

20 December 2024 at 11:11



**E-UPDATE**

**December 2024**

## ***Hampton Roads Regional Benchmarking Study 2024 Released***

The Hampton Roads Regional Benchmarking Study evaluates the performance of the region in comparison to 19 similarly sized Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). It highlights key metrics and statistics that offer insight into Hampton Roads' economic competitiveness and provides information to support decision-making related to quality of life. The study includes a variety of graphs and illustrations to help understand the region's well-being, both in comparison to other areas and through the lens of changing regional trends.

The 2024 Benchmarking Study is divided into 12 sections that assess the region's performance across various areas ranging from the economy, defense, equity, education, and government finances. The final section includes metrics comparing the planning region's localities to one another.

[Download the full PDF Report](#)

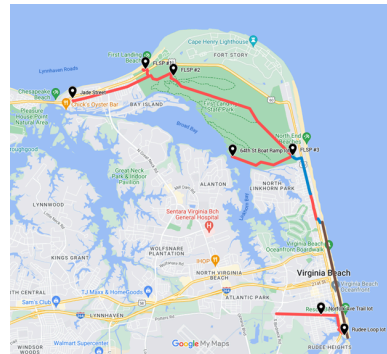
[Read by Section](#) (opens webpage on HRPDC website)



### ***Trail of the Month: Bike from the Bay to the Ocean***

Experience the beauty of first Landing State Park and the fun of the Virginia Beach oceanfront by biking (or jogging) on a system of trails that connects the Bay to the Ocean.

[Read More](#)

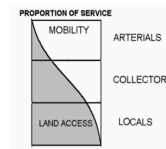




## ***HRTPO Staff Assists with Roadway Functional Classification Update***

You may not realize it as you drive around Hampton Roads, but every roadway in the region, from the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel all the way down to your neighborhood street, has a functional classification.

[\*\*\*Read More\*\*\*](#)



Roadway Functional Classes		
Arterial	Principal	Interstate Primary Expressway Other Principal
	Minor	Minor
	Collector	Major Minor
Local		

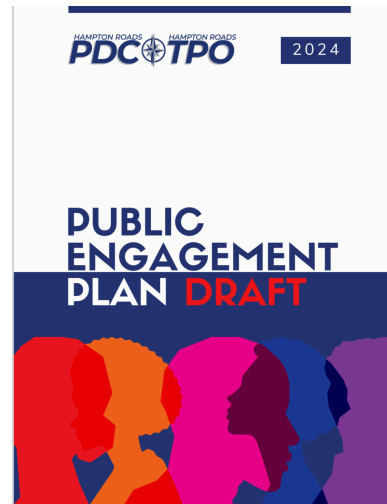
**Roadway Functional Classification Categories**  
Sources: FHWA, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

## ***Public Engagement Plan (PEP) Public Comment Period Extended Until December 30th***

The newly drafted joint Public Engagement Plan (PEP) for the HRPDC and HRTPO is up for public comment. This plan acts as a guiding framework for public engagement best practices, describes the agency's commitment, and allows the public to better understand and engage with the agency's different planning areas. Meaningful engagement practices are vital to ensuring an equitable planning process that considers and incorporates the needs and interests of the communities being planned for.

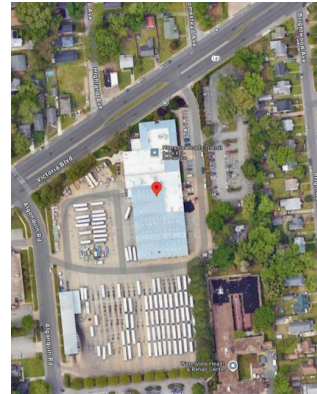
Please take some time to review the updated plan and provide any feedback you may have to Quan McLaurin ([qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov)) by December 30th.

[Read More](#)



***Project of the Month: Team HRPDC/HRTPO Places First in the 2024 Hampton Roads Datathon***

HRTPO staff regularly highlights select transportation projects that are currently being implemented within the Hampton Roads region. This month we look at Hampton Roads Transit's (HRT) Victoria Boulevard Facility Upgrades – Phase 2 project.



[Read More](#)



# Join Us to Learn About Hampton Road's Regional Climate Action Plan



## Informational Webinar

**When:** January 22, 2024

**What time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

- Includes presentation and Q&A.
- Recording will be provided on the HRPDC website.

Registration information is coming soon! To stay up to date on the webinar and registration, visit [hrpdcva.gov/climate](http://hrpdcva.gov/climate)

Join us for a virtual conversation about how you can help shape the region's first Climate Action Plan. The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) was awarded a grant by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a Climate Action Plan for the Hampton Roads region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that can contribute to climate change. At the webinar, we will share our progress on planning efforts and ways you can be involved!

For more information about HRPDC's Climate Action Plan: visit [hrpdcva.gov/climate](http://hrpdcva.gov/climate).

If you require assistance or additional accommodations to participate please contact Quan McLaurin at [qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov) or call 757-420-8300.

## Did you know?

**For some families in Hampton Roads, keeping the water running can be as critical as putting food on the table. This holiday season, you can make a difference with just a small act of kindness.**





## Is Water on Your Holiday Wishlist?

The holiday season is a time of giving and gratitude, but for many families in Hampton Roads, it can also bring overwhelming financial stress. Sudden challenges like illness, injury, or the loss of a loved one can leave families struggling to make ends meet. No one should have to choose between essential services, like water, and other critical needs—especially during this time of year.

That's where the **Help 2 Others (H2O) Program** steps in. For 25 years, H2O has provided vital support to Hampton Roads residents facing unexpected financial hardship. This unique program, a partnership among the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), HRSD, and The Salvation Army, offers one-time financial assistance of up to \$500 to help families cover their water and wastewater utility bills.

This year, the H2O Program invites you to participate in the **Adopt a Drop campaign** to help local families in need. Your gift—whether \$10, \$20, or \$50—might seem small, but to a family in crisis, it can mean access to clean water and sanitation. And giving is simple: donations can be made via Facebook, PayPal, Venmo, credit card, or by check.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, every dollar donated to Hampton Roads Help 2 Others is tax-deductible and goes directly toward assisting families in our community. Thanks to the collaboration among HRPDC, HRSD, and The Salvation Army, 100% of contributions are used to pay water and wastewater bills for those in need, ensuring that your generosity makes the greatest impact.

This holiday season, let's come together to support our neighbors. Every donation, no matter the size, helps ensure local families can keep their water running. Your kindness could be the drop that overflows the bucket with hope for someone in need.

***Join us in spreading hope this season by adopting a drop. Together, we can make a difference—one drop at a time.***

## THREE WAYS TO ADOPT A DROP AND DONATE



PayPal



venmo



shareH2O.org

# THANK YOU!

**HELP 2 OTHERS**  
shareH2O.org



## Public Comment Opportunities

***EXTENDED! PUBLIC NOTICE: HRPDC/HRTPO Public Engagement Plan DRAFT 2024*** (Comments received through December 30, 2024)



## HRPDC/HRTPO In the News

***Bringing communities to the conversation, roundtable style*** (*Bay Journal*, November 15, 2024)



## Need Help?



## NEED HELP?



☐☐☐ Access to Services

☐☐☐ ADA Accommodations

☐☐☐ Language Assistance

## LET US KNOW!



The HRPDC & HRTPO are committed to making regional planning accessible. If you need assistance with additional accommodations please let a staff member know or contact [titleviehrpdcva.gov](mailto:titleviehrpdcva.gov)

## Follow Us on Facebook



*[HRPDC Facebook Page](#)*



*[HRTPO Facebook Page](#)*

## Upcoming Meetings





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ROBERT COFIELD

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QUAN MCLAURIN

DEI & Title VI/Civil Rights Liaison

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The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) and Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) fully comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. HRPDC's website, [www.hrpdca.gov](http://www.hrpdca.gov), and HRTPO's website, [www.hrtpo.org](http://www.hrtpo.org), may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative

languages and formats, if requested. HRPDC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by HRPDC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with the HRPDC and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on HRPDC's Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (757) 420-8300 or email: [qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:qmclaurin@hrpdcva.gov)

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