



Greater Williamsburg CHAMBER & TOURISM ALLIANCESM

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ALLIANCE CALLS FOR KEEPING JAMESTOWN-SCOTLAND FERRY OPERATING SCHEDULE AND CAPACITY AS IS

Williamsburg, VA — Stressing the importance of the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry as a major transportation artery for area businesses, especially for the tourism industry, the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance is calling for the continuation of the Ferry's current 24-hour, three-boat service operating schedule. The Ferry transports approximately 936,000 vehicles and 2.34 million passengers annually, including thousands of employees and visitors vital to the Greater Williamsburg economy.

“Reducing the Ferry's operating hours from 24 to 16 would have a particularly detrimental impact on our area's lodging facilities and restaurants,” stated Dick Schreiber, president of the Alliance. “People employed in these businesses, and in the tourism field overall, work non-traditional hours. The potential cutbacks in Ferry service represent a real hardship for them in terms of commuting time and their quality of life.”

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has proposed reducing the Ferry's operating hours and going to a “two-boat only” service due to budget shortfalls. Viewing the Ferry's schedule and capacity as essential to the economic stability of the Historic Triangle, the Alliance's Executive Committee adopted a resolution calling on the Governor, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and the Secretary of Transportation to maintain the Ferry's current operation. The Alliance will be carrying that message to the VDOT public hearings scheduled for next week.