

Newport News mayor calls for special session on transportation

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© June 19, 2004

Last updated: 8:22 PM

NORFOLK — The mayor of Newport News is stepping up his effort to get the General Assembly to hold a special session to address transportation issues.

Mayor Joe S. Frank said Friday that he has drafted a letter calling for the session. The letter will be circulated among other mayors in Hampton Roads.

“I don’t have any great hope that the outcome will be dramatic,” Frank said of the proposed session. “But at least we will have a dialogue.”

Frank was one of several local elected officials and business leaders at a Friday meeting of the board of directors of the Hampton Roads Partnership. The group, which helps chart the course for the region, met to discuss its new action plan.

The meeting was broken into group discussions where participants discussed the issues emphasized in the action plan. Those issues are regional citizenship and consciousness , regional economic strategy , fundamental assets, and accountability.

Transportation problems and the area’s lack of money to address them dominated many of the discussions.

The consensus was that more pressure needs to be put on the General Assembly for solutions. Some people said if nothing is done to address the region’s transportation problems, all other issues will be moot.

“It’s going to take leaning on some people to do it,” said Louis R. Jones, vice mayor of Virginia Beach. “You can’t be nice about it. You’ve got to lean on people if you want something done.”

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