

City of Hampton Congestion Mitigation Options

Christopher Hall, P.E. – Hampton Roads District Engineer

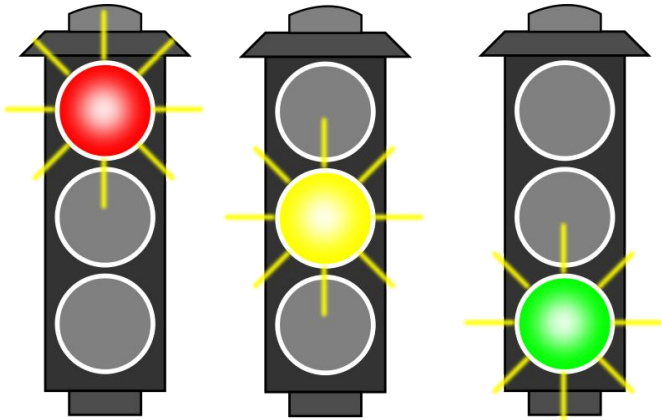
October 14, 2020

Background

- **Congestion on arterials within the City of Hampton is heavy when interstate traffic volumes are high**
- **The HRBT Expansion project construction will likely exacerbate traffic congestion in the City while construction is ongoing**
- **We expect that when construction is complete in 2025, drivers will be less likely to exit the interstate into Hampton and re-enter the interstate at another point. Traffic apps will also be more likely to advise drivers to stay on the interstate**
- **Our goal is to work toward making the interstate the fastest and most reliable route, encouraging travelers via traffic apps to use the interstate versus locality streets**

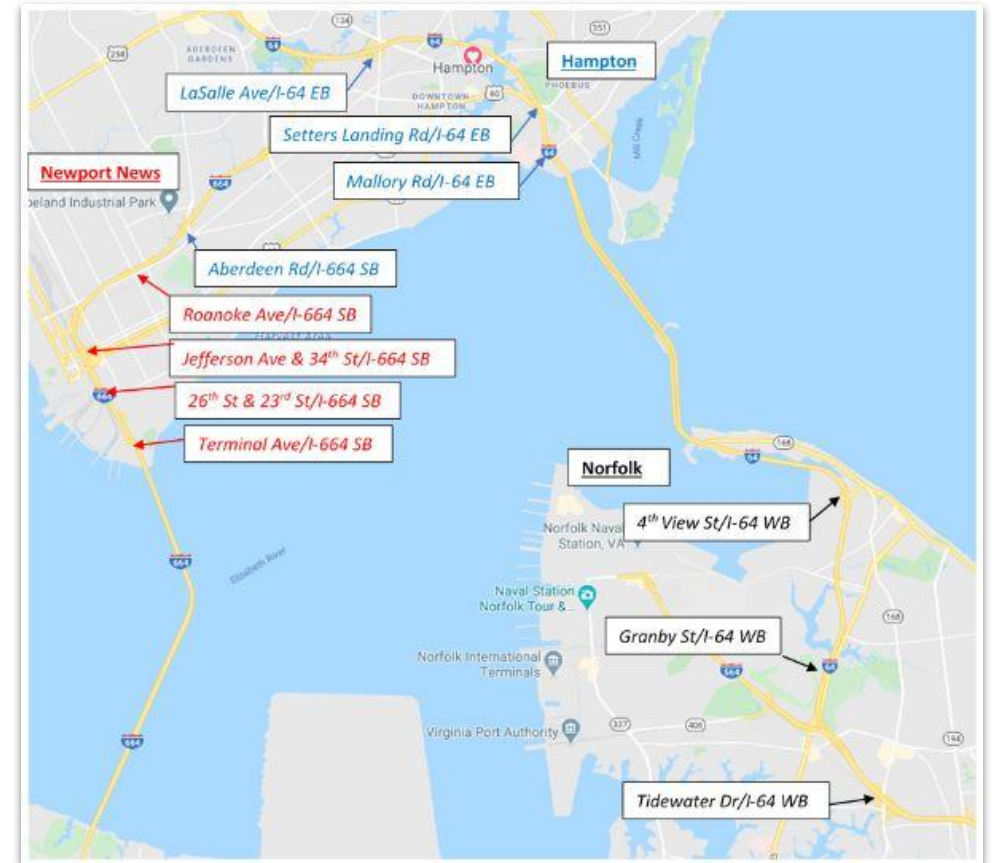
Arterial Analysis

- Purpose is to conduct traffic operations analysis to evaluate the impacts of the Express Lane projects on Hampton arterials in 2025
- Study area includes Mercury Blvd, Armistead Ave, LaSalle Ave, Settlers Landing Rd and Mallory St.
- Draft report to be submitted week of October 16th, and final report to be submitted by the end of October



Summary of the Ramp Metering Study

- Ramp metering was studied to determine if its implementation might be a possible solution, for the purpose of either (1) relieving existing congestion or (2) relieving congestion during construction
- **Result: Cost/benefit ratio does not support the investment in Hampton**
 - The project would take roughly 1.5 years from design to construction, once a funding source is identified, at a cost of ~\$1.2 million
- It would be challenging contractually to add ramp metering to ramps that are within the footprint of the HRBT Expansion Project
- **Recommendation: Effective mitigation can be achieved more cost effectively via use of alternative strategies. Ramp metering can be revisited if needed after project completion**



Alternative Strategies

- **Additional communications initiatives**
 - Portable changeable message signs and static signs
 - Widespread outreach
 - 511 / Highway Advisory Radio messaging
- **Increased proactive engagement with first responders to maximize quick clearance of incidents during construction**
- **Continued pre-staged towing to maximize quick clearance of incidents**
- **Continued coordination between VDOT and City of Hampton to maximize mitigation efforts, using modeling data (signal timing adjustments, use of timed turn restrictions, local traffic restrictions, etc)**
- **Use innovative resources such as VA Transportation Research Council**
- **Explore other options as supported by the City, FHWA and the public**

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss.

QUESTIONS?