

## **SUPPORT SB1038/HB1726**

Hampton Roads Transportation District Regional Transit Program

Patrons: Lucas/Askew

### **Reasons to Support SB1038/HB1726**

- The Hampton Roads Transportation Fund and regional revenue source for roads the General Assembly approved in 2013 did not include any provision or revenue source for funding regional transit in Hampton Roads, unlike the program the same legislation established in Northern Virginia.
- The funds authorized in 2013 for Hampton Roads are now committed to specific highway, bridge and tunnel improvement projects for years to come.
- This bill will help reduce congestion and pollution, while providing greater access to jobs, by providing funding to implement the plan Hampton Roads developed for a high frequency seamless interconnected regional public transit bus system.

### **Overview**

Hampton Roads currently has a balkanized system of transit bus services. Day and hours of operation, frequency of service and even routes differ from city to city since each city provides funding only for the services it wants within its city limits.

Hampton Roads is one of the areas of the country threatened the most by the impacts of a changing climate, and transportation is the number one source of carbon pollution in Virginia. The region needs to provide cleaner transportation alternatives and it needs meaningful regional transit services to reduce traffic congestion.

At the General Assembly's direction, the region has developed a plan for a high frequency seamless interconnected regional public transit bus system. This plan cannot be implemented without dedicated regionally derived funding for transit.

The reenactment clause placed on HB1726 should be deleted and the bills adopted.



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