

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA AND THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVISE A PLAN THAT WOULD ALLOW TWO-WAY TRAFFIC IN THE I-264 DOWNTOWN TUNNEL DURING THE TUNNEL'S REHABILITATION WORK.**

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Elizabeth River Crossings (ERC) have undertaken the Midtown Tunnel, MLK Expansion and Downtown Tunnel Rehabilitation Projects; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of these projects, VDOT and ERC are closing the westbound tube of the I-264 Downtown Tunnel from Norfolk to Portsmouth for 25 weekends for a ten-month period that began on August 9, 2013 and will continue through May 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, because of these complete weekend closures, Portsmouth residents, businesses, visitors, and motorists have been severely negatively impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, the Portsmouth's downtown business district has experienced a loss of revenue estimated at approximately 30% as a result of these weekend closures; and

**WHEREAS**, the continuation of complete weekend closures could potentially cause our downtown business district to suffer a revenue loss of over 50% which would have a devastating impact on the economy and local finances of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Midtown Tunnel is inadequate to handle the additional volume of traffic due to the weekend tunnel closures, thus creating further impact on businesses, residents, and visitors of Portsmouth; and

**WHEREAS**, in the event of a stoppage in the Midtown Tunnel, no reasonable alternative routes remain for westbound traffic from Norfolk to Portsmouth on the affected weekends; and

**WHEREAS**, Portsmouth City Council desires to have VDOT and ERC develop a plan that would allow the eastbound tube at the Downtown Tunnel to have two-way traffic on these weekends; and

**WHEREAS**, Portsmouth City Council desires that the Governor of Virginia and the Secretary of Transportation cause VDOT and ERC to devise such a plan; and

**WHEREAS**, given the immediate and severe revenue losses suffered by downtown businesses in Portsmouth, time is of the essence.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia that it hereby requests the Governor and the Secretary of Transportation to take all steps necessary to expeditiously devise and implement a plan that would allow two-way traffic in the eastbound tube during the weekend closures for rehabilitation work.

**ADOPTED** by the Council of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia at a meeting held on October 8, 2013.

Teste:

 Chief Deputy  
City Clerk