

## Department of Planning and Budget 2011 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB856

**House of Origin**    ☐ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☒ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Wagner

**3. Committee:** Transportation

**4. Title:** Patriots Crossing project.

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation would direct the Virginia Department of Transportation to accept unsolicited proposals for construction of the Patriots Crossing. The bill outlines the process the Department must take in reviewing and recommending a proposal. Funds from the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund are to be used to carry out the provisions of an interim agreement. VDOT is also to provide updates to the Transportation Accountability Commission of the implementation of the provisions of the bill.

Patriots Crossing is a proposed bridge-tunnel system providing another water crossing in Hampton Roads. The system contains components of the Third Crossing, but is proposed to cost less than that design and require lower tolls. It would consist of a four-lane bridge-tunnel system connecting Interstate 564 in Norfolk with the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel, with a connection south to the proposed Craney Island marine terminal in Portsmouth. Unlike the Third Crossing plan, it would not widen the Monitor-Merrimac or Interstate 664, nor include extra lanes for light rail or express buses.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** None.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The provisions of the bill would supersede the Public Partnership Transportation Act of 1995 (PPTA). VDOT would be required to follow the provisions of this bill in reviewing and acting upon any unsolicited proposals to construct the Patriots Crossing facility.

The Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF) was created in the 2005 Session of the General Assembly with an initial capitalization of \$50 million to encourage the development of transportation projects through the PPTA. The fund has a current uncommitted balance of \$2.2 million which may be used to implement the provisions of an interim agreement. The Governor's proposed budget includes an additional \$50 million dedicated to the fund. Any additional financial commitments required of the Commonwealth

by the proposals would need to be provided by other funding sources. The proposed bill does not specify such a funding source.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Transportation

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

**11. Other Comments:** The House Transportation Committee's substitute for SB 856 makes the bill identical to HB 1612 H1, which has passed the Senate.

**Date:** 2/16/2011 dpb/smc

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