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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 159

Offered January 9, 2008

Prefiled January 9, 2008

*Continuing the U.S. Route 460 Communications Committee. Report.*

Patron—Jones, S.C.

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 684 of the 2001 Regular Session of the General Assembly established the U.S. Route 460 Communications Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution No. 324 of the 2003 Regular Session of the General Assembly amended House Joint Resolution No. 684 of 2001; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 185 of the 2004 Regular Session of the General Assembly further extended the mandate of the Committee until November 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 75 of the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly further extended the mandate of the Committee until November 30, 2007; and

WHEREAS, considerable progress has been made toward actual commencement of work on the U.S. Route 460 improvements, most notably the signing of the draft environmental impact statement for the project by the Federal Highway Administration in May of 2005 and the November 2005 approval by the Commonwealth Transportation Board of the location for a new U.S. Route 460 to be built south of the existing road, providing an east-west transportation link connecting Interstate Route 295 near Petersburg with U.S. Route 58 in Suffolk; and

WHEREAS, in the seven years of the Committee's existence, much useful work has been done, in a time of uncertain highway construction funding and a general contraction of the Commonwealth's transportation improvement program, to maintain and increase the U.S. Route 460 upgrade project's momentum; and

WHEREAS, the resolution by which the Committee was established clearly stated that the Committee's work was to continue until "commencement of construction of the U.S. 460 upgrade project"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the U.S. Route 460 Communications Committee be continued until commencement of construction of the U.S. 460 project as approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in November of 2005. The Committee shall consist of 15 members, including 10 legislative members and five ex officio members as follows: six members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; four members of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner or his designee, the Executive Director of the Virginia Port Authority or his designee, the Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality or his designee, the Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission or his designee, and the Executive Director of the Crater Planning District Commission or his designee. The ex officio members shall serve without voting privileges. Vacancies shall be filled by the original appointing authority. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the chairman of the Committee and the respective Clerk, nonlegislative citizen members shall only be reimbursed for travel originating and ending within the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of attending meetings. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required. The Committee shall elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its membership, who shall be members of the General Assembly.

Administrative staff support shall continue to be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates. Legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the Committee shall continue to be provided by the Division of Legislative Services. Technical assistance shall continue to be provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Committee for this study, upon request.

The Committee shall be limited to four meetings per year, and the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$10,000 without approval as set out in this resolution. Approval for unbudgeted nonmember-related expenses shall require the written authorization of the chairman of the Committee and the respective Clerk. If a companion joint resolution of the other chamber is agreed to, written authorization of both Clerks shall be required.

Upon the election of a majority of the members of the House of Delegates appointed to the

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59 Committee or a majority of the Senate members appointed to the Committee, no recommendation of the  
60 Committee shall be adopted without the approval of a majority of such members of the House of  
61 Delegates and a majority of such members of the Senate. For the purpose of this provision, a "majority"  
62 constitutes the members present and voting at the meeting of the Committee.

63 The Committee shall complete its yearly meetings by November 30 of each year, and the chairman  
64 shall submit to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and  
65 recommendations no later than the first day of each year's Regular Session of the General Assembly.  
66 Upon commencement of construction of the U.S. Route 460 project, the Communications Committee  
67 shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly as provided in  
68 the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative  
69 documents.

70 Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint  
71 Rules Committee. The Committee may approve or disapprove expenditures for this study, extend or  
72 delay the period for the conduct of the study, or authorize additional meetings during any year.