampton Roads.



HRPDC/HRTPO In the News

[Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting scheduled for March 2](#) (WAVY, February 9, 2022)

[More broadband choices on way for city](#) (Suffolk News Herald, January 26, 2022)

[Dozens of bills would change environmental rules in Virginia. Here's what lawmakers have proposed so far.](#) (Virginian-Pilot, January 20, 2022)

Public Comment Opportunities

[Level of Traffic Stress Analysis for the City of Hampton Draft Report](#) (Ends February 16, 2022)

[Hampton Roads Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\): DRAFT Report](#)
(Ends February 28, 2022)

DRAFT 2022 Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan
Public Review Draft/Virtual Public Meeting (Meeting March 2,
2022 6pm; Review Period Ends March 9, 2022)

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Upcoming Meetings



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