

## Drawbridge Openings

Drawbridge openings are scheduled by the U.S. Coast Guard - not the City. Much to a driver's dismay, federal law (33 U.S.C. 499) gives maritime traffic the right-of-way over roadway traffic. The City works with the U.S. Coast Guard to schedule "restricted periods" in order to help with congestion on the roads. The City must follow all U.S. Coast Guard rules regarding bridge openings.



### Marine Traffic Information

- All bridges and locks operate on Marine Channel 13.
- Vessels coordinate passing instructions with other vessels at bridges.
- Observe the No Wake areas in the vicinity of the draws.
- Chesapeake bridge restrictions are listed in the CFR: Title 33, Part 117.997.

## Avoiding Openings

Our region is full of beautiful waterways which means it's also full of bridges. We do our best to keep the public aware of bridge opening schedules. During restricted hours, we encourage you to stay tuned to local media (tv, radio and social media). They generally announce bridge openings that are scheduled during rush hours. Outside of those hours, it helps to become familiar with bridge opening schedules. While there are often unscheduled openings for the reasons mentioned in this brochure, knowing the schedules and following local media can be helpful. For more information on bridges in Chesapeake please visit [www.CityofChesapeake.net/Bridges](http://www.CityofChesapeake.net/Bridges).



**Chesapeake**  
VIRGINIA

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## Drawbridges of Chesapeake



**Chesapeake**  
VIRGINIA

## Gilmerton Bridge

S Military Highway

Crosses the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River

- **Schedule:** Opens on demand except during restricted periods.
- **Restricted Periods:** 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- **Height (At Mean High Water):** 35 feet (closed) 135 feet (open)
- **Weight Limit:** Legal Load
- **Owned By:** City of Chesapeake

Constructed: 2015 | Daily Vehicle Traffic: 35,500

## Centerville Bridge

Centerville Turnpike

Crosses the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

- **Schedule:** Monday-Friday, except federal holidays, opens on the hour and half hour from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. except during restricted periods. Opens on demand at all other times.
- **Restricted Periods:** 6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- **Height (At Mean High Water):** 3 feet
- **Weight Limit:** Legal Load
- **Roadway Vertical Clearance:** 13 feet, 9 inches
- **Owned By:** City of Chesapeake

Constructed: 1955 | Daily Vehicle Traffic: 16,000

## High Rise Bridge

Interstate 64

Crosses the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River

- **Schedule:** Opens on demand with a 24-hour notice except during restricted periods when it opens with a 3-day advance reservation. Bridge is otherwise unmanned.
- **Restricted Periods:** 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m.
- **Height (At Mean High Water):** 65 feet
- **Weight Limit:** Legal Load
- **Owned By:** Virginia Department of Transportation

Constructed: 1969 | Daily Vehicle Traffic: 73,000

## North Landing Bridge

Route 165/Mount Pleasant Road

Crosses the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

- **Schedule:** Opens on the hour and half-hour from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on all days. Opens on demand from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. on all days.
- **Height (At Mean Water):** 3 feet
- **Weight Limit:** 13 Tons/26,000 lbs
- **Owned By:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Constructed: 1955 | Daily Vehicle Traffic: 8,000

## Deep Creek Bridge

Moses Grandy Trail

Crosses the Dismal Swamp Canal

- **Schedule:** Opens at 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM (Bridge is unmanned and opens in conjunction with Deep Creek Locks.)
- **Weight Limit:**
  - 20 Tons/40,000lbs (Single Units)
  - 29 Tons/58,000lbs (Semi-Trailers)
  - 39 Tons/78,000lbs (Twin Trailers)
- **Height (At Mean Water):** 4 feet
- **Owned By:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Constructed: 1934 | Daily Vehicle Traffic: 18,000

## Great Bridge Bridge

Battlefield Boulevard

Crosses the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

- **Schedule:** Opens on the hour from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Opens on demand from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. on all days.
- **Height (At Mean Water):** 5.4 feet
- **Weight Limit:** Legal Load
- **Owned By:** City of Chesapeake

Constructed: 2004 | Daily Vehicle Traffic: 35,000

## Restricted Periods

Restricted periods take place Monday through Friday except for federal holidays during the hours noted for each bridge. During restricted periods, bridges will open for cargo vessels and tug boats with a 2-hour advance reservation. Pleasure craft may be let through on these reserved openings but there will not be any openings just for pleasure craft during restricted periods. All bridges will open on demand at any time for vessels carrying hazardous materials, government vessels or any vessel in an emergency situation.