

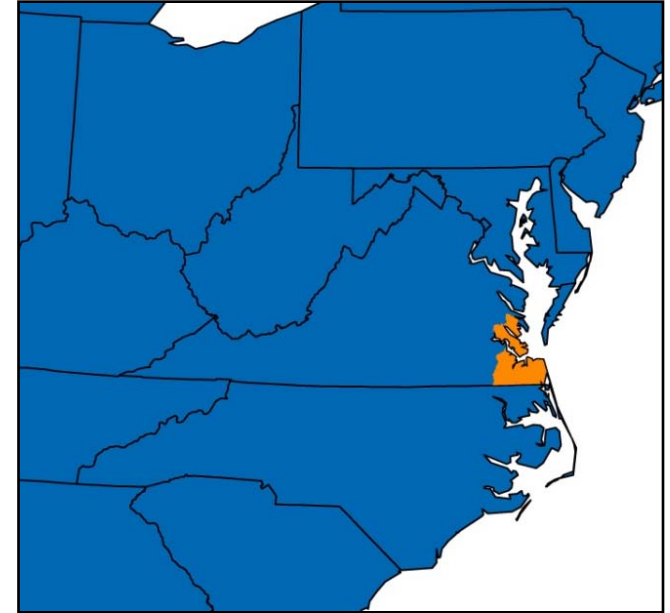
# **SAFETY PLANNING AND ROAD SAFETY AUDITS IN HAMPTON ROADS**



**Presented by: Keith Nichols**  
**Mission: Safety 2010 Conference**  
**September 21st, 2010**

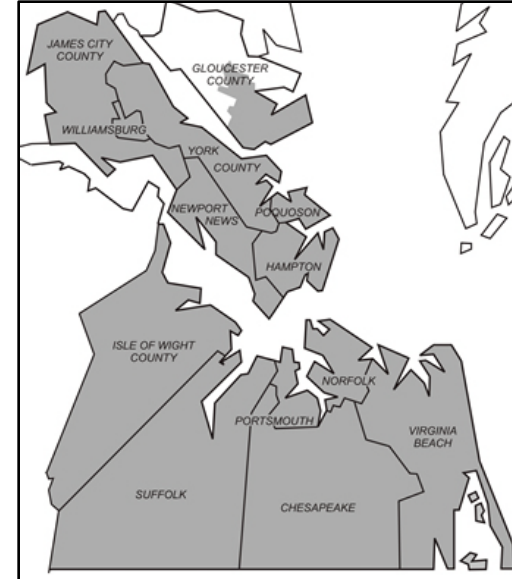
# THE HAMPTON ROADS REGION

- Located in Southeastern Virginia
- 10 cities and 6 counties, including Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg
- Over 1.6 million residents
- Economy driven by the



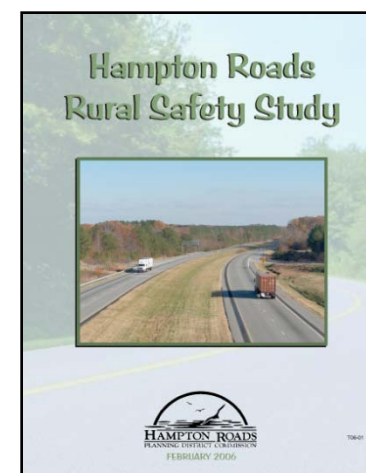
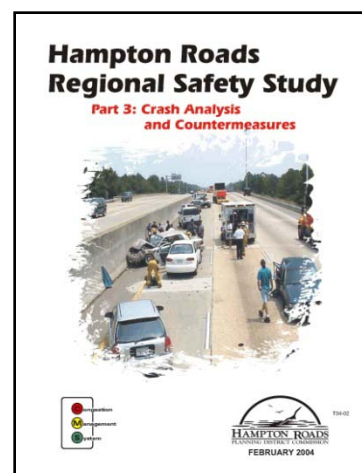
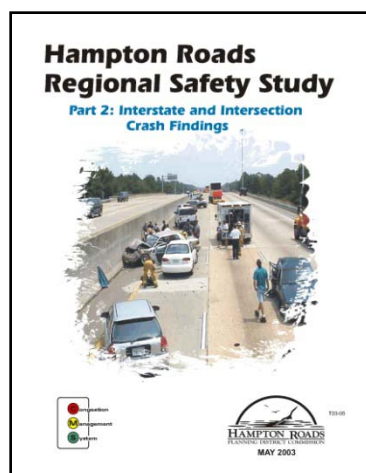
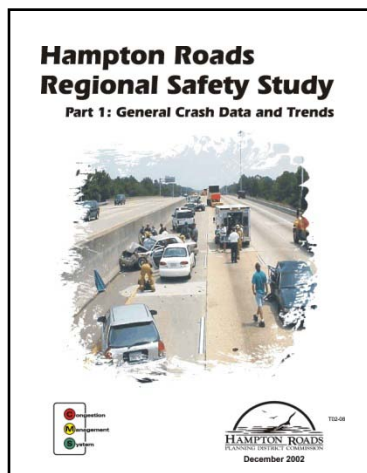
# HAMPTON ROADS TPO

- The Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Hampton Roads area
- HRTPO Planning Areas
  - Long Range Planning
  - Congestion Management Process
  - Freight
  - ITS/Transportation Operations
  - Public Involvement
  - Safety



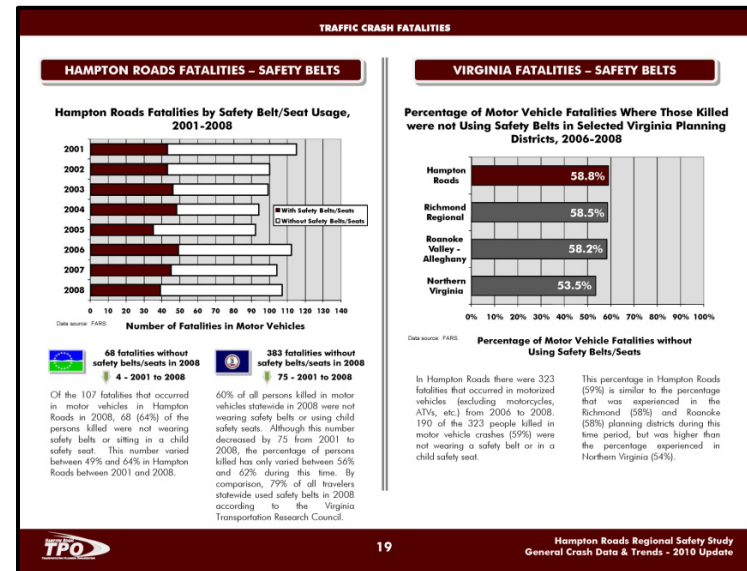
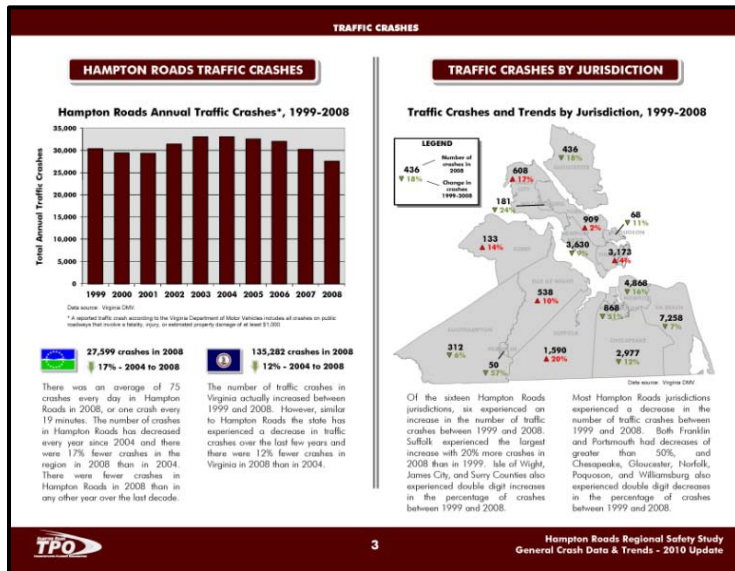
# HAMPTON ROADS SAFETY PLANNING

- Safety planning has become more prominent in Hampton Roads over the last few years
  - The Hampton Roads VDOT district created a Transportation Safety Program Manager position
  - HRTPO began detailed safety planning with the Hampton Roads Regional Safety Study



# HRTPO SAFETY PLANNING EFFORTS

- Update databases with crash and incident data for use in planning activities such as the Congestion Management Process
- HRTPO produces regional safety reports on a regular basis



# HRTPO SAFETY PLANNING EFFORTS

- Participate in statewide and regional safety-related committees
- Assist localities with their safety planning efforts as requested
- Participate in Road Safety Audits (RSAs) with VDOT and their consultants
  - STARS program
  - HSIP projects

# STARS PROGRAM

- **STARS = Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions program**
- **Joint effort between VDOT, MPOs, DMV, the Governor's Highway Safety Office and local officials**
- **Used to identify “hot spots” along roadways in each VDOT Operations Region with overlapping safety and congestion problems that qualify for short-term improvements**

# STARS PROGRAM

- **STARS Program Goals**
  - Identifying high-priority improvement projects
  - Addressing existing mobility and safety problem areas
  - Identifying relatively low-cost projects
    - Less than \$5 million for Interstates and \$2 million for non-Interstates
  - Identifying projects that can be completed within 24 months
    - Requires minimal preliminary engineering and right-of-way purchase

# STARS PROGRAM

- STARS Study Teams were established in each VDOT Operations Region
  - VDOT staff
  - HRTPO staff
  - Consultant Team
- Based on an analysis of roadway safety and congestion data as well as consultation with local officials, locations throughout the region were selected to be examined in the STARS program

# STARS PROGRAM

- A detailed study was prepared by the consulting team for each of these locations selected in the STARS program
- As part of these studies Road Safety Audits (RSAs) were conducted at each location

# STARS PROGRAM RSAs

- RSA Teams
  - Consulting team
  - VDOT staff
    - Central office
    - District office
    - Residencies
  - HRTPO staff
  - City engineers
  - Police
  - Local citizens and workers

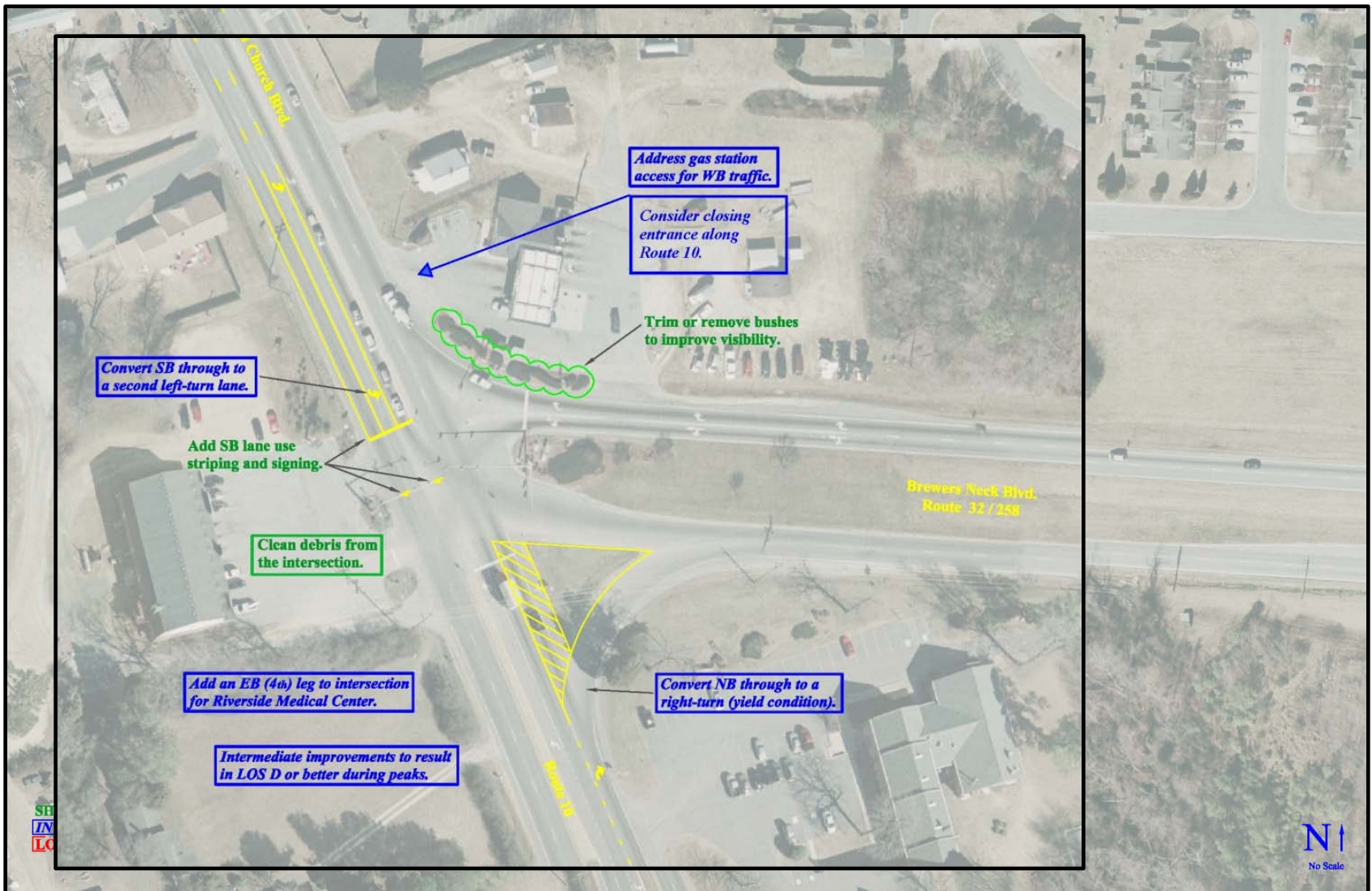


# STARS PROGRAM RSAs

- Access management
- Bike/ped accommodations
- Intersection/corridor operation
- Lighting
- Obstructions
- Pavement markings
- Shoulders/medians
- Sight distance
- Signage
- Turn lanes

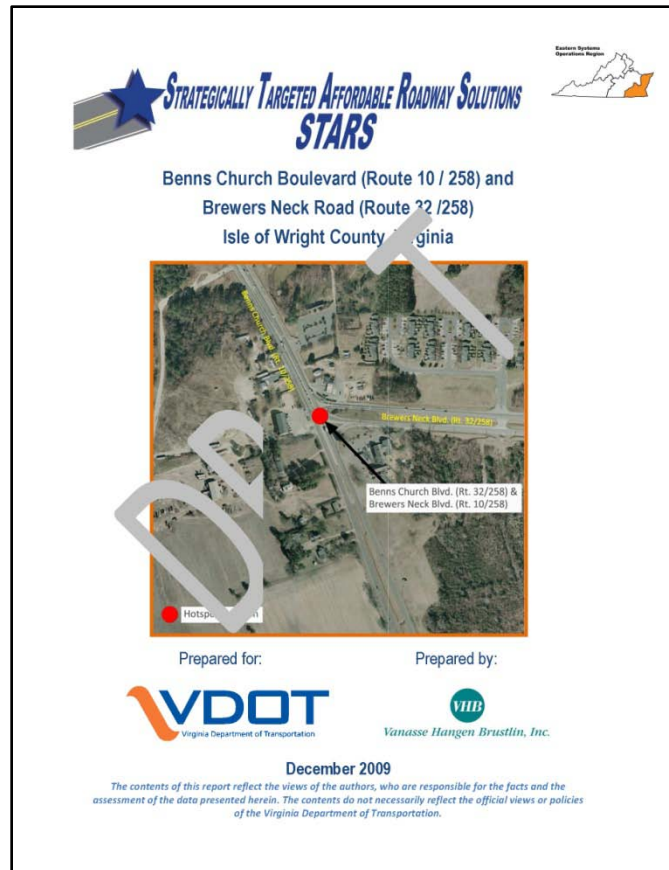


# STARS PROGRAM RSAs



# STARS PROGRAM

- Report produced for each location by the consultant



# STARS PROGRAM

- Three phases in the STARS program
  - Phase I (5 intersections/corridors) and Phase II (9 intersections/corridors) studies are complete
  - Phase III to come
- Project Funding
  - Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
  - Designated funds
  - Planned maintenance improvements

# HSIP RSAs

- RSAs are also conducted as part of projects obtaining Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding
- The participants and process involved in these RSAs are similar to those RSAs conducted as part of the STARS program

# FUTURE HRTPO SAFETY WORK

- Continue to assist VDOT and localities with their safety planning efforts, including participation in RSAs.
- Produce an update to the Hampton Roads Regional Safety Study
  - Conduct RSAs at the highest ranked regional locations as part of this update

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