

A-NPDC Newsletter

Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan— Public Meetings July 22nd and 24th

The A-NPDC and the Eastern Shore Bicycle Committee will present the draft Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan at two public meetings during July 2003. The Accomack County presentation will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, July 22, 2003 at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in Melfa. The Northampton County presentation will be at 7:30 PM on Thursday, July 24, 2003 at the Northampton County Courthouse in Eastville. The draft Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan has been developed in cooperation with Accomack County, Northampton County, Eastern Shore towns, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the A-NPDC.

In order for VDOT to spend funds on bicycle facilities, local governments must adopt bicycle facility plans. Bicycle facilities include shared roads, paved shoulders, bicycle lanes, and separate bicycle paths, as well as bicycle safety signs and bicycle racks. Currently, the Town of Chincoteague is the only Eastern Shore local government with an adopted bicycle facility plan.

Chincoteague's plan was prepared by the A-NPDC in order to obtain funding for the recently completed Deep Hole Road Bicycle Path.

The draft Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan proposes a safe, designated bicycle route, with at least paved shoulders, from Maryland to Kiptopeke. The proposed bicycle route would showcase the Eastern Shore's scenic beauty and rich history. The plan also proposes designated bicycle routes on the Bayside and Seaside, paved shoulders on the Chincoteague Causeway, improved access along and across U.S. Route 13, and a separate bicycle trail from Cape Charles to the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge. Other proposed bicycle facilities would connect towns and communities with schools, businesses, and recreation facilities.

The plan proposes a rail trail from Maryland to Cape Charles if the Eastern Shore Railroad right-of-way ever becomes available, as well as access via shuttle buses across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. The plan also calls for installation of bicycle safety

signs and bicycle racks, development of bicycle route maps, and bicycle safety education programs.

After the public meetings, the A-NPDC will consider comments received and present a final draft Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan to Accomack County and Northampton County. The counties will then need to develop bicycle policy recommendations and prioritize proposed bicycle facilities before holding public hearings and adopting the plan. For more information about the draft Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan, contact Jim McGowan, A-NPDC Director of Planning, at 787-2936.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- **July 17**—2:00 *Economic Development Commission—A-NPDC Office*
- **July 17**—4:00 *Public Service Authority—A-NPDC Office*
- **July 21**—7:00 *A-NPDC meeting, Office—23372 Front Street, Accomack*
- **July 28**—4:00 *Regional Partnership—Chamber of Commerce, Melfa*
- *See calendar on page 3 for complete listing*

Webpage of the Month— www.a-npdc.org/publications.html

The Eastern Shore Bicycle Plan and other project reports are available on the A-NPDC website. Since 1970, the A-NPDC has provided planning assistance to local governments on a variety of projects of regional significance. These regional projects include planning to eliminate substandard hous-

ing, improve the eastern Shore's economy, protect ground water resources, and make U.S. Route 13 safer. Regional project reports are added to the website as they become available in digital format.

Economic Development Commission Seeks Proposals

The Eastern Shore of Virginia Economic Development Commission is soliciting proposals from commercial and industrial real estate leasing agents/brokers to provide real estate services. The services will include assistance in the leasing, development and/or sale of Accomack Airport Park, Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park and other industrial sites and buildings throughout the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Upon completion of a marketing plan

and materials, the broker will initiate a sales and leasing effort for each of the included properties. Proposals are due in the ESVEDC office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 25, 2003. Firms interested in receiving a copy of the complete Request for Proposals should contact:

Eastern Shore of Virginia
Economic Development Commission
23372 Front Street
P.O. Box 417
Accomack, VA 23301
757-787-1247

For an electronic copy, e-mail Greg Manter at:

manter@easternshore.org



Downtown Revitalization News

Development is underway for a "Regional Main Street Program" for the Eastern Shore of Virginia using the National Main Street Program.

The National Main Street Program is a highly successful downtown revitalization model that has been used by more than 2,000 localities nationwide.

In Virginia, beginning in 1985, the Main Street Program has been used to create nearly 2,000 net new businesses and 4,100 net new jobs, fund more than 3,000 building rehabilitation projects, and, since 1997, log more than 64,000 volunteer hours.

To fund the "Regional Main Street Program," the Town of Cape Charles applied for a planning grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide staffing and seed money for this Eastern Shore effort in five of the regions towns: Cape Charles, Exmore, Onancock, Parksley, and Chincoteague.

Meanwhile, a group of Cape Charles citizens and town council members have been meeting since April to form the ***Cape Charles Renewal Program***, which is organized around the National Main Street Program's four-point approach of forming committees for organization, design, promotion, and economic restructuring. Each committee now has a chairperson, and work has already begun to establish a non-profit corporation. Private donations have been pledged to the organization, and work is underway to recruit committee members and volunteers to join the organization and its efforts.

If you want to become involved either as a committee member or volunteer, please call Ray Otton at the Sustainable Technology Park, 331-1998.

The other towns are also gearing up to use the Main Street approach for their downtown revitalization work. In June,

Main Street program presentations were made to the Greater Parksley Association, the Greater Exmore Business Association, the Chincoteague Preservation Association and Historic Main Street Merchants, and the Onancock Business and Civic Association. Each organization is working on projects to enhance their downtown and increase sales.

The next step will be to convene a meeting of the five towns, staff, and DHCD to define program details and develop shared regional goals.





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Regional Partnership—Three Public Hearings July 7th and 16th

The Chincoteague Town Council, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors, and the Accomack County Board of Supervisors will hold Public Hearings to afford interested citizens the opportunity to be heard or present written comments concerning the Distribution Formula for Virginia Regional Competitiveness Program Incentive Funds proposed by the Eastern Shore of Virginia Regional Partnership at the following times and locations:

Chincoteague

Monday, July 7, 2003, 7:30 p.m.
Chincoteague Council Chambers

Northampton County

Wednesday, July 16, 2003, 6:00 p.m.
Circuit Courtroom, Eastville, Virginia

Accomack County

Wednesday, July 16, 2003, 7:30 p.m.
Board Chambers – Admin Building
Accomac, Virginia

A copy of the proposed distribution formula for the Incentive Funds is available at the offices of the Chincoteague Town Manager, the Northampton County Administrator, and the Accomack County Administrator.

Handicapped assistance is available by calling:
757-336-5619 for Chincoteague
757-678-0440 for Northampton County
757-787-5700 for Accomack County.