



A-NPDC NEWSLETTER

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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JULY 2001

The A-NPDC did not meet during June 2001.

PRELIMINARY CBBT COMMUTER TOLL IMPACT STUDY REPORT IS RELEASED

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) Commuter Toll Impact Study Committee announced this week that the Preliminary Draft Impact Report for the CBBT Commuter Toll Impact Study has been released. The lengthy report, produced for the Study Committee by The Louis Berger Group, Inc. consulting firm, is presented in three main sections.

The study examines Eastern Shore of Virginia features, trends, and goals within six topic reports in areas ranging from quality of life to transportation, and summarizes public involvement activities. Three scenarios (no toll change, a \$14 round-trip commuter toll, and a \$3 "maintenance" toll for all traffic) are described and analyzed within the report, and potential impacts to Eastern Shore localities are addressed.

The report predicts that the reduced toll scenarios could lead to more than 2,000 new houses compared to the No-Action scenario. Traffic flows under the reduced toll scenarios may be substantially higher (10-30 percent) than No-Action conditions. All 3 scenarios are expected to have limited impact on the timing and direction of growth in tourism and second home development. The report predicts an increase in water usage under the reduced toll scenarios, particularly within the towns of Cape Charles and Eastville, in Northampton County. The fiscal effect of development under either toll reduction scenario may require an increase of up to 125% in county expenditures versus the No Action scenario. The preliminary draft report will soon be available online at www.esva.net/~anpdc/cbbtpub.

REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER BOARD PROPOSES PRIORITIES

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Service Authority (PSA) has tentatively proposed several priorities for future work after reviewing more than 45 potential projects. The PSA hopes to address needs in the areas of Melfa-Onley-Accomac and Nassawadox-Exmore-Belle Haven, and the communities of Bayview and Savage Town/Cats Bridge. The PSA also established studying the treatment of septic wastes, currently being disposed in 3 Virginia Department of Health-permitted private septage lagoons, as a priority. To proceed, the PSA now hopes to garner support for the proposed projects from the affected communities. "Now we need to meet with the towns and communities of these areas to present our plans and begin discussions on how we can help everyone with their water and sewer problems," said PSA Chair Julia Major.

The Boards of Supervisors of Accomack County and Northampton County established the PSA in December 1999 to address water and sewer needs of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. In February 2001, the Boards of Supervisors of Accomack County and Northampton County approved resolutions setting voluntary, non-mandatory PSA connection policies and procedures for supervisors' review of all PSA projects in the unincorporated areas of the counties.

NEXT A-NPDC MEETING

Monday, July 16, 2001

7:30 PM

THE ENTERPRISE BUILDING

ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA

REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGIC PLAN UNDER WAY

The development of a Regional Housing Strategic Plan (RHSP) is progressing as scheduled. The RHSP is being done in response to the need for an updated view of the existing housing market on the Eastern Shore. The last housing plan, completed in 1977, is obsolete. The first phase of the new RHSP, which includes a housing market analysis and an existing-conditions assessment, is scheduled for completion in late September. The second phase will focus on the development of strategies designed to address the areas of need identified in phase one. The RHSP Advisory Committee (RHSPAC) recently met with A-NPDC staff and representatives of the consulting firm of Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Inc. for a review of progress on phase one of the Plan. The meeting was an opportunity for RHSPAC members to provide feedback to the consultants with regard to any gaps or errors in their preliminary research results. Anyone desiring to serve on the RHSPAC or wanting additional information should contact A-NPDC staff members **John Simpkins** or **Roxie Sturgis** at **787-2936** for details.

A-NPDC ENHANCES MAPPING AND ANALYSIS CAPABILITIES

After receiving funding in the amount of \$34,000 through a General Assembly initiative to develop GIS (geographic information systems) infrastructure in support of statewide GIS development, the A-NPDC has tremendously improved its GIS mapping and analysis capabilities. With the funding, the A-NPDC obtained the latest computer hardware and desktop GIS software, installed an intra-office GIS Network, and purchased a precision Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver for creating and correcting GIS coverages.

The GIS Intranet Network consists of a Networked Server that provides access for 3 primary users within the Departments of Planning and Housing, and a shared workstation available to Economic Development staff and others. The GIS Network Server provides the necessary storage space for GIS coverages and aerial photography, and ensures that the most up-to-date files are kept in one location. The GIS Network Server also provides storage for other types of data, such as census information, photographs, and reports.

EAST FAIRVIEW REVITALIZATION PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

Northampton County and the District One Community Action Group have contracted with the consulting firm of MSA, P.C. to provide community development and revitalization improvements in the East Fairview neighborhood. MSA, P.C. will be responsible for land surveying and preparation of civil engineering plans and specifications necessary to permit and construct the acquisition of two streets in the community, as well as for widening and grading of the existing stormwater ditch system.

A Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) is funding the project, although the Virginia Department of Transportation is assisting with the funding of necessary roadway improvements. CBDGs provide eligible "entitlement" communities with grant monies for use in projects such as neighborhood revitalization, expansion of affordable housing and economic opportunities, and improvement of community facilities and services. Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission staff are providing technical assistance with the East Fairview Community Revitalization Project.

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