

HRACRE 2010 Legislative Agenda

1. Transportation Expenditures in Light of Budget and Revenue Problems

Recommendation: HRACRE's position should continue to be that we need a permanent and sustainable transportation funding solution for the state and Hampton Roads. HRACRE must reach out to other Hampton Roads' organizations and make every effort to formulate and propose a reliable funding mechanism.

2. Stormwater Management

Recommendation: Oppose regulations as proposed and would like new regulations that are based on sounder science and will address all sources of pollution, not just run-off from commercial development. HRACRE wants to be part of any citizens' group(s) that would monitor the impact of the regulations.

3. Light Rail in Virginia Beach

Recommendation: Support the extension of the light rail system to Virginia Beach from its existing terminus at Newtown Road in Norfolk.

4. Homestead Exemption

Recommendation: Oppose a state constitutional amendment that would authorize localities to grant a "Homestead Exemption" which would exempt any portion of the value of residential property from tax assessment.

5. Impact Fees

Recommendation: HRACRE should continue to oppose impact fees and support the current commercial development proffer system.

6. Energy Efficiency Standards & Tax Credits for Commercial Buildings

Recommendation: Support

- a. initiatives that encourage energy efficiency in buildings via incentives, not requirements through mandates;
- b. a separate tax rate via separate property classification for green buildings, but not a tax credit; and
- c. efforts to identify ways to provide further incentives to build green buildings.

7. Athey Commission

Recommendation: Oppose the concept of converting Urban Development Areas (UDA's) to Designated Growth Areas as currently being considered by Athey Commission Study. Also oppose any proposal considered by the Athey Commission to mandate that commercial developers meet minimum floor area ratio requirements when building within UDA's. Members of HRACRE should actively discuss this opposition with Athey Commission members Glenn Oder, Louise Lucas and Paula Miller and others, as appropriate.

8. Department of Taxation Study on Computation of Recordation Taxes

Recommendation: HRACRE should monitor.

9. Access Management Regulations

Recommendation: Rich Costello will be representing HRACRE and monitoring this issue.

10. Bifurcation of Tax Rates

Recommendation: HRACRE must continue to oppose any efforts to bifurcate the real estate tax rate into residential and commercial classes.