



A-NPDC NEWSLETTER

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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MAY 2001

A-NPDC NEWS SUMMARY: At the April 16, 2001 A-NPDC meeting, the Commission learned that:

- Staff has submitted applications totaling \$1.25 million to the Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Virginia Department of Health to carry out the Chincoteague Downtown Revitalization Project.
- In the New Road Community, contracts for three new homes are being carried out. Staff continues to work toward resolution of any outstanding contract compliance issues and completion of the infrastructure contract.
- In the Savage Town / Cat's Bridge Community, construction is 95% complete on two housing units and 75% complete on another. Housing rehab is complete on six units and contracts are being negotiated on six more.
- In the Bayview Community, construction is 30% complete on the first replacement house and rehab is well underway on another.
- In the East Fairview Rehabilitation Project, the first seven houses for rehab have been inspected and the first group of five houses will be bid out this month.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

CBBT TOLL IMPACT STUDY: Visit this site to keep up on progress with the CBBT Commuter Toll Impact Study. View and download detailed reports and maps, posted as they are completed, at <http://www.esva.net/~anpdc/cbbt.htm>

VDOT TO HOLD U.S. ROUTE 13 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will hold **Public Information Meetings** for the *U.S. Route 13 / Wallops Island Access Management Study* during May 2001. The **Accomack County** meeting will be held at **Nandua High School** from **4:30 to 8:30 PM** at on **Tuesday, May 15, 2001**. The **Northampton County** meeting will be held at **Northampton High School** from **4:30 to 8:30 PM** on **Wednesday, May 16, 2001**. Both meetings will consist of an "open house" format with project data on display and VDOT staff on hand to answer questions. Formal study presentations will be made between 7:00 and 7:30 PM at both meetings.

VDOT is developing the *U.S. Route 13 / Wallops Island Access Management Study* as a follow-up to the A-NPDC's 1999 *U.S. Route 13 Corridor Plan*. The project consultant, Richmond engineering firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), has completed corridor inventory, traffic analysis, and problem identification. Public participation is now needed to help develop access management solutions and prepare a blueprint for future U.S. Route 13 improvements.

For more information on the *U.S. Route 13 / Wallops Island Access Management Study*, please call the **toll-free project hotline at 1-877-930-1313**.

NEXT A-NPDC MEETING
Monday, May 21, 2001
7:30 PM

THE ENTERPRISE BUILDING
ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA

CITIZENS TURNOUT FOR TOLL STUDY PUBLIC MEETINGS

The potential impact to the Eastern Shore of a commuter toll discount on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) was the topic of discussion at two public meetings held in April 2001. Approximately 60 persons attended the Accomack County meeting held on April 19, 2001 at Nandua High School. Close to 200 persons attended the Northampton County meeting on April 25, 2001 at Northampton High School. At both meetings, the project consultants with the Louis Berger Group, Inc., briefed attendees on six draft topic reports covering Tourism, Quality of Life and Livable Communities, Agriculture/Aquaculture, Environmental Resources and Habitat Preservation, Economic Development, and Transportation. Attendees then participated in one of six focus groups to identify their primary concerns and solution under each topic area.

Major issues identified were CBBT and U.S. Route 13 safety, need for economic development, loss of farmland and open space, ground water and surface water pollution, loss of Eastern Shore lifestyle, and increased taxes. Solutions identified were leave the toll alone, reduce or remove the toll, use toll money to make U.S. Route 13 safer, use toll money for economic development, build the second tunnels, enforce land use regulations better, and preserve farms, forests, marshes, and barrier islands. The focus group results were presented to all participants at an end-of-meeting session. The public comments will be used to develop solutions to future toll scenarios that range from no toll change to different commuter toll discounts. The project consultant will complete development of the scenarios and potential impacts by the end of June 2001. Link to draft comments at the [CBBT Commuter Toll Impact Study](#).

A-NPDC TO HOLD LANDSCAPING/WATER POLLUTION WORKSHOP

The A-NPDC will present a **Landscaping Workshop** from **10 A.M. until 12 P.M. on May 5, 2001** at the **A-NPDC office, 23372 Front Street, Accomac**. The workshop, which is patterned after the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's award-winning *BayScaping* series, will teach homeowners to use landscaping techniques and shoreline buffers to prevent pollution from entering the Chesapeake Bay and other local water bodies. The presentation will contrast examples of proper landscaping and best management practices with poorly designed projects. Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District staff and a horticultural expert will be on hand to answer questions. Participants will receive landscaping literature, including copies of the *Eastern Shore Almanac* and the *Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Handbook for the Eastern Shore of Virginia*. The workshop is sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department and the A-NPDC.

NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR HIRED

On April 9, 2001, Barbara Schwenk began her position as A-NPDC's new Economic Development Coordinator. Ms. Schwenk comes to the A-NPDC with five years of economic development experience with Northampton County, where she was the project manager for the completion of Eastville Inn and Nassawadox Sawmill restoration projects. Ms. Schwenk, who also has 19 years of experience in corporate sales, research, and project facilitation, lives in Northampton County with her husband Marshall. The A-NPDC welcomes Barbara to our staff.

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"30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE EASTERN SHORE OF VIRGINIA"

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