



# A-NPDC NEWSLETTER

## ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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**NOVEMBER 2001**

### **MID-CHESAPEAKE BAY FERRY STUDY MEETING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 27th**

A public meeting on the **Mid-Chesapeake Bay Ferry Feasibility Study** will be held from **7:00 to 9:00 PM** on **Tuesday, November 27, 2001** at **Nandua High School**. The public meeting will focus on the results of the Phase I Mid-Chesapeake Bay Ferry Feasibility Study completed in February 2001, as well as outline the process for the Phase II Ferry Study currently being conducted. The Phase II Ferry Study, which will be completed this Spring, will identify possible ferry landing sites, ferry vessel types, financing options, and develop a ferry operations plan. At the meeting, public input will be sought on potential ferry landing sites in Accomack County. The Mid-Chesapeake Bay Ferry Feasibility Study is being conducted by the Northern Neck Planning District Commission in cooperation with the A-NPDC, Accomack County, and VDOT. For further information on the public meeting and the Mid-Chesapeake Bay Ferry Feasibility study, please contact Jim McGowan at 787-2936.

### **CELEBRATE GIS DAY 2001 WITH THE A-NPDC:**

A demonstration of the A-NPDC's Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities will be held in conjunction with **GIS DAY 2001** from **1:00 – 3:00 PM** on **Wednesday, November 14, 2001**. The A-NPDC's GIS DAY 2001 activities will include a tour of our new GIS network and a presentation on Northampton County's new GIS tax parcel data. GIS combines computer mapping and digital data into a powerful tool for geographic analysis. The A-NPDC's GIS capabilities include the use of topographic maps, air photos, census data, and many other digital data sources. For more information on GIS Day 2001, call Allen Teasley at 787-2936.

### **U.S. ROUTE 13 MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR ACCOMACK AND NORTHAMPTON**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will hold public meetings in Accomack County and Northampton County in late November 2001 to inform the public and seek public input about potential highway improvements developed for the **U.S. Route 13 / Wallops Island Access Management Study**. VDOT is conducting this two-year study in order to develop a plan to make U.S. Route 13 and Route 175 safer and more efficient roads over the next 20 years. The **Northampton County** public meeting will be held at **7:30 PM** on **Wednesday, November 28, 2001** at **Northampton Middle School**. The **Accomack County** public meeting will be held at **7:30 PM** on **Thursday, November 29, 2001** at **Nandua High School**. Both meetings will be preceded by open house sessions at 6:30 PM, during which participants can view maps and discuss the study with VDOT staff and the consulting engineers. For further information on the public meetings, or the study in general, call the **Project Toll Free Hot Line** at **1-877-930-1313**. Written comments may be submitted to: Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., 4101 Cox Road, Suite 105, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060.

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**NEXT A-NPDC MEETING**  
**Monday, November 19, 2001**  
**7:30 PM**  
**THE ENTERPRISE BUILDING**  
**ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA**

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## **BRIDGE-TUNNEL COMMUTER TOLL STUDY WORKSHOPS HELD**

Public workshops to hear comments on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Commuter Toll Impact Study were held on October 16 at Nandua High School and October 17, 2001 at Northampton High School. A total of 282 citizens attended the workshops.

In the workshops and in surveys distributed at the workshops, participants expressed overwhelming support for the Study recommendations for building new tunnels to match the current parallel bridges, and to delay any toll reductions until plans for the new tunnels were set. Concern for the safety of two-lane tunnels that are fed by four lanes of traffic was often expressed. The September 11 terrorist attacks also caused many Northampton citizens to be concerned that more than one tunnel was needed in case of attacks on the Bridge-Tunnel.

Workshop participants supported legislative study of the Bridge-Tunnel Commission's representation and policies. The desire for more Eastern Shore seats than the current 4 of 11 commissioners was often expressed.

The workshops also heard strong support for more effective growth management, especially for the southern tip of Northampton County where the Study projected most growth from a toll discount would occur. Land use taxation for Northampton County was also strongly supported.

Following the workshops, the Commuter Toll Study Committee that oversaw the Study voted unanimously on October 18 to forward these recommendations to the Accomack and Northampton Boards of Supervisors for their endorsement. The Study recommendations will also be presented to the Bridge-Tunnel Commission on November 13.

### **A - NPDC STAFF UPDATE**

#### New Staff:

The A-NPDC is pleased to announce that Mrs. Leslie Cunningham has been hired as our new Clerical Assistant/ Receptionist. Leslie is a 2001 graduate of Eastern Shore Community College. She lives in Parksley with her daughter, Laura Mason.

#### Promotions:

Maylon Simpson has been promoted to Housing Specialist I. Maylon has been with the A-NPDC for over four years as an inspector of housing construction projects and as an administrator of Virginia Water Project proposals. She and her family live in Bobtown.

#### Service Awards:

John Aigner, Community Development Coordinator, 10 years of continuous service. John Aigner has served the A-NPDC for 10 years as a member of the housing staff. For most of his tenure, John was a Housing Specialist. He recently became a Community Development Coordinator with Program Manager responsibilities on several projects.

Greg Manter, Director of Economic Development, 5 years of continuous service. Greg Manter has served the A-NPDC for 5 years as Director of Economic Development.

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