Continued Effects of COVID-19 on Hampton Roads

The Data Is Starting To Talk — What Is It Saying?
In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, on March 23, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam issued Executive Order 53 closing schools, non-essential retail, restaurants, entertainment, gatherings, and on March 30 issued a stay at home order under Executive Order 55. In turn, these closures have led over 80,000 people in Hampton Roads to file for unemployment over the past few months, the first reliable indicator that shows the impact of the pandemic on the regional economy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian Employment</td>
<td>9.24% decrease</td>
<td>April 2019 to April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure + Hospitality</td>
<td>37.1% decrease</td>
<td>April 2019 to April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin + Support</td>
<td>15.4% decrease</td>
<td>April 2019 to April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>14.9% decrease</td>
<td>April 2019 to April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>14.4% decrease</td>
<td>April 2019 to April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Unemployment Claims</td>
<td>3,400% increase</td>
<td>April 2019 to April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>244% increase</td>
<td>March 2020 to April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Sales</td>
<td>42% decrease</td>
<td>April 2019 to April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP (nation)</td>
<td>4.8% decrease</td>
<td>Q4 2019 to Q1 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**HRTPO Board Approves FY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program Extension**

The Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describes transportation planning work and associated funding for the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The response to the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled most regional meetings since mid-March of this year, and has limited opportunities for public comment, input, and review on HRTPO activities. As such, the HRTPO Board approved a four-month extension of the FY 2020 UPWP (July 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020) to allow for continued operations of the HRTPO until later in the year when it is anticipated that a more regular meeting and public participation schedule can be in place.

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**Evaluating Candidate Projects for the Hampton Roads 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan**

**Title VI/Environmental Justice Candidate Project Evaluation**

The Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO), the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Hampton Roads area, has developed a draft report detailing the Title VI/Environmental Justice evaluation of candidate projects being considered for inclusion in the 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This report is one in a series of reports documenting the development of the 2045 LRTP.
Hampton Roads 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan: Spatial Analysis of Candidate Projects

A major component of the LRTP update process includes identifying projects that help achieve the region’s vision for the transportation system. For the 2045 LRTP, HRTPO staff collected over 300 candidate projects from regional stakeholders. These candidate projects will be evaluated using the HRTPO Project Prioritization Tool— a tool that evaluates projects based on technical merits and regional benefits, helping regional decision-makers in selecting the best projects for the 2045 LRTP.

More Opportunities to Get Involved!
Draft HRTPO Citizens Guide To Transportation Planning

The HRTPO Citizens Guide to Transportation provides the public with a consolidated, straightforward source of information about Hampton Roads and the projects, programs, and work of the HRTPO. The public is invited to review the document and provide comment to the HRTPO.

Visitor Spending in Hampton Roads due to the Virginia Capital Trail

The Phase 2 report of the Economic Impact of Bicycle Facilities in Hampton Roads is based on a statistically-valid survey of users of the Virginia Capital Trail (VCT), a continuous, paved multiuse trail that runs between Jamestown and Richmond. The goal of Phase 2 was to estimate annual expenditures of visitors drawn to the region primarily due to the VCT.

Keeping an Eye on Sea Level Rise

Curious About Sea Level Rise? Check Out These Tools,

As flooding and sea level rise continue to affect communities, a common question for coastal residents is how will higher water levels affect my neighborhood? Federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities have developed tools to explore the impacts of sea level rise both locally and nationally. The HRPDC has created a webpage to easily access and compare tools for viewing sea level rise and coastal flooding risks.
Map of The Month: 2020 Census Response Rates

2020 Census Response Rates
The purpose of our new “Map of the Month” series is to visualize interesting data or trends primarily focused on Hampton Roads and Virginia. Each month, a new map will be released in the newsletter, but an archive of the maps will be kept at HRGEO to view at any time. The first Map of the Month provides insight into a timely topic – the 2020 Census.
Current Public Comment Opportunities

DRAFT Hampton Roads 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan: Title VI/Environmental Justice Candidate Project Evaluation Report

HRTPO FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program: Proposed Amendments

Draft HRTPO Citizens Guide To Transportation Planning

Economic Impact of Bicycle Facilities in Hampton Roads Phase Two: Visitor Spending in Hampton Roads due to Virginia Capital Trail

Meeting Summaries

HRTPO Board Meeting: May 21, 2020

HRPDC Meeting: May 21, 2020

Regionally Focused COVID-19 Data In One Place
We strive to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require special assistance to participate in public involvement opportunities. For further information or questions about information contained in this update, please contact Kendall Miller, Administrator, Office of Community Affairs and Civil Rights, at (757) 420-8300.